

Annual Report for the year 2023

The Parish of Saint George

Halifax, Nova Scotia



Annual General Meeting: February 11, 2024

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Parish of St George

Annual General Meeting

February 11, 2024

1. Opening prayer
2. The Election of the Chair of the Meeting
3. The Election of the Secretary of the Meeting
4. Reading, correction, and approval of minutes of the previous meeting held February 19, 2023
5. Business arising from the minutes
6. Correspondence
7. Rector's Report
8. Wardens' Report
9. Consent agenda items
 - a. Parish Administrator's Report
 - b. Music Director's Report
 - c. Committee and Group reports:

Spiritual Development

- i. Altar Guild
- ii. Altar Servers
- iii. Parish Library
- iv. Safer Church
- v. Spiritual Development
- vi. Sunday School

Pastoral Ministry & Outreach

- vii. Christmas Outreach
- viii. Deaf Ministry
- ix. Fellowship
- x. Greeters
- xi. Refugee Sponsorship
- xii. Shoeboxes for Seafarers
- xiii. Soup Kitchen
- xiv. YouthNet

Property

- xv. Property Committee
- xvi. Deck the Hall

10. Financial Report for 2023
11. Presentation of Insurance Policies
12. Presentation of Budget for 2024
13. New Business
14. Elections:

- i. Warden
- ii. Secretary
- iii. Treasurer

- iv. Members of Parish Council
- v. Regional Council and Synod Delegates
- vi. Financial Reviewers

15. Closing Prayer

Parish of St George

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

February 19, 2023

Agenda per Canon 35, modified for expediency.

~thirty in attendance plus three at the head table

1. Opening prayer – led by Fr. Hatt
2. The Election of the Chair of the Meeting

MOTION: M Jamieson nominated Fr. Hatt to be Chair of the Meeting; Second: J de Mestral; Carried

3. The Election of the Secretary of the Meeting

MOTION: M Jamieson nominated J Gracie to be Secretary of the Meeting; Second: G Pickett; Carried

4. Reading, correction, and approval of minutes of the previous meeting held February 27, 2022
Corrections: None

MOTION: JM Dawson moved that the minutes of the 2021 meeting be adopted as presented; Second: S Harris; Carried

5. Business arising from the minutes
 - a. Because of COVID last year, we forgot to do something very important. One of the reports in the annual report last year was for the 2nd Halifax Scouts.

MOTION: M Vanderkwaak moved that thanks be given to D & J Connors, and all the scout leaders who have served over the years; Second: M Hills; Carried.

6. Correspondence
 - a. None

7. Financial Report
 - a. Income and Expenses for 2022
 - b. Balance Sheet at year-end 2022

MOTION: T Lenfesty moved that the meeting thank A Wilson for attending to his work as Treasurer with such devotion for the past three years; Second: O MacLennan; Carried.

MOTION: T Lenfesty moved that the 2022 financials be adopted as presented; Second: E Harnish; Carried.

8. Presentation of all insurance policies

MOTION: refer the insurance policies to parish council when the new policy arrives from the Diocese; JM Dawson; M Orr; Carried

9. New Business

ACTION ITEM: on the suggestion of M Orr, change 'Spiritual Development' heading to 'Spiritual Life,' so as to better reflect the various and diverse activities that occur under that banner.

ACTION ITEM: on the suggestion of J de Mestral, move the Plant Sale to Pastoral Ministry and Outreach.

10. Rector's Report

The Rector asked parishioners to carefully consider how they might support the ministries of the parish, and in doing so, support the Rector.

J de Mestral expressed thanks to the Rector for his ministry here in this parish. Applause.

11. Wardens' Report

M Jamieson expressed thanks to those Parish Council members and parish officers, who are finishing their terms.

T Lenfesty expressed thanks to M Jamieson upon completing her term as Warden. Applause.

12. Consent agenda items:

d. Parish Administrator's Report

T Lenfesty commented that there is much that the Parish Administrator does that is not mentioned in the Parish Administrator's Report.

M Vanderkwaak asked after the parish archives.

J Gracie answered: the parish has three places where records are kept:

- 1) records that predate 1960 are kept in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia;*
- 2) records from the past seven years are kept in the parish office; and*
- 3) everything else is kept in the parish archive. The collection includes documents, photos, and artifacts (including a collection of magic lantern slides). J Gracie commented that the parish archive would benefit from a catalogue and a dedicated, purpose-built space.*

K Holm commented that she was not aware that the parish had an archive, and that more effort be made to inform parishioners about the archive and involve parishioners in its operation.

e. Music Director's Report

f. Committee and Group reports:

Spiritual Development

- i. Altar Guild*
- ii. Altar Servers*
- iii. Parish Library*

- iv. Safer Church
- v. Spiritual Development
- vi. Sunday School

On the subject of the Sunday School, the Rector commented that many of the children of the parish are now youth / young adults, and that thought needs to be put into how best to keep them engaged in parish life.

Pastoral Ministry & Outreach

- vii. Christmas Outreach
- viii. Deaf Ministry
- ix. Fellowship
- x. Greeters
- xi. Refugee Sponsorship
- xii. Shoeboxes for Seafarers
- xiii. Soup Kitchen
- xiv. YouthNet

Property

- xv. Property Committee
- xvi. Deck the Hall

MOTION: C Lowe moved that the meeting receive the written reports listed item 12 Consent Agenda Items in the agenda, including the Rector’s Report, Wardens’ Report, and Plant Sale; Second: D Sheppard; Carried.

13. Presentation of Budget for 2023

The Rector read the following prepared statement from the Treasurer:

Greetings to you all,

I am sorry I cannot be at the AGM to present the budget or answer questions. The rescheduled date conflicts with my Basic Firefighter training. There are no make-up weekends, so if I miss today, I won’t be qualified for another year.

A few points on the budget.

Last year the budget committee made the decision to bring pass-through funds onto the books. For example, phase one of the Little Dutch Church (LDC) wall repairs was included on the books in its entirety. In the past, any funds that passed through such as grants, donations from outside agencies, and offerings for a specific project such as the wall were not included as all of those funds would “pass through” – or they would not affect the bottom line of the budget. That made year to year comparisons relatively easy. However, it also obscured what it actually takes to run the parish financially. The 2022 budget included \$241 000 for the wall project alone, and getting the grants and other sources of funding to get such a project done is no small feat. Hence, we chose to include pass through funds and projects onto the books to better allow everyone to see just what it is that happens to run

the parish, help our neighbours, and allow for communal worship.

Parish Council also brought Deck the Hall accounts back into the main parish accounting system. This is another thing that makes year to year comparisons more complicated. The final complicating factor was/is COVID-19. Year to year comparisons from that period would not really mean anything, as many factors changed month to month, such as whether we could even meet at the Lord's table.

This is the long explanation of why the usual three-year running average has not been presented with the 2023 budget as it has in the past. However, last year's (2022) budget and actual amounts are included for comparison. I have also increased the number of explanatory notes and not removed them from the AGM copy (I used to remove them after the budget committee and Parish Council had reviewed the draft). I hope they are helpful. Most of the larger designated funds have notes referencing between the lines where the money comes in (e.g. grants for the LDC wall project phase two), and is spent.

The budgeted amount for designated offerings is up about 4% from the actual undesignated offerings from 2022. This is below the rate of inflation. This increase accounts for increases in utility rates (gas, electricity, etc.), a 5% increase in stipends and associated employment costs (EI, CPP, the housing amount for the Rector, etc.) and other inflationary pressures for material purchased by the parish (think food for the Soup Kitchen). Amounts for designated offerings are essentially goals. For most designated offerings, we only spend what we receive for any given heading (e.g. PWRDF). For others such as the wall repair at the Little Dutch Church where we have contractual obligations, shortfalls are made up from undesignated funds.

I know there is often confusion about what "Designated" and "Undesignated" offerings actually mean. Designated funds are funds given for a specific purpose (e.g. Soup Kitchen), and specified as such by the person making the offering. These funds may only be spent for the specified purpose – that is in Diocesan Canon, and is necessary in any case. Undesignated funds are more than just the operating expenses. While they do make up the bulk of paying for our buildings and utilities, they also pay for stipends, and are what make up the difference for our various missions (Soup Kitchen, Rector's Discretionary funds, YouthNet – the list goes on) when designated funds are not sufficient. None of those missions and works could happen without a physical parish – the people, places, and buildings from which to run them all. I would ask all of us to consider that we give designated funds in addition to, and not instead of undesignated funds. I will use the Soup Kitchen again as an example – it doesn't happen without a Hall to run it from or a coordinator to make it go.

Of the ~\$184k increase over last year's budget, ~\$146k is property related, an additional \$110k for phase two of the Little Dutch Church graveyard wall restoration (paid for by grants, other pass-through funds and remainder of funds raised from phase one, as that first phase came in under budget), \$20 000 for the Hall being paid for from Deck the Hall funds (also pass-through type funds), and the remaining ~\$16 000 property mostly representing increases to utility rates, insurance and property tax increases (Trinity House is not exempt

from municipal taxes). This remaining \$16 000 comes out of undesignated funds.

Other increases include almost \$18000 for General Parish expenses, \$6000 for Ordained Ministry, \$11 000 for Pastoral Ministry, and \$4000 for Spiritual Development totalling around \$39 000 more than 2022, and almost entirely due to the rising cost of everything. Some of these amounts have offset sources of income. For example, HST expenses increase as we spend more, but as a charity we get half of the HST back from the government. However, most of these increases are borne by parishioners and their own sacrificial giving to the parish in the form of undesignated offerings).

NOTE: All of the preceding amounts are rounded – actual figures are found in the proposed budget for 2023.

Summary:

1) Inflation represents the vast majority of the increases that are not covered by grants and other outside sources. The increase in undesignated offerings asked for in this budget represent a 4% increase (less than inflation for 2022) over last year's actual undesignated offerings.

2) The parish exceeded budgeted undesignated offerings for 2022 despite looking at a \$50k deficit on December 1st, 2022 - truly inspiring to your outgoing Treasurer.

3) Despite relying on charities such as our parish to provide respite to the poor and marginalized, no government funds our programs, or any other, church. We can get grants for specifics, but paying our Rector, Music Director, Parish Administrator, heating the buildings, keeping the building – that is all paid for by the faithful members of our parish.

4) Undesignated funds – besides keeping us from trying to celebrate Holy Communion or run the Soup Kitchen under the elm tree on the lawn of Trinity House, they also fill in all the gaps in our missions to our neighbours. Not super interesting to think about, but all the more important in their lack of comeliness.

Al Wilson
Treasurer

MOTION: JM Dawson that the meeting thank to J de Mestral for her work as property chair; Second: K Holm; Carried.

MOTION: J Connors moved that the 2023 budget be adopted as presented; Second: J de Mestral; Carried.

K Holm suggested that a congregational meeting be held to consider a strategic plan for the parish.

E Harnish commented that Safer Church, which requires an audit of church roles, could help determine gaps between what the parish wants to do and what it actually does.

14. Elections:

T Lenfesty for a two-year term as Warden, elected by acclamation.

M Vanderkwaak for a three-year term as Warden, elected by acclamation.

S Stevenson for a one-year term as Treasurer, elected by acclamation.

MOTION: G Pickett moved that J Gracie be nominated for a one-year term as recording secretary to the Parish Council; Second: J de Mestral; carried

E Harnish for a one-year term on the Parish Council, elected by acclamation.

K Holm, M Hilchie, E Stones, G Urquhart, and JM Dawson for three-year terms on the Parish Council, elected by acclamation.

The Rector, C Lowe, and J Connors for a one-year term as delegates to the Regional Council, elected by acclamation.

C Lowe and J Connors for a one-year term as delegates to Synod, elected by acclamation.

MOTION: T Lenfesty moved that the Parish Council select Youth delegates to Synod; Second: K Holm; Carried.

MOTION: S Harris moved that the Parish Council select auditors for 2023; Second: JM Dawson; Carried.

The Rector brought the meeting's attention to an important change to parish roles: in their capacity as Sacristans, N Savoury and C Lowe will be taking over the leadership of the Altar Guild.

The Rector expressed thanks to I Porter, C Gibson, and P Bullerwell, for giving the past three years of their lives to service on the Parish Council. Applause.

The Rector expressed thanks to M Jamieson, outgoing Warden, and A Wilson, outgoing Treasurer, and presented both with gifts from the parish. Applause.

MOTIONE Harnish moved that the meeting adjourn; carried.

15. The Rector closed the meeting with prayer.

Treasurer's Report

It was something of a surprise when the Rector asked me to consider taking on the role of Parish Treasurer last February. A year later, I hope that he and the nominating committee are content with their choice. For me, it has been a year full of learning new processes and getting re-acquainted with the details of the parish.

The learning curve has been significant, and I am indebted to several people for their patience and assistance along the way: **Jordan Gracie**, who as our parish bookkeeper, has borne the brunt of my questions and occasional debates about how to present information to make it more understandable to a larger audience. **Judith Fisher**, our envelope secretary who is an invisible hero of the parish finances. She does an outstanding job of staying on top of tracking identifiable givers. She is also exceptionally diligent in the arena of privacy of information. This has led to subtle, but very important changes in how information is exchanged between me, the bookkeeper and the envelope secretary.

I am also grateful to the **Rector and Wardens** for their knowledge of the current workings of the parish. I've been less involved in recent years and was not always aware of how things have changed over the last few rectors (and a couple of Fr Purchase interregnums). Kieva Diamond, Tracy Lenfesty and Matthew Vanderkwaak all have hearts for the ministries of this parish and understand it in ways that I don't. They, along with Fr Hatt, have been a tremendous team to work with. They have been particularly helpful in co-writing and editing the financial updates you see in the parish bulletin and email list. Communicating financial information to the parish was one of the things I felt **Al Wilson** did particularly well during his time as treasurer. I have endeavoured to follow and build on his example. Speaking of Al, he made the transition into the role as straightforward as possible for me. While I have not had to call on him this year, he has been willing to take queries despite his own busy family, career, and service as volunteer firefighter in his community.

One of my goals for this year was to make the financial reports to Council more clear for those who don't have the accounting vocabulary. It took several months for me to understand the inner workings of the parish budget and finances so that I could explain things clearly to others. Parish Council has been quite patient as I went through that learning process and took them all on the journey with me. I hope that the budget presentation you see in this report, and at the AGM, reflects some success in this goal of transparency and clarity. The usual financial statements are included as appendices to this report for those who wish to delve into the details.

Summary of the 2023 Financial position

Balance sheet, Income & Expense Report and Profit & Loss reports are found in Appendix B. Notes on how to read the statements are in Appendix A.

At last year's AGM, the parish took on what was acknowledged at the time to be an ambitious budget. We finished the year with a **minor deficit of -\$334.88**. Had we paid our allotment in full, the deficit would have been **-\$6297.38**.

The financial statements do not always give the full picture of our ministries. There are a few items that I would call 'false positives' in that the fund lines are underspent but those financial 'wins' have come at the loss of capacity. For example, the Deaf Interpreters (*2023 Budget vs Actuals statement, line 209*) was underspent by \$2705 because one of the interpreters moved on to other work and has yet to be replaced. This means that we only have interpreting available two Sundays a month. Similarly, it looks like we saved money on organ maintenance (*2023 Budget vs Actuals statement, line 341*) when the instrument did not get the full scheduled maintenance in the spring. While it looks like we're overspent on gifts, that amount was recovered in designated offerings for the parish's ordination gift to Ginny Wilmhoff.

In May we purchased a Square Reader device to allow for credit/debit payments at the Plant Sale. Although I was initially reluctant to try this, braver folks prevailed and we had Square payments up and running just in time for a wildly successful Plant Sale. Approximately ¼ of the sales came through the Square payment option. I was quite happy to be proven wrong about my reluctance to take on another technology. Square does charge a percentage of each transaction, but the convenience more than paid for that investment. In November we signed up for the TipTapPay service, at the instigation of the Rector who saw this technology widely embraced during his time in England in 2022. We consulted with our neighbours at All Saints’ Cathedral and found that they have found this option to be well worth the investment. We expect the kiosks to arrive sometime in February.

Around the same time, I learned that the guest offering envelopes in the pews are used for a wide range of purposes. A project for this year is to revise the information on the envelopes to better address the information needs of the users.

There were some hiccups along the way with extra property expenses due to water damage in the uppermost story of the Round Church. Parishioners responded to that appeal with incredible generosity, exceeding the campaign goal by 50%. When there were other unanticipated expenses (eavestroughing and reinstallation of a radiator in the vestry) those donors were willing to have the unspent contributions to the ‘leaky window fund’ applied to the general fabric of the Round Church.

In the fall, Council was asked to consider larger than usual awards from the Pickford Scholarship Fund. The Pickford Scholarship was established in 1999 by Karen Westhaver’s parents, in memory of her grandparents. Earnings from the fund are held in Deferred Revenue accounts (sometimes known as “short-term accounts” – see *2023 Balance Sheet, line 84*) until awards are made. The scholarship had not been awarded for a number of years and thus had accumulated ~\$7000 in the deferred revenue line. At the same time, it was noticed that the “Choir Chair Fund” (*2023 Balance Sheet, line 73*) had not been called on for over ten years. Parish Council approved a motion in November to transfer the remainder of the Choir Chair Fund into the principal of the Pickford Scholarship. In other motions at the same meeting, Council agreed to a \$1000 award for 2023-2024 and to reinvest the remainder of the Pickford deferred revenue back into the principal as a way of increasing future earnings on the investments.

In the fourth quarter, I received notice from a representative of the Friends of St George’s Society that the funds for stipend support through FSGS had been depleted and that FSGS would not be able to contribute for those costs for the fourth quarter. With the parish already running behind by about \$51,000, we needed to take on an additional \$9750 in stipend costs. Thus began the end-of-year deficit reduction campaign I had hoped we would avoid. Parish Council agreed that we would withhold our final two months of allotment payments to the Diocese (~\$5965) as part of the deficit reduction (*See 2023 Balance sheet, line 51 under liabilities*). I was deeply moved by the response of the parish to the end of year campaign. Parishioners and friends from all levels of financial means made truly sacrificial gifts. Others came forward with offers of their time and abilities. It was a privilege to see these offerings pass through the treasurer’s email account.

Due to this generosity, we were able to end the year with a modest deficit:

2023 Income <i>2023 Income & Expense line 53</i>	\$801,196.04
2023 Expenses <i>2023 Income & Expense line 235</i>	\$801,530.92

Year End position 2023 Income & Expense lines 236-237	-\$334.88
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N.B. Had we paid full allotment in 2023, the deficit would have been **-\$6297.38**

The 2024 budget

Budget Committee:

This year's budget committee consisted of myself, the Rector, Property Chair Jacquie de Mestral, Warden Tracy Lenfesty and Parish Council member-at-large Mark Hilchie.

While the Rector prefers not to delve too deeply into the money side of parish administration, his knowledge of the parish and ministries, and vision for the same, make him a valuable and necessary part of the process. As you will see, our property expenses take up a large proportion of the budget and it is essential to have Jacquie's property input into the budget process. Property is one of the more difficult areas to predict and we were very fortunate to have Mark Hilchie, a software developer and self-professed data geek, as part of the budget committee. Mark continues to work on some retrospective analysis which we hope will help with the budget process in 2025, particularly with respect to forecasting for unexpected property expenses. Tracy's extensive experience as a warden and her work with the non-clergy employees with their job portfolios were also very valuable as we anticipate changes to some of those roles. I am grateful to all of them for their participation in the budget process and their patience with my desire for documenting an evidence-based budget. There were some lively discussions along the way, with a few frustrations that were usually caused by me not communicating something clearly. In the end, I am confident that we are bringing forward a budget that has been prepared with full consideration of the needs and abilities of the parish.

The budget process:

Everyone who has responsibility for expenditures on the budget was asked to send the projected expenses and amounts by mid-November. Amounts needed to have a project or materials attached so the budget committee would understand the request. This approach was taken so those with budget authority had the opportunity to think through plans for the coming year, and to reduce the workload on the treasurer and budget committee. The people who were spending funds had direct input into the budget process.

For example, the Music Director considered how many choral services and rehearsal would be planned for 2024 and what the total cost would be for musicians. You'll see that the costs for musicians are broken down between costs to the parish, and costs paid by Music Fund of the Friends of St George's Society. (*Budget document notes to line 121*)

Property expenses were broken down slightly differently this year for clarity. The property maintenance lines for each building including 'standing expenses' such as utilities, planned project expenses (Capital improvements), and a 'contingency fund' for unexpected expenses such as frozen pipes.

PROJECTED INCOME

The projected income and expenses are presented in Appendix C. Line number references are given in the report below.

Parish income comes from 7 areas:

1. Offerings:
 - a. Undesignated or General: funds that can be used for any expense (*lines 2-7*)
and
 - b. Designated: funds that can only be used for the stated purpose (*lines 8-23*)

2. Fundraising projects such as the Plant sale, Christmas pantry & handicrafts, and St Peter’s Publications Prayer Book Calendars (*lines 39,40 & 46-48*)
3. Rental of our building spaces and parking. (*lines 34-38,49-51*)
4. Endowments – the parish has a small number of endowment funds (*lines 27-33.*)
See Appendix A for a list of endowments, their intended use, and income since December 31, 2022.
5. Grants – Corpus Christi Foundation grant to offset the costs of the Works of Robert Crouse book launch, January 14 &15, 2024. (*line 41*)
6. HST rebate. This is based on spending in the six months prior to the rebate claim. We know the value of the rebate that we will receive in February, however the second half of the year depends on spending patterns and is much more exciting to try and predict. (*line 42*)
7. Anticipated income from the Friends of St George’s Stipend Fund. (*line 24*) This is included in the budget document for information only as it has an impact on the calculation of undesignated offerings. The FSGS Stipend monies go directly to the Diocesan payroll and do not pass through the parish books.

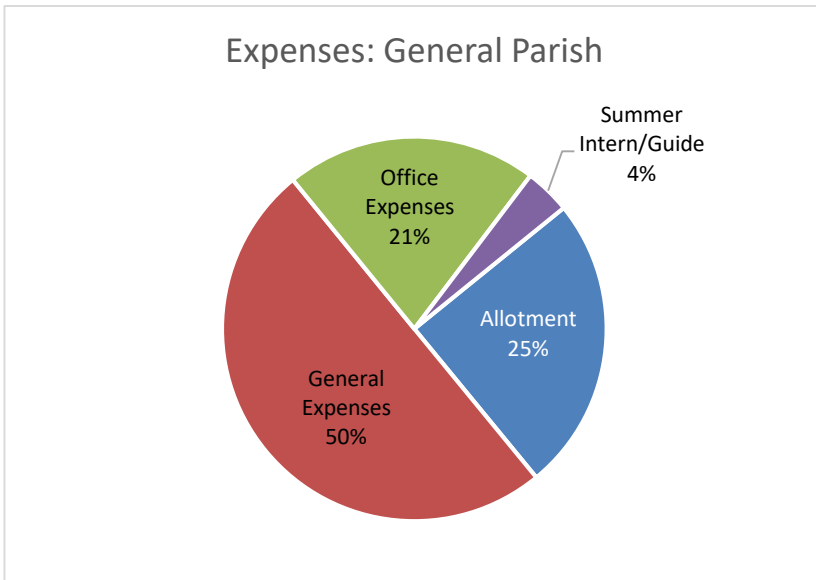


PROJECTED EXPENSES:

The parish spending is broken down into these areas:

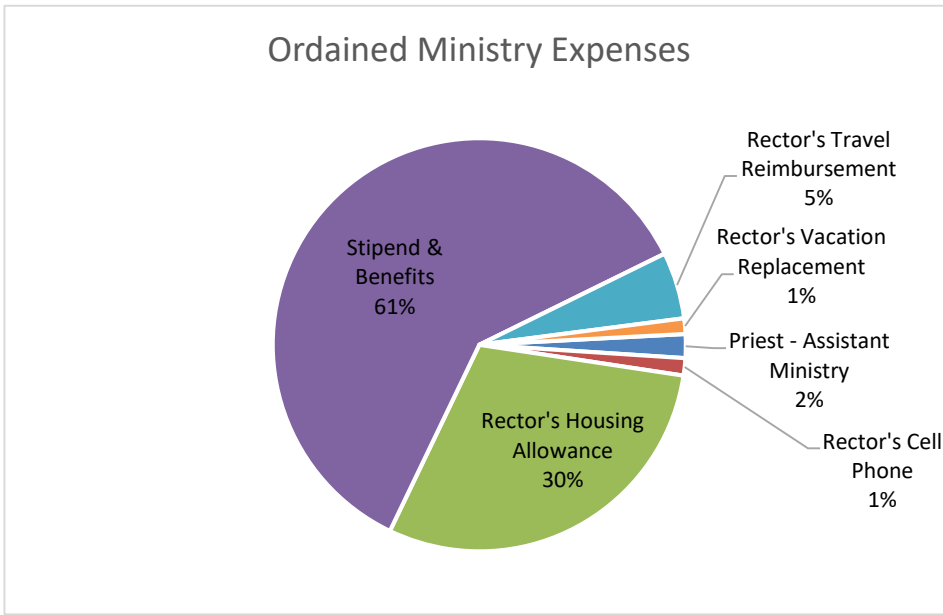


6100: General parish expenses: \$89,052 (lines 55-82 of Budget document)



This includes diocesan allotment, office expenses and summer student, if we are successful in getting a grant. Our allotment assessment for 2024 is \$31,485 (*Budget document line 56*) The \$5962.50 of 2023 allotment arrears has not been factored into the 2024 budget.

6200: Ordained ministry: \$96,510 (lines 83-91 of Budget document)



Fr Hatt's stipend (*Budget document line 87*) is determined by the Diocese. The diocese is implementing a series of stipend increases as a result of the Parity Project to bring our clergy stipends closer to comparator stipends. The Parity Project documentation is in Appendix D.

You may also notice an increase in the Rector's Housing allowance (*Budget document line 86*). This will bring the housing allowance up to the same value as was given to the Rector in 2011. However, on examination of the The Diocesan Housing Policy, we need to undertake a Fair Rental Value Assessment in 2024. At the January 16th Parish Council meeting, Council agreed to follow up on Fair Rental Value Assessment in 2024.

The relevant sections of the Housing policy are given below:

Rectory Housing:

Mandatory Standards:

- If the parish does not provide a parish office in an associated church, then there must be a study available on the main floor of the Rectory with universally accessible access.

- Where the parish office is located in the rectory then the main access for the rectory must meet the code for accessibility.
- The parish must pay for all utilities and services including heat, water, electricity, telephone (other than personal long-distance calls) and property insurance. This insurance excludes “Contents Insurance”.
- The home must come equipped with a fridge, stove, washer and dryer.
- Basic internet services must be provided by the parish at the location of either the parish office or the rectory.
- The house must be installed with operating smoke alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detector, and must have regular Radon testing.

Additional Standards:

- The rectory should consist of a unit with a minimum of three (3) bedrooms and 1 and ½ baths.
- The home should come equipped with a dishwasher.
- As well, the house should be brought up to Provincial Building and Safety Codes, especially with regard to all electrical and safety matters.
- All parishes are encouraged to provide security systems for rectories.

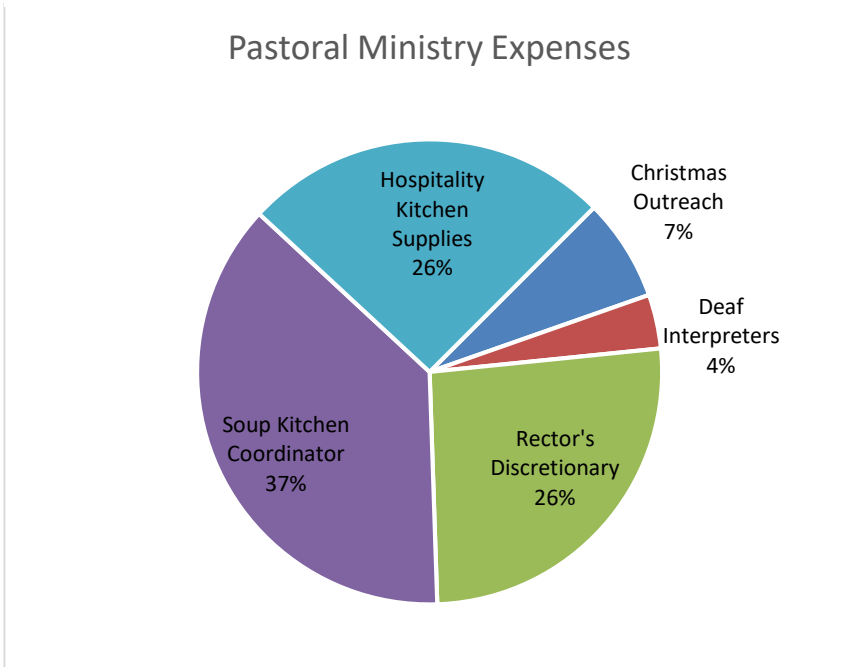
Fair Rental Value for Rectories and Housing Allowances

8. If a Housing Allowance is provided, then the comparable housing must meet the standard above as outlined for rectories and be within a 30 minute drive of the church or, in a multi-point parish, one of the churches in that parish. The Housing Allowance is based on Fair Rental Value (FRV) of the comparable housing within the bounds of the parish as assessed and documented by up to three local realtors or property management firms, or another valid source. FRV includes the utilities of heat, electricity, telephone, water, and internet if not provided in the parish office.
9. The Housing Allowance and the FRV of the rectory should be reviewed by Parish Council at least every three (3) years.

<<https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/pages/administration-finance-policies> > Policy 2.2.11 Housing Policy.
accessed 20 January 2024.

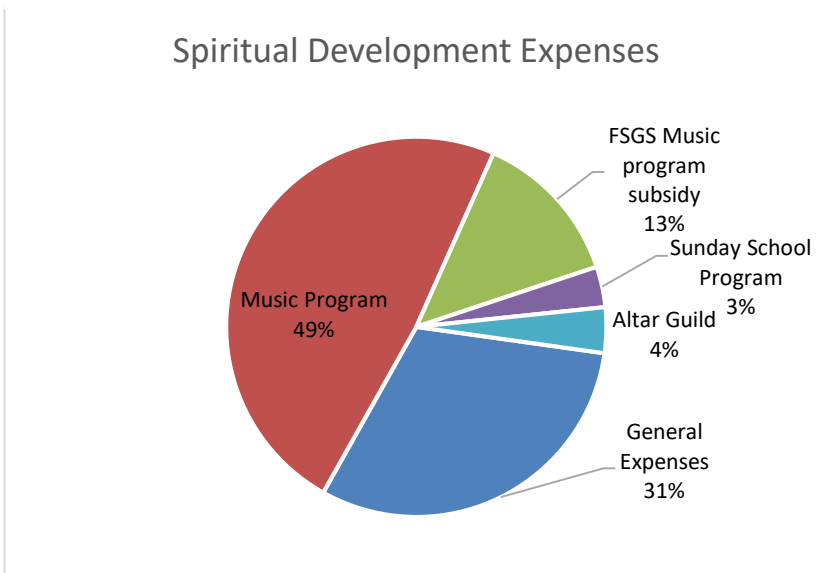
Priest Assistant (Budget document line 84)– This line covers those times when Fr Hatt is not on vacation and unable to conduct the service due to pastoral needs, illness or similar circumstances. It is separate from the Vacation replacement. The diocese has a schedule of payment rates for guest celebrants.

6300 Pastoral ministry: \$57,550 (lines 92-111 of Budget document)



This includes Hospitality (Kitchen supplies line includes both parish fellowship and Soup Kitchen), Christmas Outreach, the Deaf Interpreter(s) and the Rector's Discretionary fund. We are down an interpreter and the budget reflects that loss and resulting limitation of that ministry.

6400: Spiritual Development: \$111,829 (lines 112-138 of Budget document)



This includes the Music programme as well as guest speakers/preachers, missionaries; Sunday School & Youth Group, materials costs for study groups.

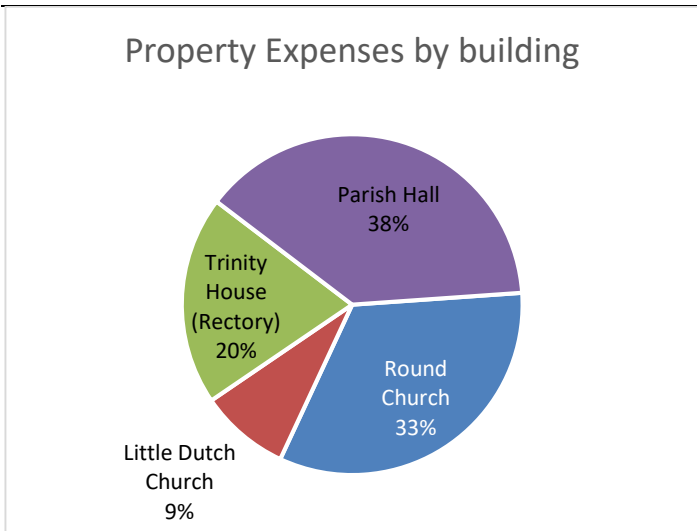
Included in this total are the costs associated with the *Works of Robert Crouse Book Launch* on January 14, 2024. (Budget document line 117) There is a matching grant from the *Corpus Christi Foundation* included in the project income statement. (Budget document line 41)

6500: Property: \$ 190,401 (lines 139-234 of Budget document)

General property expenses: \$ 70,355 (lines 139-151 of Budget document)

This includes the property manager stipend of \$13,000. This has traditionally been part of the *Friends of St George's* Stipends fund contributions. As part of our resource planning, it is being explicitly shown as an expense.

Expenses by building: (lines 152-233 of Budget document)



This year we planned the property budget in three areas:

- **Maintenance:** Regular expenses: Utilities, fire services, pest control, insurance
- **Capital projects:** The recommended projects considered for the budget are listed in the Table of Proposed Capital (one-time) Projects below.
- **Contingency funds** for unplanned maintenance: This is the *unpleasant surprises* category: frozen pipes that break, plumbing issues, parts for furnaces or this past year, a surprisingly expensive part for the chandelier in the Round Church. Mark Hilchie’s project explored the use of a business intelligence tool for forecasting these numbers. He ran into complications with the data formatting but will continue the work as we look to 2025. For this year, the contingency fund has been calculated by adding the regular expenses to the capital expenses (see Table of Proposed Capital Projects below), taking 5% of that total and rounding to the nearest \$5 increment. There was also a human intelligence component to adjust the figure for the Little Dutch Church to more accurately reflect the use of this property.

Table of Proposed Capital (one-time) Projects (prepared by Jacquie de Mestral)

Bold indicates *must do*. Italics indicated “nice to do”.

PARISH HALL		TRINITY HOUSE	
Project	Estimated costs	Project	Estimated costs
Upstairs bathroom hall, replace some tiles	100.00	fan rewiring	500.00
Sunday School room floor, tiles lifting, hazard (est. only)	8,000.00	Wi-Fi in kitchen needs box	150.00
machine room, heating needed for water pipes	200.00	Light fixtures plus install	400.00
safety lighting needed, outer office, hallway	3,145.00	Skirting board, Maitland St., replace, repaint	2,000.00
Repair to light fixture, Trinity House entrance to Hall	100	Gutter install MaitlandSt.	(inc. in 2,000 above)
Repair to newel post, up to Guild Room	100		
gutter repairs, cleaning (10,000-donated)	N/C		
<i>painting main hall (nice to do-grant?)</i>	<i>10,000</i>		
MUST DO TOTAL	11,645.00		3,050.00

LITTLE DUTCH CHURCH		ROUND CHURCH	
Project	Estimated costs	Project	Estimated costs
repointing bricks (needs quote) (must do sooner rather than later)	10,000.00	storm window 2nd floor (may cost less)	6,000.00
Painting floor, interior	300.00	chancel floor, refinishing	5,500.00
Replastering interior (presently monitoring)		heat pump in crypt (80% rebate, 20% donation 6,000)	N/C
windows (must do in 2025, grant?)	~65,000	gutters (3,000 deferred cost sharing)	N/C
MUST DO TOTAL	10,000.00		11,500.00

Summary of Property costs by building:

	Parish Hall (lines 152-176)	Trinity House (lines 177-193)	Little Dutch Church (lines 194-206)	Round Church (lines 207-233)
Maintenance	\$ 37,405.00 (line 169)	*\$ 7030.00 (line 188-line 178)	\$ 625.00 (line 202)	\$ 19,370.00 (line 221)
Capital Projects	\$ 11,645.00 (line 173)	\$ 3,050.00 (line 190)	\$ 10,000.00 (line 203)	\$ 11,500.00 (line 225)
Contingency	\$ 2,450.00 (line 175)	\$ 850.00 (line 192)	\$ 250.00 (line 204)	\$ 1,550.00 (line 232)
Total	\$ 51,500.00 (line 176)	\$ 25,251.06 (line 193 – includes property taxes)	\$ 10,875.00 (line 206)	\$ 32,420.00 (line 233)

*The Trinity House maintenance figure does not include \$7160 in property taxes. This was done for consistency of the contingency formula between buildings. Trinity House is the only building subject to property taxes.

So where does that leave us for 2024?

Projected income (line 53-line 24)	\$ 174,515.00
Projected FSGS Stipend assistance (line 24)	\$ 15,000.00
Projected Expenses (line 235)	\$ 545,343.20
Difference (undesignated offering) (line 13)	\$ 355,828.20
2023 Actual undesignated offerings	\$ 345,363.10 (included for comparison)

This looks like another ambitious budget, but I believe, and am supported by Parish Council in this, that it is an accurate reflection of what it costs to continue our ministries.

One of the projects that I did not get to in 2023 and plan for 2024 is the development of a records management strategy for the parish with defined responsibilities and retention schedules. Should anyone in the parish have experience in this area and wish to be part of a small working group, I would be delighted to hear from you.

It has been a privilege and learning opportunity to serve as your Parish Treasurer. As I indicated at the outset, this work is not done in isolation. It would not be possible without Jordan Gracie, Judith Fisher, the offering counters, the Rector & Wardens. I am also grateful to Council Chair Kara Holm and members of Parish Council who provided very helpful proofreading and feedback to the presentation that will be delivered at the AGM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stevenson

List of Appendices:

A: How to read the Financial Statements & Endowment information.

B: 2023 year end financial statements.

C: 2024 proposed budget.

D: Parity Project

**Appendix A: How to read these financial statements,
or “what are these numbers and where do they come from?”**

The financial statements of the parish are divided into two documents, a **balance sheet**, and an **income & expense statement**.

The **Balance Sheet** shows the value of everything that the parish owns (its **assets**), the parish’s debts and obligations (its **liabilities**), and what the parish will have left over if it pays all of its debts and meets all of its obligations as of the statement date (its **equity**). It is shown first because it contains immediate information: it shows whether the parish is solvent (ie. that it is capable of meeting its financial obligations), and what the parish will have left over once its obligations are met.

Assets are divided into two categories: **current** and **non-current**. Generally, **current assets** can be turned into cash quickly, while **non-current assets** cannot (usually taking several months to several years to turn into cash).

The **current assets** of the parish include all of the cash the parish keeps in its bank account, any petty cash amounts issued, any amounts that the parish is obliged to receive (**accounts receivable**), and the book value of its investments.

Non-current assets show the *assessed value* of the parish’s properties as a placeholder for the true value of the parish’s properties.¹

Liabilities is divided into two categories: **current** and **non-current liabilities**. Generally, **current liabilities** are financial obligations that are due within a year of the statement date, while **non-current liabilities** are obligations that may not be due for some time, if ever.

The **current liabilities** of the parish are, mostly, **amounts of cash owed** (such as accounts payable, credit card balances, and any wages owed to the parish’s employees).

The **non-current liabilities** of the parish fall into two general categories:

Cash that is restricted or has some obligation associated with it and has yet to be spent (such as a donation that must be spent buying soup kitchen supplies, or interest earned on the Preservation and Conservation fund, which must, and can *only* be spent preserving and conserving the Round Church). These cash balances shown are in the **Short-Term Funds Held for Specifics** category; and

¹ Normally, the value of the parish’s property would be calculated from the amount that the parish spends investing in and upgrading its properties (ie. acquiring capital assets). Usually, the cost of a capital asset is spread out over several years of financial statements based on an estimation of the useful lifetime of that particular asset using an accounting method called *depreciation*. The parish does not do this, preferring to recognize the full cost of acquiring a capital asset in the same fiscal year in which the capital asset is acquired. Since the parish is largely tax exempt, there are only two real consequences for failing to depreciate our assets: the amount we pay in allotment fluctuates rather a lot from year to year; and it obfuscates the true operating cost of the parish on the Income & Expense statement.

The principal of the parish's investments. That the principals of the parish's investments are recorded as liabilities implies that the principals of those investments – should the investments ever be liquidated – are restricted and must be spent in specific ways.

The **Income and Expense Statement** is shown second because it only serves to explain the activities of the parish that led to the values presented on the **balance sheet**.

The **Income and Expense Statement** is divided into four parts: **income earned** over the period of the report; **net income** (**income** less the **cost of goods sold**); **expenses incurred**; and **net revenue** (**net income** less **expenses**).

Income is divided into two categories:

Contributions, which covers all cash offerings and donations either received or recognized within the fiscal year; and

Earned Income, which covers all sources of cash income that are *not* offerings or donations.

Contributions is further divided into two subcategories:

Undesignated Offerings, which are recorded as income when they are received; and

Designated Offerings, which are recognized as income when a relevant expense has been incurred.

Undesignated offerings is further divided into three categories:

Direct Debit, which includes all undesignated offerings received through the Direct Debit Offering;

Envelope Offerings, which includes all undesignated offerings for which the parish is capable of issuing a charitable receipt; and

Loose offerings, which includes all undesignated offerings for which a charitable receipt cannot be issued (that is, all offerings that do not have both a name *and* an address attached to them).

Expenses are divided into five general categories:

Ordained Ministry, which includes the costs associated with supporting the clergy of the parish;

Pastoral Ministry, which includes the costs of the parish's various outreach and pastoral activities and any cash gifts made by the parish to other organizations;

Spiritual Development, which includes the cost of the music program, the Sunday School, the Altar Guild, as well as honouraria for guest speakers and preachers;

Property, which includes all of the costs associated with maintaining the parish's four buildings, grounds, and graveyard; and

General, which includes everything that does not easily fit into the other categories including allotment, office expenses, and any HST that the parish paid in the course of incurring other expenses.

Dividing the parish's expenses into these categories makes it very easy to show how the parish spends money *generally*, but it comes at the cost of obscuring the overall cost of payroll and the funding of specific projects.

Notes to the Financial Statements

These notes do not apply to the Refugee Sponsorship Committee Financial Statements.

General practices & concepts:

Accrual Basis

This financial statement has been prepared using the accrual basis. This means that income is recorded when it is *earned* and expenses are recorded when they are *incurred* irrespective of when cash actually changes hands.

Generally:

Expenses are incurred on the invoice or, in the absence of an invoice, the statement date. Expenses due to reimbursement are incurred in the same period in which the relevant proof-of-purchase is received.

Income is a little more complicated.

Contributions made:

1. in cash or by cheque are considered to have been earned on the date that the cash is counted by our counters.
2. via Interac e-transfer are considered to have been earned on the date that the transfer was sent.
3. via Canada Helps are considered to have been earned on the disbursement date.
4. by Direct Debit are considered to have been earned on the 30th of the relevant month.

Earned Revenue from fundraising sales is considered to have been earned on the date the cash is counted. **Rental Income** is considered to have been earned on the invoice date, or, for parking rentals, at the beginning of the rental period. **Endowment Income** is considered earned on the date the disbursement is received. **Grant Income** is considered earned on the date the grant is awarded.²

Deferred Revenue Method used for Restricted Revenue

Designated offerings, grants, and income earned by this parish's endowment funds are all examples of *restricted revenue*: money received by the parish that has some restriction as to how it can be spent. It is the responsibility of the parish to ensure that any restricted money is spent in accordance with those restrictions – regardless of whether the restrictions were placed by an external entity such as a

² This gets a bit tricky. If the grant is for a specific purpose, then, under the deferred revenue method, it is recorded as a liability on the award date, and then recognized as income as relevant expenses are incurred.

donor or granting body, or by the parish itself. The method that the parish uses to keep track of restricted revenue is called the **deferred revenue method**. A consequence of using this method is **restricted money only shows up on the income statement once a relevant expense has been incurred**. Until a relevant expense has been incurred, restricted money is recorded as a liability since it represents an obligation on the part of the parish. On the balance sheet, “2400 ST – funds held for specifics” shows the restricted money that the parish has on hand and available to spend. On the Income & Expense statement, “4020 Designated Offerings,” “4110 DNS & PEI endowment Fund Interest,” and “4160 Grant Income” show the restricted funds that have been spent or “recognized” in this fiscal year.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation of capital assets is not accounted for in these statements; the full cost of acquiring any capital asset is recorded as an expense in the same period in which the capital asset is acquired.

The amortization of intangible assets is not accounted for in these statements.

In-kind donations

The value of in-kind donations is not reported in these financial statements.

Investments

“**1400 Diocesan Endowment Funds**” reports the value of the parish’s investment in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) using the cost method. The CTF pays out one percent of the market value of the fund quarterly. The Investment IDs given in *italics* are set to accumulate, meaning that any disbursement is immediately reinvested back into the CTF. This causes the book value of the investment to grow every quarter. “**2500 Liabilities associated with ETF**” implies that the principals of all of the parish’s investments are themselves restricted. The market value of the parish’s investment, as of the most recent statement, is as follows:

Investment ID	Book Value	Market Value September 30, 2023	Unrealized gain (loss)	Annual Distribution	Yield on cost
Altar Guild ID840 ³	\$819.00	\$1,155.22	\$336.22	\$45.91	5.61%
Helen C Johnson Deaf Ministry ID825 ⁴	\$25,363.80	\$32,274.54	\$6,910.74	\$1,282.51	5.06%

³ Established by the Parish Council in 1999. Disbursements from the Altar Guild endowment are usually used to pay for flowers and brass polish. This endowment can be liquidated, in whole or in part, by the Parish Council should the need arise.

⁴ Established by gift in 2007. Disbursements from the Helen C Johnson Ministry endowment pay part of the cost of providing sign language interpreters at worship services. This endowment is permanently restricted and cannot be liquidated.

Helen Johnson Youth Music ID277 ⁵	\$50,000.00	\$67,449.26	\$17,449.26	\$2,683.27	5.37%
Little Dutch Church ID845 ⁶	\$28,694.71	\$33,232.12	\$4,537.41	\$1,288.81	4.60%
Memorial Fund ID850 ⁷	\$6,127.58	\$7,518.93	\$1,391.35	\$291.60	4.88%
Pickford Choral Scholar ID860 ⁸	\$11,125.47	\$15,593.30	\$4,467.83	\$619.64	5.57%
Preservation & Conserv. ID870 ⁹	\$240,913.42	\$335,825.56	\$94,912.14	\$13,344.85	5.54%
Rectors & Wardens of Church ID810 ¹⁰	\$9,547.72	\$24,960.31	\$15,412.59	\$968.02	10.71%
Rectors Fund ID830 ¹¹	\$2,010.67	\$11,539.85	\$9,529.18	\$458.57	22.81%
Wright Grave lot Fund [Lot 10] ¹²	\$1,868.12	\$3,496.50	\$1,628.38	\$136.69	7.52%

Other:

At the Annual General Meeting held on February 14, 2021, the parish decided to defer \$15,000 of **Retained Earnings** to **2400 ST – funds held for specifics: Curacy Fund.**

During 2021, the parish received \$40,929.41 in payroll subsidies through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), which the parish is eligible to receive through the Diocese. This is recognized as a

⁵ Established by bequest in 2012 to “foster and support the choir program for the youth of the Parish of St. George,” disbursements from the Helen Johnson Youth Music endowment pay the portion of the Music Director’s salary associated with serving the Junior Choir.

⁶ Established in 2006, presumably from money left over from the restoration of the Little Dutch Church in the early 1990s.

⁷ Established in 1999. Disbursements from the Memorial Fund have been used in the past to pay for Prayer Books, Hymnals, vestments, and repairs to various liturgical items. This endowment can be liquidated, in whole or in part, by the Parish Council should the need arise.

⁸ Established by gift from Eric and Barbara Conrod in memory of Anna and Charles Pickford in 1999 and later expanded by the Parish Council, disbursements from the Pickford Choral Scholar Endowment fund scholarships awarded to promising young choristers at the discretion of the Music Director. The Pickfords lived in the parish and worshipped at Saint George’s until the Halifax Explosion. After the explosion, they moved to Grand Pre for a quieter life and lived out their days there. This endowment is permanently restricted and cannot be liquidated.

⁹ Established in 1999, disbursements from the Preservation & Conservation endowment fund the maintenance of the Round Church. This endowment is permanently restricted and cannot be liquidated.

¹⁰ Established in 1936, the Rector and Wardens may draw on this endowment at their collective discretion. In the past, it has been used to pay for large unbudgeted expenses. This endowment can be liquidated, in whole or in part, by the Parish Council at the request of the Rector and Wardens.

¹¹ Established in 1936, disbursements from the Rector’s Fund endowment are used “for the relief of poverty and distress.” This endowment can be liquidated, in whole or in part, by the Parish Council at the request of the Rector.

¹² Established in 1939. The use of grave lot funds is governed by Canon 39, but generally must be used for the maintenance of the graveyard.

reduction in the following expense accounts: **6122 Stipend – Office Manager, 6214 Stipend – Rector, and 6433 Stipend – Music Director**, and is the reason why **6122 Stipend – Office Manager** is a negative value.

Per the Maintenance and Capital Expenditures Policy adopted by Parish Council on May 4, 2021, property maintenance and capital expenses are differentiated on the financial statements; capital expenses incurred in other areas, if applicable, are noted in this document. For continuity:

Accounts 6523 Capital Improvement, 6533 Capital Improvement, 6543 Capital Improvement, and 6553 Capital Improvement have been created.

To **6552 Maintenance & Repairs** has been added two “detail accounts”: **Paid for out of Preservation funds** and **Paid for out of Unrestricted or Other funds**

To **6553 Capital Improvements** has been added two “detail accounts”: **Paid for out of Preservation funds** and **Paid for out of Unrestricted or Other funds**

6554 Preservation Expense has been renamed **6552 Maintenance & Repairs: Paid out of Preservation funds**

These statements always walk a line between being unhelpful in their generality and incomprehensible in their detail. It is hoped that the changes listed above do not bear too great a burden on the reader. Unfortunately, the changes are necessary if we are to differentiate between capital and maintenance expenses *and* between expenses paid for out of preservation fund money and expenses paid for out of other pots of money simultaneously on these statements.

Appendix B: 2023 Year-end Financial Statement

Parish of Saint George

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2023

<i>Accrual basis</i>	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022	Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalent			
1000 TD/Canada Trust - General	233,188.71	283,833.40	(50,644.69)
1001 TD/Canada Trust - Deck the Hall	46,408.05	53,084.40	(6,676.35)
1010 Petty Cash			0.00
1011 Petty Cash (Church Cleaner)	308.76	308.76	0.00
1012 Petty Cash (Parish Office)	300.00	300.00	0.00
1013 Petty Cash (Rector)	300.00	300.00	0.00
Total 1010 Petty Cash	\$908.76	\$908.76	\$-
1020 Undeposited Funds	150.00	402.00	(252.00)
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$280,655.52	\$338,228.56	\$(57,573.04)
Accounts Receivable (A/R)			
Accounts Receivable	43,911.08	45,831.67	(1,920.59)
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$43,911.08	\$45,831.67	\$(1,920.59)
Inventory Asset	46.50	115.98	(69.48)
Prepaid Expenses	(96.00)	(96.00)	0.00
Total Current Assets	\$324,517.10	\$384,080.21	\$(59,563.11)
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment			
1500 Owned Property			0.00
1520 Parish Hall - 5421 Cornwallis	132,000.00	132,000.00	0.00
1530 Trinity House - 5435 Cornwallis	374,600.00	374,600.00	0.00
1540 LDC - 2393 Brunswick St.	251,200.00	251,200.00	0.00
1550 Round Church - 2222 Brunswick	1,886,800.00	1,886,800.00	0.00
1560 Maitland St Parcel B Halifax	127,700.00	127,700.00	0.00
Total 1500 Owned Property	\$2,772,300.00	\$2,772,300.00	\$-
Total Property, plant and equipment	\$2,772,300.00	\$2,772,300.00	\$-
1400 Diocesan Endowment Funds			0.00
1410 Committed Investments			0.00
Altar Guild ID840	819.00	819.00	0.00
Helen C Johnson Ministry ID825	25,363.80	25,363.80	0.00
Helen Johnson Youth Music ID277	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Little Dutch Church ID845	29,017.03	27,703.86	1,313.17
Memorial Fund ID850	6,202.77	5,903.40	299.37
Pickford Choral Scholar ID860	11,125.47	11,125.47	0.00

Accrual basis		As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022	Change
Preservation & Conserv. ID870	37	240,913.42	240,913.42	0.00
Wright Gravelot Fund [Lot 10]	38	1,926.03	1,785.97	140.06
Total 1410 Committed Investments	39	\$365,367.52	\$363,614.92	\$1,752.60
1420 Uncommitted Investments	40			0.00
Rectors & Wardens ID810	41	9,797.32	8,803.50	993.82
Rectors Fund ID830	42	2,010.67	2,010.67	0.00
Total 1420 Uncommitted Investments	43	\$11,807.99	\$10,814.17	\$993.82
Total 1400 Diocesan Endowment Funds	44	\$377,175.51	\$374,429.09	\$2,746.42
Total Non Current Assets	45	\$3,149,475.51	\$3,146,729.09	\$2,746.42
TOTAL ASSETS	46	\$3,473,992.61	\$3,530,809.30	\$(56,816.69)
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	47			
Liabilities	48			
Current Liabilities	49			
Accounts Payable (A/P)	50			
2100 Accounts Payable	51	3,874.14	5,620.00	(1,745.86)
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	52	\$3,874.14	\$5,620.00	\$(1,745.86)
Credit Card	53			
TD Visa ***9269	54	1,073.22	1,136.84	(63.62)
TD Visa ***9301	55	1,368.74	890.88	477.86
Total Credit Card	56	\$2,441.96	\$2,027.72	\$414.24
2200 Diocesan Payables	57	0.00	0.00	0.00
Allotment	58	5,962.00	2,574.66	3,387.34
Payroll	59	0.00	10,674.57	(10,674.57)
Total 2200 Diocesan Payables	60	\$5,962.00	\$13,249.23	\$(7,287.23)
2300 Parochial Payroll	61			0.00
Parochial MERC's Payable	62	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parochial Wages Payable	63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 2300 Parochial Payroll	64	\$-	\$-	\$-
2800 Clearing / Suspense	65	3.03	(494.64)	497.67
2900 GST/HST Payable	66	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	67	\$12,281.13	\$20,402.31	\$(8,121.18)
Non-current Liabilities	68			
2400 Deferred Revenue (Funds held for specifics)	69			0.00
Altar Guild Fund	70	2,083.46	2,762.64	(679.18)
Archives	71	180.00	180.00	0.00
Bequests	72	45,088.06	45,088.06	0.00
Choir Chair Fund	73	0.00	888.85	(888.85)
Christmas Outreach Fund	74	4,147.19	5,711.36	(1,564.17)
Curacy Fund	75	52,159.84	52,159.84	0.00
Deaf Ministry Fund	76	219.13	0.00	219.13
Deck the Hall	77	44,452.41	54,692.36	(10,239.95)

2023 Annual Report

<i>Accrual basis</i>		As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022	Change
Little Dutch Church	78	328.46	0.00	328.46
Memorials	79	4,173.42	3,768.42	405.00
Mission to Seafarers (Shoebboxes Campaign)	80	205.25	205.25	0.00
Missions Appeal Fund	81	3,332.05	3,312.05	20.00
Music Fund	82	25,336.85	19,456.25	5,880.60
Organ Fund	83	2,191.40	2,191.40	0.00
Pickford Scholarship	84	7,947.55	6,178.62	1,768.93
Preservation ST Fund	85	8,037.08	8,229.87	(192.79)
PWRDF Appeal Fund	86	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rector's & Wardens	87	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rector's Discretionary Fund	88	5,195.83	11,274.93	(6,079.10)
Refugee Sponsorship	89	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soup Kitchen Fund	90	5,276.09	12,246.88	(6,970.79)
Special Gift Fund	91	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Projects	92	6,132.31	39,248.65	(33,116.34)
Unexpended Grants	93	0.00	0.00	0.00
YouthNet	94	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 2400 Deferred Revenue (Funds held for specifics)	95	\$216,486.38	\$267,595.43	\$(51,109.05)
2500 Liabilities associated with Endowment	96			0.00
Altar Guild ID840	97	819.00	819.00	0.00
Gravelot Fund [Lot 10]	98	1,926.03	1,785.97	140.06
Helen Johnson Deaf Ministry ID825	99	25,363.80	25,363.80	0.00
Helen Johnson Youth Music Trust ID277	100	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
Little Dutch Church ID845	101	29,017.03	27,703.86	1,313.17
Memorial Fund ID850	102	6,202.77	5,903.40	299.37
Pickford Choral Scholarship ID860	103	11,125.47	11,125.47	0.00
Preservation & Conservation ID870	104	240,913.42	240,913.42	0.00
Rector & Wardens ID810	105	9,797.32	8,803.50	993.82
Rectors Fund ID830	106	2,010.67	2,010.67	0.00
Total 2500 Liabilities associated with Endowment	107	\$377,175.51	\$374,429.09	\$2,746.42
Total Non-current Liabilities	108	\$593,661.89	\$642,024.52	\$(48,362.63)
Total Liabilities	109	\$605,943.02	\$662,426.83	\$(56,483.81)
Equity	110			
Parish Opening Equity	111	2,837,380.85	2,837,380.85	0.00
Retained Earnings	112	31,003.62	31,001.62	2.00
Profit for the year	113	(334.88)		(334.88)
Total Equity	114	\$2,868,049.59	\$2,868,382.47	\$(332.88)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	115	\$3,473,992.61	\$3,530,809.30	\$(56,816.69)

Parish of Saint George

Income & Expenses vs Annual Budget

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

<i>Accrual basis</i>		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
INCOME	116				
4000 Offering & Donations	117			0.00	
4010 General Offering	118		310,009.99	(310,009.99)	0.00%
4011 Direct Deposit	119	69,520.00		69,520.00	
4012 Identifiable Giver	120	270,755.65		270,755.65	
4013 Open Offering	121	4,603.45		4,603.45	
Total 4010 General Offering	122	\$344,879.10	\$310,009.99	\$34,869.11	111.25%
4020 Designated Offerings	123			0.00	
Recognized as Income	123			0.00	
40201 Altar Guild	124	1,209.18	3,000.00	(1,790.82)	40.31%
40202 Archives	125	100.00	500.00	(400.00)	20.00%
40203 Christmas Outreach	126	6,010.17	3,600.00	2,410.17	166.95%
40204 Deaf Ministry	127	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	0.00%
40209 Music	128	9,042.43 ¹³	8,800.00	242.43	102.75%
40211 PWRDF	129	439.00		439.00	
40212 Rector's Discretionary	130	10,353.70	15,000.00	(4,646.30)	69.02%
40213 Soup Kitchen	131	13,670.26	9,000.00	4,670.26	151.89%
40214 Special Projects	132	11,449.65 ¹⁴		11,449.65	
40215 Trinity House	133		6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.00%
40216 YouthNet	134	1,127.40	2,000.00	(872.60)	56.37%
40217 Little Dutch Church	135	45,272.15 ¹⁵	50,000.00	(4,727.85)	90.54%
40218 Deck the Hall	136	12,439.95	22,400.00	(9,960.05)	55.54%
40219 Refugee Sponsorship	137	231.60		231.60	
Total 4020 Designated Offerings	138	\$111,345.49	\$120,400.00	\$(9,054.51)	92.48%
Recognized as Income	138	\$111,345.49	\$120,400.00	\$(9,054.51)	92.48%
Total 4000 Offering & Donations	139	\$456,224.59	\$430,409.99	\$25,814.60	106.00%
4100 Earned Revenue	140			0.00	
4110 Consolidated Trust Fund	140			0.00	
Disbursements Recognized as	140			0.00	
Income	141			0.00	
4111 Altar Guild	142	46.68	50.00	(3.32)	93.36%
4112 Church Preservation	142				
Endowment	143	13,762.59	13,209.15	553.44	104.19%
4113 Deaf endowment	144	1,295.00	1,350.00	(55.00)	95.93%
4115 Rector's Discretionary	145	466.30	465.00	1.30	100.28%
4116 Youth Music ETF Interest	146	2,725.45	2,700.00	25.45	100.94%
Total 4110 Consolidated Trust	147	\$18,296.02	\$17,774.15	\$521.87	102.94%
Fund Disbursements Recognized	147	\$18,296.02	\$17,774.15	\$521.87	102.94%

¹³ Includes \$9,030.43 in offerings designated for Music Program Renewal recognized to pay for the Music Director's mini-sabbatical.

¹⁴ Includes \$10,957.65 in donations recognized to pay for the restoration of the western Vestry window in the Round Church, the replacement of window box #8 in the nave, and plugging holes in the exterior wall of the dome.

¹⁵ Designated offerings recognized to pay for the restoration of the Gerrish Street graveyard wall.

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<i>Accrual basis</i>		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
as Income					
4120 Rental Income	148			0.00	
4121 Church Rental	149	8,041.58	4,400.00	3,641.58	182.76%
4122 Hall Rental	150	6,446.00	8,800.00	(2,354.00)	73.25%
4123 Parking Rental	151	23,040.00	24,200.00	(1,160.00)	95.21%
Total 4120 Rental Income	152	\$37,527.58	\$37,400.00	\$127.58	100.34%
4140 Calendars	153	1,242.25	800.00	442.25	155.28%
4150 Fund Raising Sales & Events - net	154	5,075.87	3,000.00	2,075.87	169.20%
4160 Grant Income	155	266,552.89 ¹⁶	311,000.00	(44,447.11)	85.71%
4170 HST Income	156	18,348.46 ¹⁷	26,000.00	(7,651.54)	70.57%
Total 4100 Earned Revenue	157	\$347,043.07	\$395,974.15	\$(48,931.08)	87.64%
TOTAL INCOME	158	\$803,267.66	\$826,384.14	\$(23,116.48)	97.20%
COST OF GOODS SOLD	159				
5100 Cost of Fundraising Materials	160	113.33		113.33	
Prayer Book Calendars	161	1,058.29	900.00	158.29	117.59%
Total 5100 Cost of Fundraising Materials	162	\$1,171.62	\$900.00	\$271.62	130.18%
5200 Cost of Generating Rental Income	163	120.00		120.00	
Sextons' Event Fees	164	780.00	1,000.00	(220.00)	78.00%
Total 5200 Cost of Generating Rental Income	165	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$(100.00)	90.00%
TOTAL COST OF GOODS SOLD	166	\$2,071.62	\$1,900.00	\$171.62	109.03%
GROSS PROFIT	167	\$801,196.04	\$824,484.14	\$(23,288.10)	97.18%
EXPENSES	168				
6100 GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES	169			0.00	
6101 Allotment	170	35,772.00	35,775.00	(3.00)	99.99%
6103 Archives	171	570.32	250.00	320.32	228.13%
6104 Bank Service Charges	172	742.59	500.00	242.59	148.52%
6105 GST/HST Expense	173	61,944.40	24,000.00	37,944.40	258.10%
PST Expenses	174	0.00		0.00	
Total 6105 GST/HST Expense	175	\$61,944.40	\$24,000.00	\$37,944.40	258.10%
6106 Police Record Checks	176	90.00	150.00	(60.00)	60.00%
6120 Office Expenses	177			0.00	
6121 Computers & Equipment	178	3,742.44	4,000.00	(257.56)	93.56%
6122 Stipend - Office Manager	179	13,073.89	9,981.03	3,092.86	130.99%
Benefits - Office Manager	180	3,991.21	4,140.66	(149.45)	96.39%
Total 6122 Stipend - Office Manager	181	\$17,065.10	\$14,121.69	\$2,943.41	120.84%
6123 Photocopier Lease/Maintenance	182	4,889.30	4,820.00	69.30	101.44%

¹⁶ Includes \$259,027.79 in grants from the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places for the restoration of the Gerrish Street graveyard wall and \$4,900 in grants to offset the cost of hiring a Summer Student.

¹⁷ Includes the Public Service Bodies Rebate for the final two quarters of 2022 and the first two quarters of 2023.

<i>Accrual basis</i>		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
6124 Supplies & Postage	183	3,269.02	2,800.00	469.02	116.75%
6125 Telecommunication	184	1,797.96	1,750.00	47.96	102.74%
Total 6120 Office Expenses	185	\$30,763.82	\$27,491.69	\$3,272.13	111.90%
6130 Summer Intern/Guide	186		6,958.38	(6,958.38)	0.00%
6131 Summer Intern Wages	187	5,733.75		5,733.75	
6132 Summer Intern MERCs	188			0.00	
Employer CPP	189	298.39		298.39	
Employer EI	190	136.08		136.08	
Vacation Pay	191	229.35		229.35	
Total 6132 Summer Intern MERCs	192	\$663.82	\$-	\$663.82	
Total 6130 Summer Intern/Guide	193	\$6,397.57	\$6,958.38	\$(560.81)	91.94%
6140 Synod Travel & Accommodation	194	60.00	200.00	(140.00)	30.00%
Total 6100 GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES	195	\$136,340.70	\$95,325.07	\$41,015.63	143.03%
6200 ORDAINED MINISTRY	196			0.00	
6211 Priest - Assistant Ministry	197	1,725.00	1,200.00	525.00	143.75%
6212 Rector's Cell Phone	198	1,059.84	1,100.00	(40.16)	96.35%
6213 Rector's Housing Allowance	199	25,200.00	25,200.00	0.00	100.00%
6214 Stipend - Rector	200	30,330.78	27,094.00	3,236.78	111.95%
6215 Parish share - CPP, EI, Pension	201	13,982.15	13,667.86	314.29	102.30%
6216 Rector's Travel Reimbursement	202	5,153.09	5,040.00	113.09	102.24%
6217 Rector's Vacation Replacement	203	2,425.00	1,500.00	925.00	161.67%
Total 6200 ORDAINED MINISTRY	204	\$79,875.86	\$74,801.86	\$5,074.00	106.78%
6300 PASTORAL MINISTRY	205			0.00	
6310 Christmas Outreach	206	5,702.31	3,600.00	2,102.31	158.40%
6320 Deaf Ministry Interpreters	207	1,295.00	4,000.00	(2,705.00)	32.38%
6340 Rector's Discretionary Expenses	208	10,820.00	15,000.00	(4,180.00)	72.13%
6370 Soup Kitchen	209			0.00	
6371 SK Coordinator/Outreach Support	210	17,129.98	16,985.98	144.00	100.85%
Benefits - SK Coordinator	211	2,993.72	3,060.49	(66.77)	97.82%
Total 6371 SK Coordinator/Outreach Support	212	\$20,123.70	\$20,046.47	\$77.23	100.39%
6372 Soup Kitchen Supplies	213	13,670.26 ¹⁸	14,000.00	(329.74)	97.64%
Total 6370 Soup Kitchen	214	\$33,793.96	\$34,046.47	\$(252.51)	99.26%
6380 Transfers to Parochial Organizations	215			0.00	
Refugee Sponsorship Committee	216	231.60		231.60	
Total 6380 Transfers to Parochial Organizations	217	\$231.60	\$-	\$231.60	
6390 Extra-Parochial Transfers	218			0.00	

¹⁸ Includes \$1797 to replace the freezer compressor in the upper kitchen.

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<i>Accrual basis</i>		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
Anglican Foundation	219	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.00%
Other Transfers	220	1,914.35 ¹⁹		1,914.35	
PWRDF - disbursed to PWRDF	221	439.00		439.00	
St George's YouthNet	222	6,127.40	7,000.00	(872.60)	87.53%
Total 6390 Extra-Parochial Transfers	223	\$8,530.75	\$7,050.00	\$1,480.75	121.00%
Total 6300 PASTORAL MINISTRY	224	\$60,373.62	\$63,696.47	\$(3,322.85)	94.78%
6400 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	225			0.00	
6410 General Expenses	226			0.00	
6411 Advertising	227	625.00	1,500.00	(875.00)	41.67%
6412 Gifts	228	819.69	500.00	319.69	163.94%
6414 Parish Library	229	53.00	50.00	3.00	106.00%
6417 Special SD Events/Program Costs	230	1,538.49	2,000.00	(461.51)	76.92%
Total 6410 General Expenses	231	\$3,036.18	\$4,050.00	\$(1,013.82)	74.97%
6430 Music Program	232			0.00	
6431 Music Expenses	233	1,570.98	2,250.00	(679.02)	69.82%
6432 Musicians	234	8,920.00	9,500.00	(580.00)	93.89%
6433 Stipend - Music Director	235	29,482.69	26,246.00	3,236.69	112.33%
Benefits - Music Director	236	6,873.64	7,089.88	(216.24)	96.95%
Total 6433 Stipend – Music Director	237	\$36,356.33	\$33,335.88	\$3,020.45	109.06%
6434 Music Director's Vacation Replacement	238	800.00	7,800.00	(7,000.00)	10.26%
Professional Development (Sabbatical) Support	239	6,145.65		6,145.65	
Sabbatical Replacement, Stipend & MERCs	240	2,530.00		2,530.00	
Total 6434 Music Director's Vacation Replacement	241	\$9,475.65	\$7,800.00	\$1,675.65	121.48%
Total 6430 Music Program	242	\$56,322.96	\$52,885.88	\$3,437.08	106.50%
6440 Sunday School Program	243			0.00	
6441 Supplies & Materials	244		400.00	(400.00)	0.00%
6443 Sunday School Coordinator	245	4,200.00	4,200.00	0.00	100.00%
Total 6440 Sunday School Program	246	\$4,200.00	\$4,600.00	\$(400.00)	91.30%
6460 Altar Guild	247			0.00	
6461 Flowers & Misc.	248	1,210.86	1,000.00	210.86	121.09%
6462 Liturgical Supplies	249	3,532.54	4,500.00	(967.46)	78.50%
Total 6460 Altar Guild	250	\$4,743.40	\$5,500.00	\$(756.60)	86.24%
Total 6400 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	251	\$68,302.54	\$67,035.88	\$1,266.66	101.89%
6500 PROPERTY	252			0.00	

¹⁹ Includes \$750 in funds erroneously deposited into the parish general account transferred to the FSGS, a \$250 gift to New Horizons Baptist Church, \$242.75 given to the Legion Poppy Fund, and \$430 given to Nourish Nova Scotia.

Accrual basis		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
6510 General	253			0.00	
6511 Insurance	254	33,096.00	30,240.83	2,855.17	109.44%
6512 Security	255			0.00	
Alarm Monitoring & False Alarms	256	3,543.78	1,500.00	2,043.78	236.25%
Sexton's Evening Rounds	257		250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 6512 Security	258	\$3,543.78	\$1,750.00	\$1,793.78	202.50%
6513 Fire Protection	259	89.10	150.00	(60.90)	59.40%
6514 Snow Removal	260	16,000.00	15,500.00	500.00	103.23%
6515 Stormwater Charge	261	121.61	120.00	1.61	101.34%
6516 Waste Management	262	3,876.30	2,400.00	1,476.30	161.51%
Total 6510 General	263	\$56,726.79	\$50,160.83	\$6,565.96	113.09%
6520 Parish Hall	264			0.00	
6521 Janitorial	265			0.00	
Janitorial Services	266	12,751.00	13,000.00	(249.00)	98.08%
Janitorial Supplies	267	2,148.94	1,500.00	648.94	143.26%
Total 6521 Janitorial	268	\$14,899.94	\$14,500.00	\$399.94	102.76%
6524 Fire Protection	269	93.16	50.00	43.16	186.32%
6526 Utilities	270			0.00	
Electric	271	8,249.30	8,000.00	249.30	103.12%
Gas	272	11,670.18	14,000.00	(2,329.82)	83.36%
Water	273	1,496.82	1,500.00	(3.18)	99.79%
Total 6526 Utilities	274	\$21,416.30	\$23,500.00	\$(2,083.70)	91.13%
Maintenance & Capital Improvements	275		6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.00%
6522 Maintenance & Repairs	276	695.23		695.23	
Fire Alarm Inspection	277	475.00	420.00	55.00	113.10%
Furnace Cleaning	278	414.00	400.00	14.00	103.50%
Pest Control	279	928.80	875.00	53.80	106.15%
Total 6522 Maintenance & Repairs	280	\$2,513.03	\$1,695.00	\$818.03	148.26%
6523 Capital Improvements	281			0.00	
Paid for by Deck the Hall	282	5,802.91	20,000.00	(14,197.09)	29.01%
Paid for out of Unrestricted or Other funds	283	10,659.66		10,659.66	
Total 6523 Capital Improvements	284	\$16,462.57	\$20,000.00	\$(3,537.43)	82.31%
Total Maintenance & Capital Improvements	285	\$18,975.60	\$27,695.00	\$(8,719.40)	68.52%
Total 6520 Parish Hall	286	\$55,385.00	\$65,745.00	\$(10,360.00)	84.24%
6530 Trinity House (Rectory)	287			0.00	
6534 Property Taxes	288	6,435.72	6,660.89	(225.17)	96.62%
6536 Utilities	289			0.00	
Electric	290	1,590.25	1,700.00	(109.75)	93.54%
Gas	291	3,520.80	4,450.00	(929.20)	79.12%

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<i>Accrual basis</i>		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
Water	292	736.44	900.00	(163.56)	81.83%
Total 6536 Utilities	293	\$5,847.49	\$7,050.00	\$(1,202.51)	82.94%
Maintenance & Capital Improvement	294		6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.00%
6532 Maintenance & Repairs	295	121.08		121.08	
Furnace Cleaning	296	188.00	250.00	(62.00)	75.20%
Pest Control	297	428.40	400.00	28.40	107.10%
Total 6532 Maintenance & Repairs	298	\$737.48	\$650.00	\$87.48	113.46%
6533 Capital Improvements	299	6,803.13		6,803.13	
Total Maintenance & Capital Improvement	300	\$7,540.61	\$6,650.00	\$890.61	113.39%
Total 6530 Trinity House (Rectory)	301	\$19,823.82	\$20,360.89	\$(537.07)	97.36%
6540 Little Dutch Church	302			0.00	
6544 Fire Protection	303	90.42	40.00	50.42	226.05%
6546 Utilities	304			0.00	
Electric	305	488.81	400.00	88.81	122.20%
Water	306	99.48	100.00	(0.52)	99.48%
Total 6546 Utilities	307	\$588.29	\$500.00	\$88.29	117.66%
Maintenance & Capital Improvement	308			0.00	
6542 Maintenance & Repairs	309	102.48	1,000.00	(897.52)	10.25%
6543 Capital Improvements	310	274,969.58	350,000.00	(75,030.42)	78.56%
Total Maintenance & Capital Improvement	311	\$275,072.06	\$351,000.00	\$(75,927.94)	78.37%
Total 6540 Little Dutch Church	312	\$275,750.77	\$351,540.00	\$(75,789.23)	78.44%
6550 Round Church	313			0.00	
6551 Janitorial	314			0.00	
Janitorial Services	315	4,488.00	4,500.00	(12.00)	99.73%
Janitorial Supplies	316	219.27	100.00	119.27	219.27%
Total 6551 Janitorial	317	\$4,707.27	\$4,600.00	\$107.27	102.33%
6552 Maintenance & Repairs	318			0.00	
Paid out of Preservation funds	319	1,076.91	1,007.56	69.35	106.88%
Fire Alarm Inspection	320	475.00	420.00	55.00	113.10%
Fire Protection	321	679.24	264.15	415.09	257.14%
Furnace Cleaning	322	414.00	400.00	14.00	103.50%
Sprinkler Inspection	323	625.00	625.00	0.00	100.00%
Total Paid out of Preservation funds	324	\$3,270.15	\$2,716.71	\$553.44	120.37%
Paid out of Unrestricted or Other funds	325	4,859.19	4,000.00	859.19	121.48%
Total 6552 Maintenance & Repairs	326	\$8,129.34	\$6,716.71	\$1,412.63	121.03%
6553 Capital Improvements	327			0.00	

<i>Accrual basis</i>		Actual	Budget	over (under) Budget	% of Budget
Paid out of Preservation funds	328	10,517.40	10,492.44	24.96	100.24%
Paid out of Unrestricted or Other funds	329	9,016.54		9,016.54	
Total 6553 Capital Improvements	330	\$19,533.94	\$10,492.44	\$9,041.50	186.17%
6554 Organ Maintenance	331	2,375.78	5,000.00	(2,624.22)	47.52%
6556 Utilities	332			0.00	
Electric	333	2,098.56	2,460.00	(361.44)	85.31%
Gas	334	10,439.21	11,500.00	(1,060.79)	90.78%
Water	335	1,667.72	1,650.00	17.72	101.07%
Total 6556 Utilities	336	\$14,205.49	\$15,610.00	\$(1,404.51)	91.00%
Total 6550 Round Church	337	\$48,951.82	\$42,419.15	\$6,532.67	115.40%
Total 6500 PROPERTY	338	\$456,638.20	\$530,225.87	\$(73,587.67)	86.12%
TOTAL EXPENSES	339	\$801,530.92	\$831,085.15	\$(29,554.23)	96.44%
NET OPERATING INCOME	340	\$(334.88)	\$(6,601.01)	\$6,266.13	5.07%
NET INCOME	341	\$(334.88)	\$(6,601.01)	\$6,266.13	5.07%

Refugee Sponsorship Committee Year End 2023 Financial Statements

Income 2023

Date	Amount	Donation	Other
31-Jan	\$1.95		Bank charge reversal
01-May	\$57.90	Q1 P. of St. G. (Lee Seshagiri)	
16-Aug	\$57.90	Q2 P. of St. G. (Lee Seshagiri)	
13-Oct	\$57.90	Q3 P. of St. G. (Lee Seshagiri)	
Total 2023	\$175.65		
12-Jan	\$57.90	Q4 P. of St. G. (Lee Seshagiri)	
Adjusted Total 2023	\$233.55		

Note: donations received by CanadaHelps

Date	Cheque No.	Description	Payee	Net	HST	Total
31-Jan		Bank charge				\$1.95
08-Feb	146	Abeer application funds	Diocese of N.S.P.E.I			\$21,500.00
28-Feb		Bank charge				\$1.95
31-Mar		Bank charge				\$1.95
28-Apr		Bank charge				\$1.95
31-May		Bank charge				\$1.95
30-Jun		Bank charge				\$1.95
31-Jul		Bank charge				\$1.95
31-Aug		Bank charge				\$1.95

29-Sep	Bank charge	\$1.95
31-Oct	Bank charge	\$1.95
30-Nov	Bank charge	\$1.95
29-Dec	Bank charge	\$1.95

\$21,523.40**Appendix C: Proposed 2024 Budget**

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
Income	1				
4000 Offering & Donations	2				
4010 General Offering	3		310,009.99	355,828.20	
4011 Direct Deposit	4	69,568.25			
4012 Identifiable Giver	5	270,707.40			
4013 Open Offering	6	4,603.45			
Total 4010 General Offering	7	\$344,879.10	\$310,009.99	\$355,828.20	
4020 Designated Offerings Recognized as Income	8				
40201 Altar Guild	9	1,209.18	3,000.00	1,200.00	typical year - no specific projects
40202 Archives	10	100.00	500.00	100.00	recent pattern
40203 Christmas Outreach	11	6,010.17	3,600.00	4,100.00	Based on balance as of 18 Jan 2024
40204 Deaf Ministry	12	0.00	100.00	100.00	historical average
40209 Music	13	9,042.43	8,800.00	2,000.00	average for typical year
40211 PWRDF	14	439.00			flow through - no budget projection
40212 Rector's Discretionary	15	10,353.70	15,000.00	15,000.00	Need in community, responsibility to neighbourhood Consistent with last 2 years.
40213 Soup Kitchen	16	13,670.26	9,000.00	10,000.00	Awareness of need in community, responsibility to neighbourhood
40214 Special Projects	17	11,449.65			no projection
40215 Trinity House	18		6,000.00		Remove from listing for 2024
40216 YouthNet	19	1,127.40	2,000.00	1,100.00	Based on 2023 - most parish donors giving directly to YN
40217 Little Dutch Church	20	45,272.15	50,000.00		No projection. 2023 was anticipated grant monies
40218 Deck the Hall	21	12,439.95	22,400.00	10,000.00	\$1200 known direct debit, following 2023 pattern.
40219 Refugee Sponsorship	22	231.60			flow through - no budget projection
Total 4020 Designated Offerings Recognized as Income	23	\$111,345.49	\$120,400.00	\$43,600.00	
Friends of St George's Stipend support	24			\$15,000.00	Does not pass through parish books. Shown here because of impact on undesignated offerings.

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
Total 4000 Offering & Donations	25	\$456,224.59	\$430,409.99	\$414,428.20	
4100 Earned Revenue	26				
4110 Consolidated Trust					
Fund Disbursements Recognized as Income	27				
4111 Altar Guild	28	46.68	50.00	45.00	5 year historical averages
4112 Church Preservation Endowment	29	13,762.59	13,209.15	13,330.00	5 year historical averages
4113 Deaf endowment	30	1,295.00	1,350.00	1,250.00	5 year historical averages
4115 Rector's Discretionary	31	466.30	465.00	450.00	5 year historical averages
4116 Youth Music ETF Interest	32	2,725.45	2,700.00	2,625.00	5 year historical averages
Total 4110 Consolidated Trust Fund Disbursements Recognized as Income	33	\$18,296.02	\$17,774.15	\$17,700.00	
4120 Rental Income	34				
4121 Church Rental	35	8,041.58	4,400.00	9,100.00	Increases to Round Church rental fee
4122 Hall Rental	36	6,446.00	8,800.00	6,700.00	15% increase in rental fees
4123 Parking Rental	37	23,040.00	24,200.00	31,500.00	increase to \$110/mo for 25 parkers starting 1 April
Total 4120 Rental Income	38	\$37,527.58	\$37,400.00	\$47,300.00	
4140 Calendars	39	1,242.25	800.00	1,000.00	~average of 2023 actual and budget
4150 Fund Raising Sales & Events - net	40	5,075.87	3,000.00	4,000.00	~average of 2023 actual and budget
4160 Grant Income	41	266,552.89	311,000.00	35,000.00	Corpus Christi Foundation for Works of Robert Crouse book launch
4170 HST Income	42	18,348.46	26,000.00	28,160.00	Claimed twice a year: \$22,000 known, estimate for second portion
Total 4100 Earned Revenue	43	\$347,043.07	\$395,974.15	\$68,160.00	
Total Income	44	\$803,267.66	\$826,384.14	\$547,588.20	
Cost of Goods Sold	45				
5100 Cost of Fundraising Materials	46	113.33		120.00	
Prayer Book Calendars	47	1,058.29	900.00	1,200.00	
Total 5100 Cost of Fundraising Materials	48	\$1,171.62	\$900.00	\$1,320.00	
5200 Cost of Generating Rental Income	49	120.00		125.00	
Sextons' Event Fees	50	780.00	1,000.00	800.00	
Total 5200 Cost of Generating Rental Income	51	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$925.00	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	52	\$2,071.62	\$1,900.00	\$2,245.00	
Gross Profit	53	\$801,196.04	\$824,484.14	\$545,343.20	
Expenses	54				
6100 GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES	55				

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		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
6101 Allotment	56	35,772.00	35,775.00	31,485.00	Does not include Nov-Dec 2023 arrears of \$5962.50. See 2023 Balance Sheet line 51.
6103 Archives	57	570.32	250.00	100.00	
6104 Bank Service Charges	58	742.59	500.00	760.00	Designated offerings only
6105 GST/HST Expense	59	61,944.40	24,000.00	24,866.83	Estimated on transactions, \$0.02 increase for each electronic fund transfer (EFT) Jan 2024
PST Expenses	60	0.00		0.00	Estimated from planned spending
Total 6105 GST/HST Expense	61	\$61,944.40	\$24,000.00	\$24,866.83	
6106 Police Record Checks	62	90.00	150.00	150.00	Keyholders and employees
Subtotal General Expenses	63			\$57,361.83	
6120 Office Expenses	64				
6121 Computers & Equipment	65	3,742.44	4,000.00	3,350.00	Includes \$1500 for additional computer for new part-time parish administrator
6122 Stipend - Office Manager	66	13,073.89	9,981.03	9,982.00	
Benefits - Office Manager	67	3,991.21	4,140.66	2,697.11	
Total 6122 Stipend - Office Manager	68	\$17,065.10	\$14,121.69	\$12,679.11	
6123 Photocopier Lease/Maintenance	69	4,889.30	4,820.00	5,000.00	
6124 Supplies & Postage	70	3,269.02	2,800.00	3,700.00	
6125 Telecommunication	71	1,797.96	1,750.00	2,100.00	
Total 6120 Office Expenses	72	\$30,763.82	\$27,491.69	\$26,829.11	
6130 Summer Intern/Guide	73		6,958.38		
6131 Summer Intern Wages	74	5,733.75		3,000.00	Assuming that we employ a student for 14 weeks, 35 hours per week at \$18.50/hour. Minimum wage will be \$15.20. Prefer to pay the student a bit more than that. Young Canada Works grant covers 75% of wages
6132 Summer Intern MERCs	75			352.69	
Employer CPP	76	298.39		215.14	
Employer EI	77	136.08		362.60	
Vacation Pay	78	229.35		930.43	
Total 6132 Summer Intern MERCs	79	\$663.82	\$0.00	\$1,860.86	
Total 6130 Summer Intern/Guide	80	\$6,397.57	\$6,958.38	\$4,860.86	
6140 Synod Travel & Accommodation	81	60.00	200.00	\$-	no synod planned 2024
Total 6100 GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES	82	\$136,340.70	\$95,325.07	\$89,051.80	

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
6200 ORDAINED MINISTRY	83				
6211 Priest - Assistant Ministry	84	1,725.00	1,200.00	1,800.00	
6212 Rector's Cell Phone	85	1,059.84	1,100.00	1,308.00	
6213 Rector's Housing Allowance	86	25,200.00	25,200.00	28,700.00	
6214 Stipend - Rector	87	30,330.78	27,094.00	43,836.00	
6215 Parish share - CPP, EI, Pension	88	13,982.15	13,667.86	14,651.42	Years of service 9: ordained 2015
6216 Rector's Travel Reimbursement	89	5,153.09	5,040.00	5,040.00	
6217 Rector's Vacation Replacement	90	2,425.00	1,500.00	1,175.00	
Total 6200 ORDAINED MINISTRY	91	\$79,875.86	\$74,801.86	\$96,510.42	
6300 PASTORAL MINISTRY	92				
6310 Christmas Outreach	93	5,702.31	3,600.00	4,100.00	Based on balance of Christmas outreach fund Jan 18/24
6320 Deaf Ministry Interpreters	94	1,295.00	4,000.00	2,160.00	\$1350 Endowment est \$1250 + \$100 designated offerings
6340 Rector's Discretionary Expenses	95	10,820.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	Endowment est \$460 + \$800 designated offerings 2023 \$15,000
6370 Soup Kitchen (2023) Hospitality (2024)	96				
6371 SK Coordinator/Outreach Support Benefits - SK Coordinator	97	17,129.98	16,985.98	16,985.00	Based on 2023
Total 6371 SK Coordinator/Outreach Support	99	\$20,123.70	\$20,046.47	\$21,520.59	
6372 Soup Kitchen Supplies	100	13,670.26	14,000.00	14,720.00	Includes parish fellowship
Total 6370 Soup Kitchen	101	\$33,793.96	\$34,046.47	\$36,240.59	
6380 Transfers to Parochial Organizations	102				
Refugee Sponsorship Committee	103	231.60		0.00	Flow through from designated offerings
Total 6380 Transfers to Parochial Organizations	104	\$231.60	\$0.00	0.00	
6390 Extra-Parochial Transfers	105				
Anglican Foundation	106	50.00	50.00	50.00	Parish membership
Other Transfers	107	1,914.35			
PWRDF - disbursed to PWRDF	108	439.00		0.00	Flow through from designated offerings
St George's YouthNet	109	6,127.40	7,000.00	0.00	Flow through from designated offerings
Total 6390 Extra-Parochial Transfers	110	\$8,530.75	\$7,050.00	\$50.00	
Total 6300 PASTORAL MINISTRY	111	\$60,373.62	\$63,696.47	\$57,550.59	

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
6400 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	112				
6410 General Expenses	113				
6411 Advertising	114	625.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
6412 Gifts	115	819.69	500.00	750.00	
6414 Parish Library	116	53.00	50.00	100.00	
6417 Special SD Events/Program Costs	117	1,538.49	2,000.00	37,500.00	\$35,000 Works of Robert Crouse book launch & events - Corpus Christi grant
Total 6410 General Expenses	118	\$3,036.18	\$4,050.00	\$39,850.00	
6430 Music Program	119				
6431 Music Expenses	120	1,570.98	2,250.00	5,630.00	
6432 Musicians	121	8,920.00	9,500.00	8,520.00	Cost to parish budget for 2 section leads. FSGS covers 4 additional section leads plus additional musicians for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve \$17,040 Does not include Helen Johnson Youth Music endowment \$2600 FSGS Stipend assistance \$6200
6433 Stipend - Music Director	122	29,482.69	26,246.00	40,255.00	
Benefits - Music Director	123	6,873.64	7,089.88	7,124.33	
Total 6433 Stipend - Music Director	124	\$36,356.33	\$33,335.88	\$47,379.33	
6434 Music Director's Vacation Replacement	125	800.00	7,800.00	1,000.00	
Professional Development (Sabbatical) Support	126	6,145.65		0.00	Sabbatical support not needed in 2024
Sabbatical Replacement, Stipend & MERCs	127	2,530.00		0.00	
Total 6434 Music Director's Vacation Replacement	128	\$9,475.65	\$7,800.00	\$1,000.00	
Total 6430 Music Program	129	\$56,322.96	\$52,885.88	\$62,529.33	
6440 Sunday School Program	130				
6441 Supplies & Materials	131		400.00	250.00	
6443 Sunday School Coordinator	132	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	
Total 6440 Sunday School Program	133	\$4,200.00	\$4,600.00	\$4,450.00	
6460 Altar Guild	134				
6461 Flowers & Misc.	135	1,210.86	1,000.00	1,000.00	
6462 Liturgical Supplies	136	3,532.54	4,500.00	4,000.00	
Total 6460 Altar Guild	137	\$4,743.40	\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00	
Total 6400 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	138	\$68,302.54	\$67,035.88	\$111,829.33	
6500 PROPERTY	139				
6510 General	140				

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
Property assistant stipend (new 2024)	141			13,000.00	Does not include FSGS stipend assistance \$8800 To be confirmed by the diocese in March. Estimated at 2023 +2%
6511 Insurance	142	33,096.00	30,240.83	33,660.00	
6512 Security	143				
Alarm Monitoring & False Alarms	144	3,543.78	1,500.00	2,000.00	False alarm charges \$500/incident
Sexton's Evening Rounds	145		250.00	250.00	Coverage when Trinity House residents not available
Total 6512 Security	146	\$3,543.78	\$1,750.00	\$2,250.00	
6513 Fire Protection	147	89.10	150.00	25.00	
6514 Snow Removal	148	16,000.00	15,500.00	17,500.00	
6515 Stormwater Charge	149	121.61	120.00	120.00	
6516 Waste Management	150	3,876.30	2,400.00	3,800.00	
Total 6510 General	151	\$56,726.79	\$50,160.83	\$70,355.00	
6520 Parish Hall	152				
6521 Janitorial	153				
Janitorial Services	154	12,751.00	13,000.00	14,000.00	
Janitorial Supplies	155	2,148.94	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total 6521 Janitorial	156	\$14,899.94	\$14,500.00	\$15,500.00	
6524 Fire Protection	157	93.16	50.00	50.00	
6526 Utilities	158				
Electric	159	8,249.30	8,000.00	8,000.00	
Gas	160	11,670.18	14,000.00	10,500.00	
Water	161	1,496.82	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total 6526 Utilities	162	\$21,416.30	\$23,500.00	\$20,000.00	
Maintenance & Capital Improvements	163		6,000.00		
6522 Maintenance & Repairs	164	695.23			
Fire Alarm Inspection	165	475.00	420.00	475.00	
Furnace Cleaning	166	414.00	400.00	450.00	
Pest Control	167	928.80	875.00	930.00	
Total 6522 Maintenance & Repairs	168	\$2,513.03	\$1,695.00		
Total Maintenance (2024) includes janitorial, utilities & fire protection	169			\$37,405.00	
6523 Capital Improvements	170				
Paid for by Deck the Hall	171	5,802.91	20,000.00		
Paid for out of Unrestricted or Other funds	172	10,659.66		11,645.00	
Total 6523 Capital Improvements	173	\$16,462.57	\$20,000.00	11,645.00	
Total Maintenance & Capital Improvements	174	\$18,975.60	\$27,695.00		
Contingency fund (new 2024)	175			2,450.00	
Total 6520 Parish Hall	176	\$55,385.00	\$65,745.00	\$51,500.00	
6530 Trinity House (Rectory)	177				

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
6534 Property Taxes	178	6,435.72	6,660.89	7,160.53	
6536 Utilities	179				
Electric	180	1,590.25	1,700.00	1,500.00	
Gas	181	3,520.80	4,450.00	4,000.00	
Water	182	736.44	900.00	900.00	
Total 6536 Utilities	183	\$5,847.49	\$7,050.00	\$6,400.00	
Maintenance & Capital Improvement	184		6,000.00		
6532 Maintenance & Repairs	185	121.08			
Furnace Cleaning	186	188.00	250.00	200.00	
Pest Control	187	428.40	400.00	430.00	
Total 6532 Maintenance & Repairs	188	\$737.48	\$650.00	\$14,190.53	
<i>Total Maintenance (2024) includes taxes, utilities & fire protection</i>	189				
6533 Capital Improvements	190	6,803.13		3,050.00	
Total Maintenance & Capital Improvement	191	\$7,540.61	\$6,650.00		
Contingency fund (new 2024)	192			\$850.00	
Total 6530 Trinity House (Rectory)	193	\$19,823.82	\$20,360.89	\$25,251.06	
6540 Little Dutch Church	194				
6544 Fire Protection	195	90.42	40.00	100.00	
6546 Utilities	196				
Electric	197	488.81	400.00	425.00	
Water	198	99.48	100.00	100.00	
Total 6546 Utilities	199	\$588.29	\$500.00	\$525.00	
Maintenance & Capital Improvement	200				
6542 Maintenance & Repairs	201	102.48	1,000.00		
<i>Total Maintenance (2024) includes utilities & fire protection</i>	202			\$625.00	
6543 Capital Improvements	203	274,969.58	350,000.00	10,000.00	
Contingency fund (new 2024)	204			250.00	
Total Maintenance & Capital Improvement	205	\$275,072.06	\$351,000.00	\$10,250.00	
Total 6540 Little Dutch Church	206	\$275,750.77	\$351,540.00	\$10,875.00	
6550 Round Church	207				
6551 Janitorial	208				
Janitorial Services	209	4,488.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Janitorial Supplies	210	219.27	100.00	100.00	
Total 6551 Janitorial	211	\$4,707.27	\$4,600.00	\$4,600.00	
6552 Maintenance & Repairs	212				
Paid out of Preservation funds	213	1,076.91	1,007.56		

		Actual 2023	Budget 2023	2024 Budget	Notes to 2024 Budget
Fire Alarm Inspection	214	475.00	420.00	475.00	
Fire Protection	215	679.24	264.15	650.00	
Furnace Cleaning	216	414.00	400.00	420.00	
Sprinkler Inspection	217	625.00	625.00	625.00	
Total Paid out of Preservation funds	218	\$3,270.15	\$2,716.71		
Paid out of Unrestricted or Other funds	219	4,859.19	4,000.00	2,170.00	
Total 6552 Maintenance & Repairs	220	\$8,129.34	\$6,716.71		
<i>Total Maintenance (2024) includes janitorial, utilities & fire protection</i>	221			\$19,370.00	
6553 Capital Improvements	222				
Paid out of Preservation funds	223	10,517.40	10,492.44	5,000.00	
Paid out of Unrestricted or Other funds	224	9,016.54		6,500.00	
Total 6553 Capital Improvements	225	\$19,533.94	\$10,492.44	\$11,500.00	
6554 Organ Maintenance	226	2,375.78	5,000.00	0.00	Moved to music as part of piano/harpsichord expenses
6556 Utilities	227				
Electric	228	2,098.56	2,460.00	2,400.00	
Gas	229	10,439.21	11,500.00	8,500.00	
Water	230	1,667.72	1,650.00	1,700.00	
Total 6556 Utilities	231	\$14,205.49	\$15,610.00	\$12,600.00	
<i>Contingency fund (new 2024)</i>	232			1,550.00	
Total 6550 Round Church	233	\$48,951.82	\$42,419.15	\$32,420.00	
Total 6500 PROPERTY	234	\$456,638.20	\$530,225.87	\$190,401.06	
Total Expenses	235	\$801,530.92	\$831,085.15	\$545,343.20	
Net Operating Income	236	-\$334.88	-\$6,601.01	\$-	
Net Income	237	-\$334.88	-\$6,601.01	\$-	

Appendix D: Parity Project

Background Information

Depending on the number of years of experience, clergy salaries in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in 2023 were from \$4,240 to \$7,895 lower than the average earned by clergy in the United, Presbyterian and ELCIC Churches of the same region. Both clergy and laity have an interest in the decision about wage parity, and a collaborative approach brings together priests' understanding of their roles and lay members' broader interests of their parishes.

	Our current practices rely on:	The Parity Projects seeks to:
Fair Compensation for Similar Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering individual churches' financial situations when determining salary affordability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide equal pay for similar responsibilities and qualifications.

Attracting and Retaining Talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivating clergy by appealing to their sense of calling and faithful devotion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer competitive salaries to make our diocese attractive and contribute to church strength.
Financial Stability and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clergy using their fairly tight budgeting skills for financial stability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure clergy are financially stable for focused pastoral duties.
Aligning with Market Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relying on humility and altruism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value humility and altruism but align with market forces.
Congregational Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving support by engaging with the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage financial support when clergy are fairly compensated.
Educational and Training Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clergy investing in their own education and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase salaries to offset qualification and continuing education costs.
Expanded Roles and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepting expanding roles as part of any profession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize expanded responsibilities like outreach, counseling, and organizing events with a corresponding salary increase.
Social Justice and Ethical Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing overall fairness within the faith community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate commitment to fair compensation as a socially responsible institution.

2024 Memo re: Stipend and Housing Increases

To: Parish Wardens and Treasurers From:
 Rev. Ann Turner, Executive Director
 Lawrence Roche, Financial Controller
 Date: November 27, 2023
 Re: 2024 pay increases to achieve parity with other denominations over five years

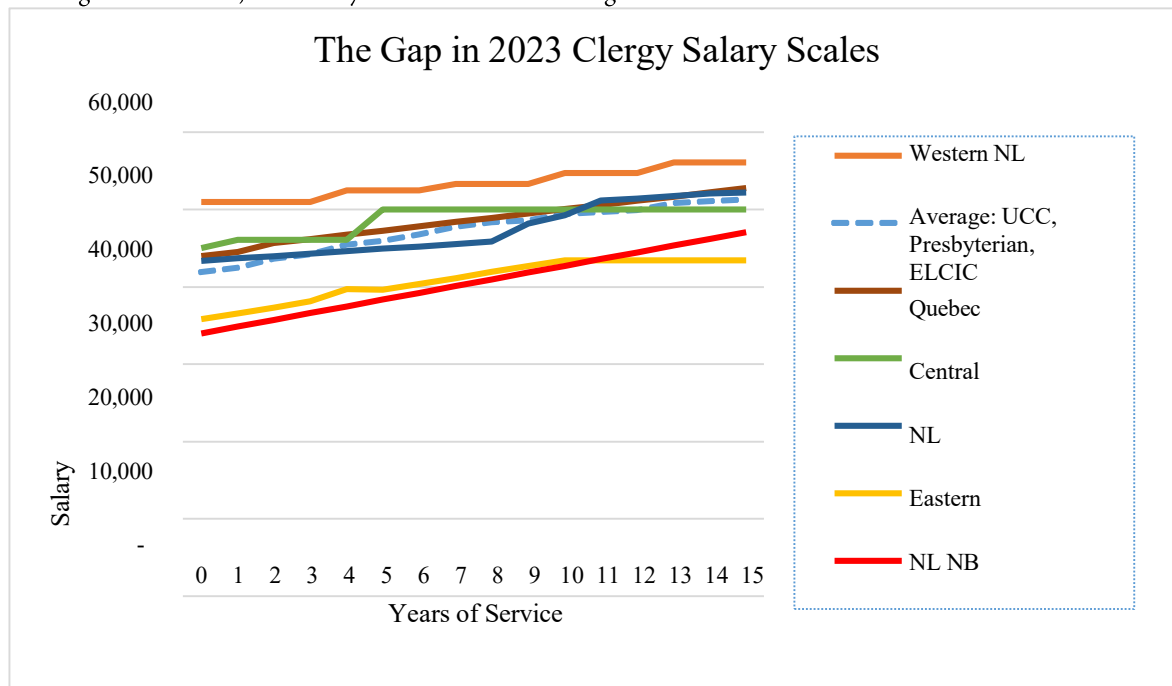
At our recent November meeting, Diocesan Council approved increases to the 2024 stipend scales. In addition to a 4.7% Cost of Living Allowance, the Council committed to participating in the first year of The Parity Project, a plan which aims to increase stipends over the next five years to achieve parity with certain other denominations. The Council will review this decision annually to determine whether to continue with The Parity Project in succeeding years. Diocesan Council also voted to encourage parishes to extend this same COLA increase for all salaried staff and for Housing Allowances. With this increase comes our commitment to triennial evaluations of Housing Allowances with subsequent recommendations for adjustments for clergy receiving Housing Allowances (not living in rectories).

4.7% Cost of Living Allowance

The attached Primer on the Cost-of-Living Allowance (COLA) outlines the key arguments both in favour of and against providing employees with salary increases tied to the consumer price index. The Council considered many perspectives surrounding the use of COLA-based salary increases, and understands there are implications for both parishes and priests.

The Gap in Current Clergy Salaries

This graph positions our 2023 clergy pay scales in comparison to other dioceses in Eastern Canada and the broader average of the United, Evangelical Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches in our region:



This visual representation unveils an uncomfortable reality: our diocese's clergy pay scales trail behind those of neighboring Eastern Canadian dioceses and the broader ecumenical average. As we delve into the specifics of this comparison, it becomes evident that we need a strategic approach to address this discrepancy to foster the well-being of clergy and the overall spiritual vitality of our diocesan community. This graph is the starting point for our discussions and actions aimed at aligning our clergy compensation with regional and ecumenical standards in the pursuit of a vibrant and thriving spiritual community.

The Parity Project

The concept of ensuring that priests receive compensation in line with other denominations has been both advocated and questioned within our parishes and synod office. The Council explored the multifaceted perspectives on implementing market-driven stipend adjustments. You will find in the attached Background Information on the Parity Project the nuanced discourse surrounding the practice of adjusting employees' salaries to align with market wages.

The Council recognizes the evolving dynamics in our parishes, and sees The Parity Project as part of a larger plan to contribute to the growth and relevance of our spiritual community. Fair compensation will help the diocese to attract and retain the qualified clergy we need to steer our church through the challenges of the religious landscape in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Achieving salary parity is not only an investment in our spiritual leadership but also a strategic move to enhance the vibrancy and health of our parishes and diocese. This holistic approach ensures that the stipend increases are not just financial adjustments but catalysts for a revitalized and dynamic church community. This is the first stage of positioning ourselves for growth, relevance, and sustained impact in the ever-changing landscape of faith communities. To reflect our commitment to fostering a thriving and inclusive spiritual home for both our current members and the generations to come, the additions to the 4.7% increase for 2024 are:

Years of service	Add on top of COLA	Years of service	Add on top of COLA
Base	3.7%	9	2.3%
1	3.7%	10	2.0%
2	3.5%	11	1.7%
3	3.3%	12	1.5%
4	3.1%	13	1.2%
5	2.9%	14	1.0%
6	2.8%	15	0.7%
7	2.6%	16	0.5%
8	2.4%		

Assuming the COLA will be 3% over the next five years, similar top-ups will help us achieve parity by 2029. If the COLA varies, the top up may vary as well. You will see below the Stipend Scale for Clergy, 2024:

Years of service	2024 Stipend
Base	36,854
1	36,854
2	37,725
3	38,597
4	39,465
5	40,330
6	41,232
7	42,088
8	42,941
9	43,836
10	44,641
11	45,445
12	46,283
13	47,076
14	47,907
15	48,691
16	49,514

As noted above, The Parity Project is but one part of an holistic approach to Diocesan growth, relevance, and stability. As we look across the financial landscape of the next few years, we are committed to re-examining allotment formulas, revisiting parish grants and other development stimulation tools, and to broaden availability, access, and variety with regards to varied ministry training opportunities (lay and ordained).

We are committed to supporting you and your leadership through this transition and encourage you to be in touch for clarity, conversation, and assistance in facilitating these changes in your parish. We have scheduled Town Hall Webinars to welcome questions and conversation as these changes unfold. The webinar dates are:

Wednesday, December 6th from 11 am to 1 pm. You can sign on any time using this invitation: Zoom :
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84205054783>

Friday, December 8th from 6 pm to 8 pm. You can sign on any time using this invitation: Zoom :
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89158273737>

We look forward to working with you. In
shared ministry,



Ann E. Turner (The Rev'd)
Executive Director



Lawrence Roche
Financial Controller

Parish of Saint George Insurance Documents for 2024

Not available at time of print

Rector's Report

Jacob is alone and afraid. He is on his way to meet his brother Esau, but he doesn't know how he will be received or what the future holds. Suddenly, an angel appears and wrestles with him. Jacob is wounded in the fight, his hip is "put out of joint" (Gen. 32:25), but he refuses to give up and he demands a blessing from the angel: "I will not let you go, unless you bless me," he says (Gen. 32:26). The angel responds with this blessing:

"What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed...And there he blessed him" (Gen. 32:27-28 and 29b).

I think of this story all the time in relation to our parish. In so many ways we find ourselves in the wilderness, with our hip out of joint, having been wounded along the way. Our parish is often misunderstood by those outside of us who do not recognise how diverse and varied we are in terms of our backgrounds, our families, our occupations, our social and political views, and so much more. We also live on the edge of necessity: we are not an overly large parish, we have no substantial endowments upon which to rely, and the 'to do' lists are always growing for each of our ministries. Our church sits amidst an ever-changing neighbourhood, with residents who bear some of the harshest consequences of our culture's way of life. Yet, we continue to wrestle with God in this place, and in doing so, we are blessed beyond measure. In my report this year, I simply want to encourage us to continue doing the same.

The COVID lockdowns were hard on our parish. We were suddenly isolated from one another, and continuing to offer worship was a challenge. Maintaining our ministries was also difficult and exhausting and we emerged with a need to rebuild several of them, especially Soup Kitchen and Sunday Fellowship due to a loss of volunteers. Several of our more elderly parishioners who were part of our spiritual 'backbone' also found themselves quite frail post-COVID and are now in long-term care and no longer able to be with us.

In May, Parish Council set aside time to discuss how to wrestle with God at this moment in the life of our parish, what our priorities ought to be as we sought to renew ourselves in God's grace. Three themes emerged:

1. Spiritual Development, through the hiring of a curate or assistant priest; supporting the renewal of the music program (i.e. the 'Song School'); and providing more educational opportunities.
2. Fellowship and Community, by renewing our Soup Kitchen and Sunday Fellowship ministries, and hosting more social gatherings amongst the congregation (e.g. potlucks, Shrove Tuesday Supper).
3. Stewardship, making sure we have the resources in place to follow through on our ministries, including care for our properties and appropriate staffing arrangements.

We have made progress on a number of these initiatives over the past year, and you will see it reflected in various reports, including the wardens' report and the budget for 2024. Much more still needs to be done, however, especially



Rector hands out palm crosses during the Palm Sunday Procession

with regards to our parish staffing. Over the past few years, the parish administrator's role has acquired too many conflicting responsibilities. The administrator is called upon to provide a constant presence in the office while at the same time meeting outside the office with contractors, rental groups, and coordinating our Soup Kitchen. It has become very clear to me that we need someone in the office who can carry on with the administrative work, and we need a separate caretaker who oversees property maintenance, supports the property committee (which needs to be renewed), and oversees rentals. While particular planning for these changes is still underway, I hope and expect these new arrangements will be put in place by July 1st at the latest. This is long overdue and with Jordan having returned to his university studies and now with less time to devote to the current administrator's role, it seems especially important that we review the staffing arrangements.

Earlier this year, I informed parish council that I was not prepared to consider the hiring of a curate or assistant priest until the staffing for the parish was properly restructured. While having a curate can bring a tremendous amount of new life and energy to a parish, it also often places new burdens on a Rector, and we need

the proper support in place. My hope is that we can begin the search for a curate later this year once the new staffing arrangements are in place. This will require discernment and conversation at Parish Council and, I expect, at a congregational meeting at some point later in the year.

The Music Director's Report gives some details about Garth's plan to introduce a Song School to provide music education to the young people of our congregation and the community. This is an exciting endeavour, which I think will substantially help to renew the parish's musical program and more. Garth and the choir have tremendous gifts to offer, and we have a musical tradition in this parish which is the envy of many. We must share it.

In May, I floated with Parish Council the lofty notion of establishing a St George's Centre for Faith and Spirituality, a place where we could offer substantial educational programs for our congregation and the broader public about poignant topics of faith. There is such a need in our city and society for such conversations. I see this as a longer-term goal, but I would appreciate feedback from parishioners about it.

On a Personal Note

A few weeks ago, I told the congregation in one of my sermons a bit about my health struggles this past year which prevented me from performing my duties. I was out sick in November 2022 and again for a week in January 2023 and February 2023. I also had Lyme disease in late July and August due to a Lunenburg County tick! I am glad to say that through a lot of discipline, excellent care from doctors and a whole team of other professionals, the support of some good friends, and the kindness of this parish, my health has substantially improved over the past year and

continues to do so, despite some minor setbacks now and then. I am grateful for your care for me. I am especially grateful to Fathers Peter Harris, Jim Purchase, Gary Thorne, and Patrick Bright who all filled in for me.

A month ago, I informed the wardens and parish council of my hope to take a period of sabbatical leave from the parish a year from now, the details for which will be negotiated with the wardens and parish council in the next few months. Under Diocesan guidelines, the clergy are eligible for sabbatical leave every five years. I have been ordained for nine years and have served this parish for six years. It has become clear to me within the past few months of my need to spend some personal time on extended study and retreat.

Beyond the parish, I continue to assist and preach occasionally at the King's College Chapel, lecture occasionally in Halifax Humanities, and provide on-call care to patients at the Halifax Hospice.

Thank you

Thank you to our Wardens, Kieva Diamond, Tracy Lenfesty, and Matthew Vanderkwaak whose support and encouragement has been stalwart this year. Their concern for the whole ministry of the parish is exemplary. I am grateful to Kara Holm for her leadership as chair of Parish Council, who constantly reminds us not to let go in our wrestling with God, that we can accomplish great things through his grace. Our Treasurer, Sarah Stevenson, has very capably taken up leadership of our finances. Her care and diligence in this ministry is an example for us all! Thank you to Judith Fisher who works diligently behind the scenes to ensure our tax records are kept up to date and accurate. Marilyn Orr, as head of Spiritual Development, has been wise in her counsel and a solid support. Thank you to Garth MacPhee, our music director, whose skill and knowledge as a musician is a parish priest's joy. Thank you to the choir who give so much of themselves to the parish. Thank you to Jordan Gracie in the office who carries so many responsibilities. Thank you to Nadine Savoury, Cameron Lowe, and the altar guild and all the servers whose care for the sanctuary is a blessing to all of us. Thank you to Jim Rawding who serves every Sunday at 8 a.m. Holy Communion and Cameron Lowe who serves every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Holy Communion. I would not be able to perform my ministry without the support of Father Peter Harris and the care he gives to our parish each week, serving regularly as the liturgical deacon on Sundays, celebrating at mid-week services and on Sundays when I am away or unavailable. His counsel and his friendship are a tremendous support to me. I must also thank our daily office officiants who help me carry on the daily rhythm of morning and evening prayer in the parish: Jan Connors, Richard Kent, Nicholas Lucciola, Coryn Stehouwer, Cameron Lowe, Sue Zinck, Jacquie de Mestral, Marilyn Orr, Tracy Lenfesty, Susan Dodd, and Fr Ingalls. There are so many others I could thank which would fill more and more pages, so simply allow me to close by thanking all of you who have been so patient and caring and kind with me, especially this past year as I struggled with my health and with my worries and anxieties about our parish and the challenges we face. I am grateful for all of you.

Keep walking and wrestling with God. Don't be put off by your limp. Don't let go of God or even one another. Demand your blessing. We have been given so much and we have so much to offer in service to God and neighbour in this place and he will bless us if we continue to wrestle with Him.

The Rev'd Nicholas Hatt

Rector

Feast Days, Guest Preachers, and Special Events

On Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday, parishioner Coryn Stehouwer offered meditations on the Passion Gospels. At the time, Coryn was employed with the Halifax Community Chaplaincy which serves those recently released from prison and helps them re-enter society. Coryn and her husband Stewart moved to the United Kingdom last November and we continue to miss all that they brought to our congregation.

On Good Friday we welcomed The Rev'd Canon John Paul Westin as our guest preacher, who offered meditations on the Seven Last Words. Canon Westin is retired from parish ministry in the Diocese of Fredericton and currently serves in chaplaincy at Dorchester Penitentiary.

On Sunday, April 23rd we celebrated the Feast of Saint George. This feast day rarely falls on a Sunday, so it was a welcome opportunity to remember our patron. We were grateful to the King's College Chapel who loaned to us their stunning icon banner of Saint George which we carried in procession that morning.

We celebrated the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday, May 18th with Dr Ben MacDonald as our guest preacher. Dr MacDonald was recently awarded his doctoral degree in theology from Wycliffe College, and now works and teaches at Acadia University.



Ginny Wilmhoff, *centre*, in the Round Church vestry after her ordination to the Diaconate.

Also pictured, from left to right: Nadine Savoury, Nicholas Lucciola, Craig Savoury, Andrew Thorne, Fr. Hatt, and Sue Zinck.



Fr. Harris, the Honourary Assistant, at All Souls

On Sunday, June 11th, the Feast of Saint Barnabas, the celebrant at the 10:30 a.m. service was our honorary assistant, the Rev'd Canon Peter Harris. It was the 51st anniversary of his ordination as a priest. We give thanks for Father Harris' decades of faithful and devoted service to our Lord and His church.

In the autumn, parishioner Nicholas Lucciola began his studies at the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), in training for chaplaincy with the Canadian military. Nicholas is being sponsored by St George's for ordination. Former parishioners Samuel Landry and William Barton also began their studies at AST at the same time.

On Thursday, September 7th the choir led us in Choral Evensong, as part of the Royal Canadian Navy's International Fleet Week celebrations. While attendance was low at this service, it was a splendid opportunity to remember our naval heritage. We have been asked to host a similar service in two years' time when Fleet Week is held in Halifax again.

On Sunday, October 1st (the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, transferred) our guest deacon and preacher was former parishioner, The Rev'd Virginia Wilmhoff who was ordained as a deacon the previous Thursday at All Saints' Cathedral with our choir and many members of our parish in

attendance and assisting. The previous Saturday, September 23rd we hosted a private quiet day for Ginny as is traditional for those preparing for ordination. That morning, a number of parishioners joined with her for Holy Communion at the Little Dutch Church. The Rev'd Ginny now serves in chaplaincy at a veterans' care home in Saint John, New Brunswick.

On October 22nd, we welcomed Bishop Sandra Fyfe to Choral Evensong during which she confirmed parishioner Coryn Stehouwer. That evening we also heard from Lisa Roberts, former member of the provincial legislature and now CEO of Nourish Nova Scotia, who spoke to us about food insecurity in local schools and YouthNet's role in supporting their efforts.

On Sunday, November 12th we hosted Choral Evensong for Remembrance Sunday, remembering those (both military and civilian) who died in war and conflict, offering prayers for peace throughout the world. This service was especially poignant given the recent resurgence of violence in the Middle East.

Wardens' Report

Of all that I have learned in my three years as warden, perhaps the most urgent is this: that all that we do, all that we love about Saint George's: the worship, the community, the many outreaches and the blessing of this property, is not maintained by some professional and highly qualified organization. No, the miracle is that it is all *just us...* just you and me and the person sitting beside you, saying yes, when the call is put out for help, whether to come serve coffee and tea after service on a Sunday, or spending time applying for grants to keep our historic property in good repair, or digging deep to put a little more on the plate come December, so that the church is able to meet its expenses for the year. We are not specially trained experts; we are just ordinary people coming with both our gifts and our flaws (and our too busy and not especially organized schedules) to offer ourselves in service to God and to one another in loving kindness. Of course we make mistakes, that is inevitable, but we also forgive one another (sometimes after a little snarling) and work together to use these mistakes to figure out how to do better next time. In this way we uphold one another, we grow stronger together and we live to fight another day.

The main job of this report being to give an overview of the year from the Wardens' vantage point, here are some highlights of what we (with the help of many of you) have been up to:

-Soup Kitchen transitioned to a hybrid dine-in/ take-out service (from being take-out only in response to COVID and low volunteer numbers) under the guidance of your warden, Matthew Vanderkwaak and our parish administrator. So far, this has been a great success.

-Along with the members of parish council we participated in a visioning workshop, facilitated by Kara Holm, to identify what is important to us as a parish and how we see ourselves growing in the future. Something that came out very clearly is that we want more opportunities to eat together, in fellowship as a parish. In response we organized a good old-fashioned potluck for the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, which was a great success. We have the return of the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to look forward to, and we hope to add more potlucks into our yearly tradition as we are able.

-Our summer student, under the supervision of Tracy and Jacquie, was able to do great work for us on the parish archives, first by moving it from the top of Trinity House to the old Scouting Room, then by re-organizing the contents of the archives and creating a 1st draft finding aid. She researched and wrote the text for tours of the Round Church and LDC and gave tours and made a self-guided tour brochure of the Round Church, among many other things.

-One of our most important jobs as wardens is making sure that we provide support for our rector so that he can better serve the needs of the congregation. With that as our goal, we are rethinking the staffing and structure for the parish by clearly defining the roles of parish secretary, property manager, soup kitchen coordinator and parish bookkeeper. Not to say that we are planning to make 4 positions out of these, but that we have identified 4 distinct roles that need to be appropriately allocated, most likely in two distinct positions of Parish secretary and Property manager. This is something we continue to work out, but hope to have in place this summer.

-We have worked with the rector and the residents of Trinity House on a renewed covenant of the house as an intentional Christian community that contributes to the enrichment of the whole church.

-The Music Room, thanks to the unbelievable and humbling generosity of Craig Savoury (who has been giving of his time and talent in finishing the room to a basic level) , is well on its way to completion.

- In December, in addition to the fun stuff like organizing Christmas outreach and decorating the church for Advent and Christmas, we had the ongoing (slightly less fun, but very necessary work) of appealing to the congregation to increase giving in order for the parish to meet its offering commitments for 2023. This year, however, we decided to take a broader approach by asking parishioners to consider also how they might give of their time and talent to the church as well. We wanted to highlight the fact that the work of the church depends at least as much on the sacrificial gifts of time, as it does on our financial contributions. We received some very encouraging responses to this in the form of new volunteers to both Fellowship and our team of Greeters. We still have farther to go in growing our pool of volunteers but I am optimistic that just as Saint George's parishioners responded to the need to bring the financial deficit down when the need was made known, so too they will respond to the deficit in volunteers.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity I have had these past three years to serve the parish in the role of warden. It has been a wonderful way of getting to know the parish and of making more and deeper connections with my fellow parishioners, our rector and with my fellow wardens. It is truly inspiring and encouraging to witness firsthand the generosity of those around me who, in the giving of their time, talent and treasure, keep this parish, not just functioning, but thriving, and growing into its mission to serve and be shaped by, the community it inhabits, while "seeking also to transform this neighborhood by preaching, in Word and action, the gospel of Jesus Christ".

Kieva Diamond
(outgoing warden)

&

Tracy Lenfesty
Matthew Vanderkwaal
(continuing wardens)

Parish Administrator's Report

Summer Student

With the assistance of a Young Canada Works grant, received through the National Trust for Canada, the parish hired Zia Shirtliffe as its Summer Student in 2023. Zia spent a lot of time at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia going through 19th and 20th century parish minutes trying to pinpoint the construction date of the “modern extension” the Gerrish Street graveyard wall, and put a lot of work into the parish’s own archive, moving it from the 3rd floor of Trinity House to its own space in the hall, and organizing its contents under the supervision of Tracy Lenfesty. She also wrote a lovely summary of the life of Martha Williams, the wife of J. F. W. DesBarres. Martha and J. F. W. are the only two people interred in the crypt beneath the Round Church and, though the life of J. F. W. is well documented, written record of Martha’s life is limited to a few surviving pieces of correspondence.

Rentals

Since the pandemic, the demographic of parking renters has changed dramatically. What used to be a lot dominated by individual commuters is now mostly rented in blocks to businesses and organizations on and around Gottingen which offer parking to their staff as part of their compensation. Of the 36 spaces in our parking lot, a maximum of 26 are permitted to be rented out on weekdays on a monthly basis. The remaining 10 spaces are kept for parish purposes (for people visiting the Round Church, attending programming in the Hall, or living in Trinity House). In 2023, additional signage was installed which clearly identifies the entire lot as reserved parking. This, in addition to monthly warning letters, has been able to keep enough spaces free that the lot can serve the needs of all of its users.

In addition to parish programming, the hall is home to YouthNet’s lunch, afterschool, and teen programs, several 12-step programs (there are six meetings in any given week), the 2nd Halifax Sparks (who have expanded into two troops since 2022), the Creative Music Workshop, and the Bon Accord Scottish Country Dancers. Alliance Française has taken to renting the hall to celebrate French cultural festivals (which, conveniently, follow our feast days) serving *galette des roi* at Epiphany, *crêpes* at *Chandleur* (Candlemas), and delectable treats in Advent and at Pentecost. The hall also provides office space to the Halifax Humanities 101 Society.

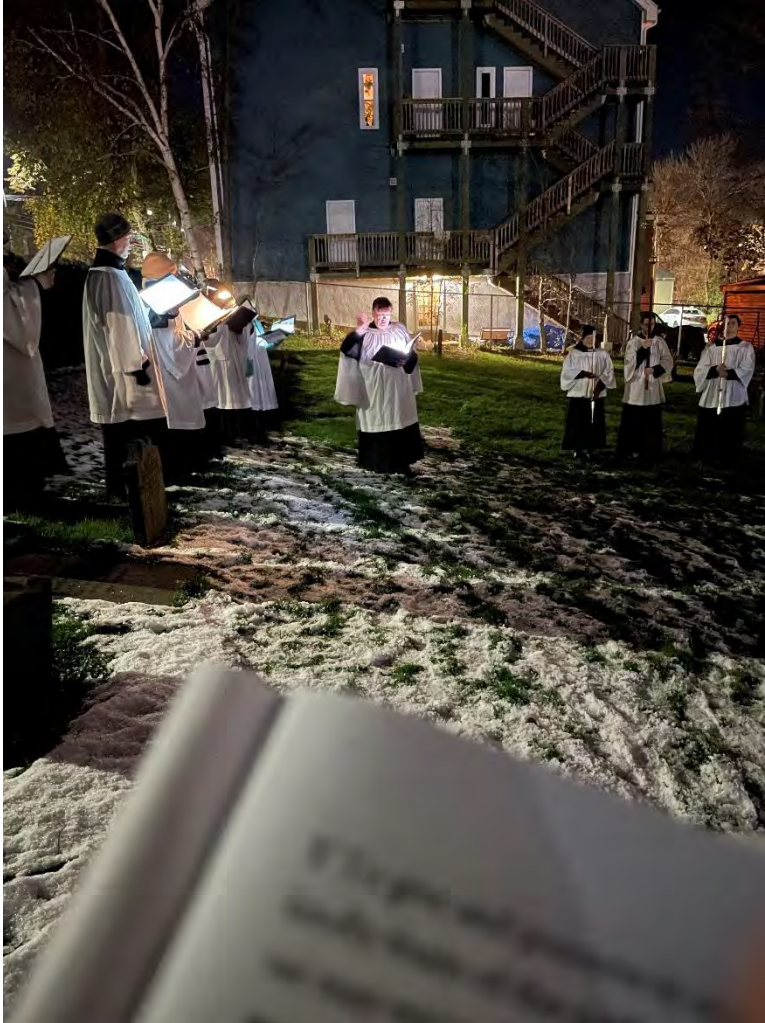
The Round Church saw a busy concert season in 2023, hosting the Halifax Camera Singers, the King’s Chorus, and the first Halifax Early Music Festival featuring the Galileo Baroque Choir, and continues to be the primary home of the Halifax Institute of Traditional and Early Music. The Halifax Institute of Traditional and Early Music uses the church for rehearsals and instruction several times every week. They also hold semi-annual free concerts in the church using ancient and rare instruments. It was once again the host of the Early Music Society of Nova Scotia’s annual reading of Charpentier’s *Messe de Minuit*.

Jordan Gracie
Parish Administrator



Zia and Fr. Hatt pose in front of the parish’s table at HRM’s District 8 2023 Participatory Budget Session at which the parish was awarded \$2000 towards the restoration of the Gerrish Street graveyard wall.

Director of Music's Report



The Choir at All Souls in the graveyard of Old St. George's (

at Saint George's ('95-97). While her time in the Parish was relatively brief, her legacy continues to be felt in so many aspects of the music programme. For a more detailed overview of my time there, I append a separate report.

My ability to be away from the Parish at such a busy time was made possible by a number of very talented and skilled individuals: Dr Neil Cockburn, who played the organ on Sundays; Andrew Pickett, who led the choir; Lois McVannel, who led the Junior Choir rehearsals each week. To each of these individuals, I give hearty thanks. My friend (and maybe yours, too!) Janet Ross reminds me that none of us is indispensable. This is both humbling and liberating, and the truth of it borne out by the excellence that each of these people contributed during my absence.

With a grateful heart I offer my Music Director's Report for 2023.

On January 8, 2023, a service of Epiphany Lessons and Carols was offered, featuring both the Parish and Junior Choirs. Guest musicians included harpist Ellen Gibling and organist Dr Neil Cockburn. I note that, due to the Covid pandemic, this service had not been held since January 2020. It was robustly attended, and enthusiastically received.

And so, the year began on an optimistic and encouraging note. While we bless God's holy Providence for having guided us through three very challenging years, particularly giving thanks that our Parish Music Programme continued throughout those dark days, it was a relief to return to a more recognizable pattern of worship and liturgical music-making.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of this Parish, your Music Director was able to take a month-long sabbatical, Feb 14-March 16. He spent this time in the UK, shadowing (chasing after?) his long-time friend Sarah MacDonald, who holds down two full-time positions: Director of Music at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and Director of the Girl Choristers at Ely Cathedral. Many parishioners will remember Sarah from her tenure as Director of Music here



Families gather to watch Garth play the organ after a service

I arrived back just in time for Passiontide, which gave me time to catch my breath before the rigours of Holy Week. Indeed, it was God's grace that guided us through those eight very busy days. Owing to various illnesses and other prevailing circumstances, many plans had to be recalibrated and singers were called in to sub at the last minute, including sopranos Nelle Callanan and Elisabeth Stones (who was still nursing little Felix). On Wednesday afternoon, it became clear that Tenebrae would have to be sung by male choristers only, which entailed finding an appropriately voiced setting of Ps 51. Reflecting on it all, I can only be deeply thankful for the talent and skill of the choristers, and their wonderful dedication and loyalty. WHEW!

In April the Junior Choir sang in the Kiwanis

Music Festival. Our nine singers performed to a packed church of school choirs and their families. In other years, the choral classes have been held in the daytime, and the venue has often been empty. The audience response was gratifying and made this festival experience truly special. Adjudicator Monika Punke awarded the choir Gold, and recommended the choir to the Provincial Festival, which was a great honour.

The Junior Choir's end of the year concert, held in late June in the Upper Hall during the Fellowship Hour, and well attended. A couple of weeks later, the Choir travelled to Merigomish, Pictou County where they participated in a fundraiser concert organized by friends of the Music Director. In a card of thanks, the organizer commented that 'it was as though a band of angels had entered our church'.

As the Fall season unfolded, the Parish Choir welcomed back to its ranks Morag Wilson, who had continued singing with the Junior Choir during the Pandemic and had been a Pickford Scholar in the years 2018-20s. Both Morag and Anne Gibson are Pickford Choral Scholars, a program we hope to grow in the coming years.

Saint George's Song School

During my time in Ely, I had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of the Cathedral Music Programme. Rehearsals were held in a space referred to as the 'Song School', a centuries' old term that captured my imagination. How many centuries had choirs been rehearsing in that humble space? Upon my return to Halifax, the news that our long-anticipated Music Room would be completed sometime in the Spring of 2024 seemed Providential: here we have our very own 'Song School' space. A dedicated room for rehearsals, private lessons, and perhaps even intimate concerts.

Here is a short description of my vision for the Saint George's Song School:

The St George's Song School provides young people with a cohesive education in the Art of Sacred Music, rooted in the rich choral tradition espoused by Saint George's Round Church. Through voice training, choral singing, keyboard skills, and music literacy the Song School seeks to nurture the unique gifts and abilities of each student, opening to them the rewards of self-disciplined study, the joy of making music with others and a sense of wonder that comes with exploring their own potential, not just in music but in their whole being.

Who The Program Is For:

- Youth in the Parish...

- Youth in the neighbourhood...

- Youth in the broader community...

...who are enthusiastic about singing and learning more about music, making new friends and who are excited to discover new horizons of exploration.



Blessing the gardens on Rogation Sunday

An advisory committee is being formed at the time of the writing of this report, to assist me in advancing this vision and bringing it to fruition. In a way, the Song School is a formalizing of what I have been developing over the past twelve years, with respect to music for our young people. By creating a formal structure for musical education in our Parish, I hope this will be a legacy that future generations will continue to foster and promote.

One only has to spend a little time in our beautiful Round Church to recognize that our inheritance, both in terms of the historic fabric of our inspiring building, and the faithful Christian witness of the congregation in this neighbourhood for over 200 years, comes with a

mantle of responsibility. Our Rector has repeatedly exhorted us to open our hearts and minds to this stewardship. While it may seem enough simply to attend to 'the daily round, the common task', I believe we find ourselves at a pivotal moment for our Parish where much more is required of us than simply 'keeping things going'. I sincerely hope that the Song School will take its place among the initiatives our Parish takes on, not simply for this generation but for future ones.

The music programme owes a debt of gratitude to the Friends of Saint George's Society for their ongoing efforts on our behalf. Without this support, our music programme would not be able to offer the substance and quality of programming we currently enjoy.

To Craig Savoury, a word of gratitude for his efforts to complete the Music Room. He has dedicated many hours of labour and planning to reach this goal, and for this I am tremendously thankful.

As always, I wish to thank our Rector, the Rev'd Nicholas Hatt for his guidance and leadership. Since his arrival in the Parish on Ash Wednesday, 2018 he has been a tremendous support to my work, and that of the choirs. We would be remiss in neglecting to thank our Parish Wardens for the hours of time they each dedicate to our beloved Parish. Thank you also to Sarah Stevenson in her role as Parish Treasurer, and particularly for her help sorting out the Parish Music Budget.

Garth MacPhee
Director of Music

Appendix A: Mini-sabbatical report

To the members of Parish Council,

As requested by the Rector and Wardens, here is a report on my mini sabbatical to the UK this winter. The financial support and encouragement from the Parish made this trip possible, and I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all.

To recap, the purpose of this sabbatical was to refresh my perspectives and methods of approach, as well as to rejuvenate my inspiration as a musician. My time was mostly spent with my esteemed friend and colleague, Sarah MacDonald, Director of Music at Selwyn College Chapel in Cambridge, and Director of the Girls' Choir at Ely Cathedral. Owing to a Tenor vacancy in the Selwyn Chapel Choir, I sang the weekly Choral Evensong services, which provided me a wonderful opportunity to participate as well as observe. The choir sings three evensong services each week. I travelled with Sarah to Ely for the Girls' Choir practices each morning and attended various liturgies in the Cathedral throughout the week. Again, I was able to experience the inner workings of the Cathedral Music Programme in a way not available to the general public.

Very early on, I learned that many of Britain's oldest choral foundations, including the Oxbridge Chapels and iconic Cathedrals, are by no means immune to the challenges we face here in Canada in terms of funding and recruitment. As in so many aspects of our society, university campuses and colleges are becoming more culturally diverse and secular. As a result, fewer students are drawn into the Christian worship taking place in college chapels. This was notably the case when I attended a Choral Eucharist at King's College, Cambridge. As visitors queued up to enter the Chapel, many students of visibly diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds were making their way out. Apart from the tourists and visitors, few students were in evidence at the liturgy. It was interesting to hear Sarah reflect on this: twenty years ago, there would have been some 200 applicants for choral scholarships at Cambridge; more recently, they numbered fewer than 40. This has led to numerous vacancies in Chapel Choirs, even the most ancient and elite such as King's. Some of Britain's oldest choral foundations are not just struggling with recruitment, but also financial solvency.



Members of the Youth Choir pose after the spring concert

Providentially, two visiting choirs joined the Selwyn Choir for Choral Evensong on two occasions in my first week there. While these choirs were very different from each other, both were inspired by the traditional English liturgical choral tradition but established in places where no corresponding infrastructure existed previously. Both choirs reached into the wider community to recruit young singers. Happily, in both choirs, there is tremendous support from parishioners and clergy. So compelled as I was by these choirs, I made arrangements to visit them both. I was graciously welcomed by their directors, and suitably impressed by what I heard and saw.

The first choir came from the Parish of St Wulfram's, Grantham, and consisted of approximately 25 high school aged choristers. Their director, Dr Tim Williams was appointed Music Director at St Wulfram's about 15 years ago. At

that time, the choir had dwindled to a small, mostly quite elderly group of parishioners. Very soon after arriving in the Parish, Tim began recruiting for a youth choir, and the response was robust indeed. Over the past decade, the Music Programme at St Wulfram's has continued to grow, and now embraces about 100 young people, from children to adolescents. There are various choirs under the one umbrella, offering opportunities appropriate to the age and experience of the singers. One of the young basses, aged 17 years, was on his way to audition for a lay clerk position at Durham Cathedral. He was remarkably talented, vocally and musically, and when I enquired of him how one so young might so accomplished, he cheerfully credited the programme at St Wulfram's and its director.

The second choir came from the Anglo-Catholic Parish of St John the Divine in Kennington, a hard-scrabble borough in South London. Their choral director, Ben Vonberg-Clark, has led the music at SJD for ten years, and over that period, has developed an amazing music outreach programme on a shoestring budget. It draws on the children and youth that attend the local schools, and once a week they gather in the Parish Hall to learn liturgical choral music. On the day I visited Kennington, the choirs were preparing to sing in a performance of Mahler's 3rd Symphony. The older teens were also learning Bruckner's *Christus factus est*, with the support of adult choristers from the Parish.

Both choirs and their directors are robustly supported by volunteers, mostly parishioners and parents of the kids, as well as the clergy. While St Wulfram's is situated in the historic heart of a small working-class city, it draws on youth from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, including those who live in council housing. In Kennington the choristers are drawn from a neighbourhood with an ethnically diverse demographic, economically depressed and where gun violence is a pervasive reality. The Music Programme is a safe place where youth are cherished and nurtured.

In planning my time in the UK, I had not anticipated encountering anything like either of these programmes, yet they may well be the kernel of inspiration I was looking for. Not to say that my time with Sarah in Selwyn and Ely wasn't profitable; quite the contrary! But it was never my expectation to return to St George's and recreate either Selwyn or Ely. A wise gardener plants what he knows will flourish in his patch of soil.

It seems to me St George's is uniquely well suited to foster a Music Outreach Programme of the sort I observed in Grantham and Kennington. Our relationship with the youth in the North End is long established with YouthNet. More recently the collaboration between YouthNet and the Maritime Conservatory is a compelling opportunity which might assist us in gaining some traction in developing a closer link between the Parish and YouthNet through music, including quite possibly liturgical music.

There are some obvious challenges I perceive at the outset, but which I believe can be overcome, at least if enough people are willing to throw their support behind us.

There is no doubt that Public Schools in Nova Scotia are determinedly secular institutions. While this phenomenon is spreading in the UK, there is still a tangential presence of the Church of England in schools. This is certainly the case in Kennington, for instance, where the Parish was able to recruit by visiting the local schools. Such would likely not be the case for us.

In a relatively small city such as Halifax, we would need to decide what it is St George's can offer young people that they might not encounter elsewhere. In speaking with Sarah about this, she wisely advised me that before embarking on anything, it would be critical to have a plan with multiple contingencies, so that when we inevitably come up against barriers of one sort or another, momentum is not lost.

I need time to further reflect on these ideas. I welcome any responses or ideas you might have on this topic. Obviously, this is an ambitious scheme and as such, would require much consultation and creative thinking. As with all big ideas, it's imperative to gather information and determine a suitable entry point. A few years ago, Fr Hatt broached the idea of offering free music lessons to the neighbourhood children. At the time, I resisted this suggestion, but now I'm beginning to wonder if that might be just the ticket.

I have returned home with a sense of gratitude for the time away. I missed St George's, the liturgy and the people who I think of as a sort of extended family. While this might be read as contentment, I find myself with more questions than answers. Before I embark on the next Professional Development opportunity, I am searching my heart and mind to discern what it is God might be calling me to do.

I strongly believe we each of us are stewards of our talents and skills. As I strive to be a good steward of my gifts, I am deeply thankful for the love and support of this Parish.

*Reports from Committees, Subcommittees,
Parish Organizations, and Congregational Bodies*

Spiritual Life

Altar Guild

This was my first full year in charge of the altar guild and I am so grateful for the help and advice from Tracy Lenfesty, Cameron Lowe, Jordan Gracie and Father Nicholas Hatt. Thank you!

I also want to thank Jim Rawding for not only taking on the huge responsibility of cleaning the church each week but also picking up church supplies when needed.

Our altar guild is made up of 5 teams that take turns preparing vestments, vessels for Holy Communion, candles, flowers and cleaning of the brass before every Sunday. These teams get together in the sacristy for about 2 hours, usually on a Saturday morning.

Our team members are: Tracy Lenfesty, Erin Wagner, Helen Hillis, Dianna Lowe, Leona Sweeney, Amy Bird, Dinah Savoury and myself. Craig Savoury should also be mentioned even though he is not a full-fledged member, he helps out when he can.

Cameron Lowe, our dedicated Assistant Sacristan, prepares for the many Holy Communion services during the week and assists me in ensuring the church is prepared for each service.

I wish to thank all those mentioned in my report for their devotion to such an important ministry.

Sincerely submitted,

Nadine Savoury

Head Sacristan

Appendix A: Altar Guild Schedule 2024

Week	Team	Colour	Notes
Jan 7 – Epiphany 1	Dianna and Nadine	White	Flowers
Jan 14 – Epiphany 2	Dinah, Dianna, and Leona	Green	Flowers
Jan 21 – Epiphany 3	Tracy	Green	Flowers
Jan 28 – Septuagesima	Nadine and Amy	Purple	Flowers
Feb 4 – Sexagesima	Tracy and Erin	Purple	Flowers
Feb 11 – Quinquagesima	Dianna and Nadine	Purple	Flowers (no flowers starting Ash Wednesday until the end of Lent)
Feb 18 – Lent 1	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Purple	No flowers; crosses veiled in purple
Feb 25 – Lent 2`	Tracy and Helen	Purple	No flowers, crosses veiled in purple
Mar 3 – Lent 3	Nadine and Amy	Purple	No flowers, crosses veiled in purple
Mar 10 – Lent 4	Tracy and Erin	Purple	No flowers, crosses veiled in purple
Mar 17 – Passion Sunday	Dianna and Nadine	Passion Red	No flowers, crosses veiled in red
Mar 24 – Palm Sunday	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Red	No veils, palms on altar and crosses
Mar 31 – Easter Day	Tracy and Helen	White	Easter flowers



Linens being pressed

Apr 7 – Easter Octave	Nadine and Amy	White	Flowers
Apr 14 – Easter 2	Tracy and Erin	White	Flowers
Apr 21 – Easter 3	Dianna and Nadine	White	Flowers
Apr 28 – Easter 4	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	White	Flowers
May 5 – Rogation Sunday	Tracy and Helen	White	Flowers
May 12 – Sunday after Ascension	Nadine and Amy	White	Flowers
May 19 – Pentecost	Tracy and Erin	Red	Flowers
May 26 – Trinity Sunday	Dianna and Nadine	White	Flowers
June 2 – Trinity 1	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Green	Flowers
June 9 – Trinity 2	Tracy and Helen	Green	Flowers
June 16 – Trinity 3	Nadine and Amy	Green	Flowers
June 23 – Trinity 4	Tracy and Erin	Green	Flowers
June 30 – Trinity 5, Oct Peter & Paul	Dianna and Nadine	Red	Flowers
July 7 – Trinity 6	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Green	Flowers
July 14 – Trinity 7	Tracy and Helen	Green	Flowers
July 21 – Trinity 8	Nadine and Amy	Green	Flowers
July 28 – Trinity 9	Tracy and Erin	Green	Flowers
Aug 4 – Trinity 10	Dianna and Nadine	Green	Flowers
Aug 11 – Trinity 11	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Green	Flowers
Aug 18 – Trinity 12	Tracy and Helen	Green	Flowers
Aug 25 – Trinity 13	Nadine and Amy	Green	Flowers
Sept 1 – Trinity 14	Tracy and Erin	Green	Flowers
Sept 8 – Trinity 15	Dianna and Nadine	Green	Flowers
Sept 15 – Trinity 16	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Green	Flowers
Sept 22 – Trinity 17	Tracy and Helen	Green	Flowers
Sept 29 – St Michael & All Angels	Nadine and Amy	White	Flowers
Oct 6 – Trinity 19	Tracy and Erin	Green	Flowers
Oct 13 – Trinity 20	Dianna and Nadine	Green*	Flowers; *may be white for eve of Thanksgiving
Oct 20 – Trinity 21	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Green	Flowers
Oct 27 – Trinity 22	Tracy and Helen	Green*	Flowers; *may be red for eve of St. Simon and St. Jude
Nov 3 – Octave All Saints	Nadine and Amy	White	Flowers
Nov 10 – Trinity 24	Tracy and Erin	Green	Flowers
Nov 17 – Trinity 25	Dianna and Nadine	Green	Flowers
Nov 24 – Sunday Before Advent	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	Green	Flowers
Dec 1 – Advent 1	Tracy and Helen	Purple	No flowers, Advent wreath
Dec 8 – Advent 2	Nadine and Amy	Purple	No flowers – Advent wreath
Dec 15 – Advent 3	Tracy and Erin	Purple	No flowers – Advent wreath
Dec 22 – Advent 4	Dianna and Nadine	Purple	No flowers – Advent wreath
Dec 29 – Sunday After Christmas	Dinah, Dianna, Leona	White	Flowers

Altar Servers and Licensed Lay Ministers

The Servers' Guild consists of a number of individuals who assist in the Sanctuary with various roles, as part of the liturgy. This can include: carrying the cross (Crucifer) or carrying a candle (Taperers), bringing elements between the Credence table and Altar to assist with communion preparation and cleanup (server) or bringing in the thurible and using the incense, as needed (thurifer). Also, one of our team members will ring handbells in the sanctuary, if there is nobody available to ring the main bell upstairs.

I would like to start by acknowledging some newer members to our team. Will Hibbitts started serving with us close to Holy Week. He has become quite comfortable with the majority of roles, listed above. Jonah Folkman joined our team in November. Even though Jonah also serves at University of King's College Chapel, he expressed his interest in serving at Saint George's. Both of these individuals have been valuable assets to our team.

Although we did add some members we also lost some. Nic Lucciola began studying at the Atlantic School of Theology (A.S.T) to pursue a Divinity Degree, which also involves some placement opportunities in other parishes. Ginny Wilmhoff made herself available during breaks in her studies with her Divinity Degree at Acadia University. Ginny has since graduated, been ordained a Deacon and taken on a chaplaincy position in Saint John, New Brunswick. Thank you both for your services and best wishes on your future endeavors.

Our numbers may be small but the contributions provided are very important and much appreciated. Craig Savoury, Nadine Savoury and Al Wilson have all helped out with duties on the serving roster as well as their duties of MC and Subdeacon. This makes for quite a lot of commitment by these folks for which I am truly thankful. Andrew Thorne and Sue Zinck have both continued to serve faithfully, as part of our team. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Cameron Lowe has primarily asked to be on call if someone is not available to attend on their Sunday morning and will occasionally serve in other instances if we are stuck. Cameron is also committed to serve at the 10am Wednesday Holy Communion. Jim Rawding has continued to faithfully serve at the 8am Holy Communion, on Sunday mornings.

I also would like to acknowledge Matthew and Henry Bryson. Both of these young boys have served when they have been in town visiting family, with their parents Krisiti and James. This summer marked the second year that they have done this. I have told them and their parents that the boys are always welcome to serve any time they are in town.

As you can see from above, the level of commitment varies. The idea is that we don't overwhelm a few people with multiple duties or by being on duty week after week. To help make this a reality, we could always use more people on our team. Regardless of age or experience we can accommodate anybody. Younger children can start off as a boat boy/ boat girl, helping to carry the incense boat and following the Thurifer around. Older children or adults can step in to the various roles mentioned above. For those with little to no experience we start them off as a taperer, since they will have another person to follow along with. The other duties will eventually be worked in as they gain more experience. Father Hatt or I can give a brief overview before anyone begins serving for the first time and answer any questions that may arise. Please speak to either one of us if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Connors
Head Server

Parish Library

Although the parish library did not see a great deal of activity through the year, it continues to be a quiet nook off the Guild Room and a comfortable spot for researchers and readers of serious literature.

This past year with a budget of \$50 I was able to purchase for the library 2 publications from the Atlantic Theological Conference, namely: "Plague, Perseverance, Providence" and "A Memoir: Harold Lee Nutter". In March on two Saturday afternoons, I catalogued 10-12 books acquired over months as gifts or Thrift Shop purchases and judged

to be appropriate for the parish library. In August, I continued to catalogue and shelve books in an effort to keep the library up to date.

Additionally, I organize used book sales through the year for the fellowship hour following the 10:30 Sunday services. These sales have made approximately \$230 for St George's. Interest is not what it used to be, sadly. Books were sold at the June plant sale where nearly \$4000 was generated, and at the Christmas craft/pantry sale in Dec. when approximately \$900 was made.

I am available to the parish of St George's, and am eager to assist in any way I can with the library and its contents.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudie Urquhart

Parish Librarian

Safer Church

In 2022, Parish Council started a process to review and update our Safer Church protocols. These protocols were first introduced to mitigate abuse; our parish is taking a broader approach, using them to help identify ways in which we can better support and uphold one another in all our ministries. Safer Church has also been identified as a way to ensure the Parish has the resources in place to accomplish our goals, and help bear one another's burdens as the Body of Christ.

In November, the role reviews were submitted for input to the risk register for review and actioning. These have been populated into a newly developed Safer Church Role Review and Risk Register for review by the committee. A review of the risk register and outputs of the role review are underway with the committee. This work will continue into the new year.

Next steps:

- Continue with risk review, and updates to the Parish's Safer Church policy. These documents will continue to be living documents, evolving as the needs of the parish change and evolve. Processes are under development to support the execution of this work in the parish, with the focus on how Safer Church can be a tool by which we ensure the Gospel is lived out in our parish ministries, and the people who carry out these ministries are supported and encouraged by the parish. Identified recommendations will be provided to Parish Council, as a further output from this review.
- Deck the Hall update: In partnership with Sarah Stevenson, we are conducting a review of Deck the Hall, and a report will be drafted that will go to parish council. A component of this is to review procedures for property management, and the ways by which we might mitigate risks for the parish, with consideration towards the procurement of contractors in support of work. The report will include an outcome of our review and recommendations to parish council.

A thank you for the support of the Safer Church committee; Father Hatt, Kieva Diamond, and Garth McPhee, and the support of Parish Council.

Emily Harnish

Spiritual Development Committee

We began the church year with an Epiphany Book Group, to read and discuss George Eliot's novel *Adam Bede*. Beginning Tuesday, January 18, I led the enthusiastic group of six to nine people for five weeks. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

For Evensongs during Lent this year, we welcomed four parishioners—Nic Lucciola, Sue Zinck, Judith Perry, and Kieva Diamond—to offer reflections on the gospel readings. A consistent group of ten to fifteen congregants were stirred and uplifted by each of these talks. We thank Fr Harris for providing organ music for these services, helping to set the reflective tone for us.

Our Lenten Quiet Day, on Saturday, April 25th, was led by Reverend Mark Harris, retired pastor of Grace Chapel. He did a wonderful job leading a group of about 25 through a meditative study of some of the Psalms of Lament. He interspersed his reflections with times of discussion as well as quiet times for some hands-on reflection, encouraging individual responses on our own. Refreshments were available in the Hall, and afterwards we adjourned there for a delicious and lively lunch. We thank those who provided soups and other forms of nourishment, as well as those who helped with set-up and clean-up. Mark Harris seemed to enjoy his time with us, after nourishing our spirits so richly.

For Advent we tried a couple of new things. Fr Nick began a weekly day-time Bible Study, held after the Wednesday morning Holy Communion service, in which he led an appreciative group of fifteen to twenty in a study of the Gospel of Luke. This was such a great success that the group decided to continue, after Christmas, with a study of the Book of Acts.



St. Nick visits the Round Church during Advent

On Sundays in Advent (but starting before Advent, on November 26), we had a reading group that focused on *Music of Eternity: Meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill*, a collection of readings gathered and edited by Robyn Wrigley-Carr. A small group of up to nine parishioners gathered after Evening Prayer (and on one Sunday after Advent Lessons and Carols) to reflect on these readings together. The plan was to have four different leaders, but with one person ill, we had two sessions led by myself, and the others by Amy Bird and Tracy Lenfesty. This was a small group, but quite rich for us all. As is often the case, it was a chance for folks to get to know each other in a new way.

Our Quiet Day this Advent, on Saturday, December 9th, was led delicately and masterfully by Fr. David Curry, a well-known priest and teacher and scholar from Windsor, N. S. Rev Curry led a group of about 25 in reflections on the theme of wilderness, focusing on Advent readings from Isaiah, supplemented by several beautiful poems that develop related themes and images. This day followed a similar structure to that of our Lent Quiet Day, with the talks being held in the church and folks free to retreat to the Hall for refreshment and conversation. We then had a lovely lunch in the Hall, and are grateful to those who provided food and contributed in other ways by helping with set-up and clean-up. Fr. Curry was a thoughtful and delightful guest, and seemed to enjoy his time with us.

Marilyn Orr

*Spiritual Development***Sunday School**

We have had a fun group in the Sunday school this year. With many of our older students moving out of the Sunday school, we have had a small but regular group of pre-schoolers and lower elementary school students. We've met weekly in the nursery space in the basement of the church for a short lesson and play. Most weeks we read a children's version of a Bible story, and we've been focusing on Old Testament stories before Christmas, and New Testament stories after Christmas. The highlight of our year was the children's Christmas creche service, with many of our young kids participating, including Mary McCallister and Andrew Neish in the roles of Mary and Joseph. Our older teens helped out in the speaking roles, costuming the children, and carrying totes around for me. We are looking forward to more fun in 2024, and many thanks to all the parents who bring your children every week.

Meghan Jamieson

*Pastoral Ministry & Outreach***Christmas Outreach**

Once again this year, Christmas Outreach took place, carefully and lovingly organized by Kim Lickers and with the participation of many parishioners in the wrapping, packing and delivering processes. The hall was a hive of activity that day!

Deaf Ministry

Jessica Bezanson's farewell party

The Deaf Ministry remained largely stable for the first half of 2023, with Deaf Interpreter Karen Anne Smith interpreting for us at the 10:30 service two Sundays a month and with Jessica Bezanson who has been our Deaf Interpreter at 10am on Wednesdays initially completing her maternity leave. Unfortunately for us, after returning briefly to her duties on Wednesdays, Jessica was hired for a full-time position at NSCC. We are happy for her but will miss her very much after her nine faithful years as our Interpreter on Wednesdays. We had a farewell party for her on Wednesday, August 23rd. (See attached photo, including Jessica with the cake made for her! Photo

credit: Leona Sweeney.) Our Deaf parishioner who attends the Wednesday service when she is able, continues to come occasionally, even though we have been unable to find another Interpreter for Wednesday mornings. Our Sunday morning Deaf membership has been augmented this fall by an additional person attending along with one of our two long-time members. As I mentioned in last year's annual report: *"From a high of as many as 15 members in the early days of our Deaf Ministry, the Deaf membership of our congregation has over the past ten years dwindled greatly*

due to deaths and an aging population.” We are very grateful to Karen Anne Smith for her continuing faithfulness to our Deaf parishioners. She reacts quickly and with good humour to changes to the service from time to time, due to baptisms, etc.!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harris
Deaf Support

Fellowship

Our gatherings in the hall after the Sunday morning service are an important way to get to know our fellow parishioners and a nice way for visitors or newcomers to feel welcomed.

The people setting up things in the hall before the service and getting the coffee and tea urns on and providing the food work on a six week rotation. At the beginning of the year it was difficult for some of the groups as quite a few longtime helpers had to step down for different reasons. But thankfully we finished off the year with some new parishioners coming on board to help, which I'm grateful for.

Thank you

Mary Hills
Fellowship Coordinator

Greeters

We have been very fortunate to have had 9 greeters volunteer their time to welcome our parishioners and newcomers at St. George's, Sunday 10:30 services as well as other special services. To make the best use of our greeters' available time, we changed our greeter schedule this year in that we are only scheduling one greeter at each service. We then engaged other members of the congregation, at the time of the service, to assist in collecting the offering, thereby getting more members involved.

Thank you very much to St. George's Greeters for 2023 – Alex Bickerton, Susan Harris, Mary Hills, Marilyn Orr, Tracy Lenfesty, Allan Snook, Anne Snook, Elizabeth Haigh.

Respectfully submitted,

Palma Heming
Coordinator of Greeters

Plant Sale & More

The plant sale in early June brought a welcome splurge of colour to the hall. Once again the hall was filled with an abundance of beautiful plants, rounded out with books, collectibles, canteen and pantry items. Over the Friday



The 2023 Plant Sale in full swing

afternoon and Saturday morning sales, we managed to bring in \$4,000 for the parish. This was only possible due to the donations of plants, the many volunteers (over 30) and to all who came to enjoy and purchase. A promotion plan designed by Kara Holm certainly helped bring folk in. By noon Saturday, the few remaining plants fit easily into the back of one car, to be donated to Hope Blooms, our neighbours up Brunswick Street.

Many thanks go to Edmonds Landscaping for their donation of flowering annuals, herbs and vegetable transplants, as well as beautiful hanging baskets; plant donations were also received from Sue Zinck, Roseanne, Trudy Urquhart, Sue Rubin, Sarah

Stevenson, Fr. Nicholas, and others; Jordan designed the poster and helped with publicity; setup and takedown was done by Cameron Lowe, Will Hibbits and Zia Shirliffe (our summer student); Kieva Diamond and Elisabeth Stones did signage; Michal King and Dinah Savory set up and ran the collectibles tables; Trudy U. organized and sold gardening books; plant sellers included Judith Perry, Marilyn Holm, Elna Siebring, Zia S., Noreen, Julie Strong, Sue Rubin, and Marilyn Orr; James Rawding and Maxine Miles stocked and ran the Friday canteen; Liz Henderson and Leona Sweeney sold pantry items; Martin Yeatman and Betty Haigh counted cash, while Sarah Stevenson successfully piloted using an electronic 'square' for credit and debit payments.

Numerous folk, including the volunteers, have said how much they enjoyed the event; it was a time for good fellowship as well as an opportunity to find treasures for our gardens and homes. Thanks to all who helped out and to all who came and purchased items. The 2024 Plant Sale is scheduled for June 8th and 9th; hope to see you there.

Organizers in 2023: Marilyn Orr and Jacquie de Mestral

Pre-Christmas Craft Sale & Fundraiser

On the First Sunday in Advent nearly \$900 was raised for the Parish. This was made possible by the generous donations of crafts: knitting, weaving, wood working, jams, pickles, baking (thanks Fr. Jim Purchase!). Many thanks to all who donated, all who set up and worked the tables, and to all who came and helped us reduce the deficit!

Trudy Urquhart

Refugee Sponsorship Committee

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Refugee Sponsorship Committee. Our sponsored families remain in friendly contact with us as many settle into Canadian lives that take them closer to family members in Ontario and Alberta. We have one active application, and Jacquie de Mestral is in contact both with the co-sponsoring family and the diocesan refugee sponsorship coordinator, Sarah Cooper. We hope that this family will join us sooner than the two or so years we now believe to be the likely wait before their arrival. We have a slight savings at the moment, above and beyond the funds that are being held on behalf of the incoming family by the Diocese. We are grateful for the ongoing prayers for peace at St George's.

Susan Dodd

Soup Kitchen

History

Soup Kitchen is the brainchild of one of our parishioners, the late Mabel Wainwright, mother of Michal King. Students of the University of King's College served the first meal at Soup Kitchen in the fall of 1985. The aim of Soup Kitchen, in those days, was to supplement Hope Cottage (sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society) by serving supper on Saturdays. Originally, twenty-two organizations, including this parish, shared the responsibility of providing food.

Today, Soup Kitchen serves a hot meal from 4pm-5pm on Saturdays out of the parish hall and is a part of a network of meal programmes (weekday breakfast at Brunswick Street Mission, weekday lunch at Hope Cottage, weekday lunch at Souls Harbour, Sunday morning breakfast at St. Matt's, and Sunday Suppers at St. Andrew's) that, together, offer at least two meals per day, seven days per week on the Halifax peninsula.

Operations

Soup Kitchen served an estimated 6767 meals in 2023 (just about 100 more than in 2022), averaging 130 per week. After transitioning to a take-out only service in March of 2020, Soup Kitchen once again opened its doors for dine-in service in September 2023. Since opening up, it has been serving around 50-80 sit-down meals, and an additional 60-90 take-out meals each week. Offering the option to dine-in or take-out is more labour intensive than offering just take-out service, requiring at bare minimum nine pairs of helping hands each Saturday.

I am indebted to the many people who make Soup Kitchen happen every week: to Father Hatt, who always manages to rustle up an emergency crew when storms and bad weather force us to change our plans at the last minute; to Matthew Vanderkwaak for his leadership and for the tremendous amount of support he has offered in gathering helping hands and organizing team leader meetings (which should happen more often, and which I am hopeless at facilitating), and for forming and leading a Men's Group to cook for Soup Kitchen on those days when we have no outside group providing food; to Alex Bickerton and his group of friends who not only make up Team 4, but who shop *and* cook when I ask them to (as long as I don't ask too often; or ask them to cook for Christmas and Easter, like I did in 2022); to the team leaders who guide their teams every six weeks: Jim Rawding, Maxine Miles, Mary Hills, Will Hibbits, Matthew Vanderkwaak, Kieva Diamond, Alex Bickerton, Bonnie Matthews (and the whole crew at Bedford Baptist), Palma Heming, and Katie Carline; to the ~100 volunteers who show up to help over the course of each year; and to Ran, YouthNet's Program Coordinator, who makes sharing limited kitchen space easy.

Our partnering parishes and organizations in 2023 were:

Bedford Baptist	The Alpha Gamma Delta Alumni
St Paul's Anglican Church Youth Group	St Margaret of Scotland, Halifax
The Halifax Kin Club	St John's United, Fall River
St Peter's, Birch Cove	St Francis by the Lakes
All Saints' Cathedral	All Saints, Bedford
St Mark's Church, Halifax	The Parish of Fall River & Oakfield (formerly St. Thomas' Anglican Church, and St. Margaret's Anglican)

Feed Nova Scotia	
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St George's provided 17 meals on our own.

Funding

As it currently operates, the Soup Kitchen needs about \$12,000-\$15,000 annually to run comfortably (all of that money goes towards buying food, tea, and coffee, buying takeout supplies, and fixing kitchen appliances when they break - the coolers in the upstairs kitchen, installed around a decade ago, are beginning to show their age, requiring regular top-ups with refrigerant). At the end of 2023, there was just over \$5000 in the Soup Kitchen fund. Now that Feed Nova Scotia has transitioned back to offering primarily food support rather than cash funding, Soup Kitchen needs a source of regular cash donations to maintain a basic level of service and to continue offering both dine-in and take-out options.

Jordan Gracie
Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Trinity House

Trinity House is the community of parishioners who live in the former parish Rectory and follow a pattern of love structured by the rhythms of the Book of Common Prayer as they go about their busy lives. Their presence helps ground the parish in our spiritual life and provides support for the Rector. There were four residents at the start of January 2023: Susan Dodd, Fr Ranall Ingalls, Cameron Lowe (head sexton) and Bryan Rae (sexton). As the sextons, Cameron and Bryan conducted daily rounds of the parish property, picking up mail, ensuring the buildings were secure at night, and setting out parish garbage and recycling at the curb each week.

In June, Parish Council approved an updated a Covenant which renewed the vision of Trinity House and updated the roles of the residents. This is printed as an appendix to this report for the information of all parishioners. Under this new Covenant membership in the community runs from September to August each year and all residents reapply for membership each year.

Once a week, the House gathers for a community meal and meeting, an opportunity to deepen friendships and keep up with the business of the House. The new covenant eliminated the role of parish sexton and now all residents share equally in conducting rounds of the parish property, ensuring the buildings are locked and secure each night. They also ensure the Hall kitchen is stocked with clean linens each week (for YouthNet, Soup Kitchen, and Sunday Fellowship), and host various parish guests (e.g. more recently, Daniel Watson who was here for the Robert Crouse book launch). The House also hosts various fellowship events, including the annual Epiphany potluck and gatherings for YouthNet volunteers. Residents also lead in at least one daily office (i.e. Morning or Evening Prayer) per week. Current residents of the house include Susan Dodd (senior resident), Cameron Lowe (hospitality master), Morag Wilson (guest master), and Fr Ranall Ingalls (adjunct). Cameron also serves as assistant sacristan for the parish and undertakes the daily duties of caring for the altar and sanctuary and serves weekly at the Wednesday morning Holy Communion.

The kitchen renovation project which began the previous summer was finally completed this year with the painting of the overhead pipes in the kitchen and the installation of a new floor in the kitchen and downstairs washroom. We are grateful to Bryan Rae who refinished the wooden floor and painted his room in Trinity House before leaving

which has significantly improved the space. A major cleaning of the house was also conducted this summer and autumn by residents with help from the Rector and wardens.

Appendix A: Trinity House Covenant

A Covenant for Members of Trinity House

Parish of Saint George, Halifax

June 2023

The residents of Saint George's Rectory constitute a Christian community within the Parish of Saint George, Halifax, known as Trinity House. The Parish allows the community the use of the Rectory for the support of the worship and mission of the Parish. Drawn from a diversity of backgrounds, with gifts differing according to the Spirit, and at different stages in the spiritual life, the community is composed of Christians seeking to deepen their lives of prayer and witness to the Gospel.

While pursuing different vocations in the world, members of Trinity House will be united by their commitment to frame for themselves, in consultation with the Rector of Saint George's, a Rule of Life as outlined in the *Book of Common Prayer* (page 555). This includes:

"The regularity of attendance at public worship and especially at the Holy Communion."

Members will participate regularly in the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, including leading an Office in the church at least once per week, and attend the Holy Communion on Sundays and Feast Days;

"The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline."

Just as Jesus Christ regularly withdrew from community for times of prayer and contemplation, so too will members do the same. A quiet time will be provided in the house from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily during which members will have opportunity to undertake their own pattern of prayer, contemplation, and daily Scripture reading. Members will also undertake to observe the schedule of feasts and fasts as set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

"Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into one's everyday life."

Within the Trinity House community, members will endeavour to fulfil the Law of Christ (Galatians 6:2) by bearing one another's burdens and seeking both to forgive and be forgiven. This will mean taking an active role in the daily upkeep, tidiness, and management of the house; assisting with hospitality and communal meals; praying for other members of the community and seeking to live in friendship with them.

"The boldness of one's spoken witness to faith in Christ."

Members will seek to die to themselves and live unto Christ by upholding the daily rhythms of life in the community. This means extended absences (more than five days) from the community must be approved by the Rector. Members must also be ready at all times to "give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

"Personal service to the Church and community."

All members will be regular, active participants in at least one of the parish's ministries (e.g. altar guild, refugee sponsorship, soup kitchen). Members will equally share in conducting an evening round of the property to ensure buildings are secure. As a whole, the Community will also seek to undertake a common project to support the mission of the Parish in the neighbourhood.

"The offering of money according to one's means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas."

All members agree to contribute tithes and financial offerings, according to one's means, to support the costs of operating and maintaining Trinity House, including the purchase of common supplies (e.g. cleaning). This will be discussed and agreed upon by each member in consultation with the Rector. The Rectory remains the property of the Parish of Saint George and is provided to the community so long as it remains a support to the worship and mission of the Parish. Members of Trinity House do not have a tenancy relation to the Parish.

Structure of the Community

The Rector of Saint George's is the Spiritual Head of the Community, responsible for ordering its life and its connections with the larger parish. One member within the house will be designated as Senior Resident, whose role is to liaise with the Rector and, on behalf of the Rector, oversee the daily life of the Community, which includes convening a regular weekly business meeting of the community. All members will equally share in the cleaning and upkeep of the house in a schedule set forth by the Senior Resident. The Community shall also include a head for Hospitality, Fellowship, and Maintenance.

Membership

Just as Jesus Christ willingly became man and submitted himself to the suffering of the Cross, so members of Trinity House are committed to a willingness to be members of the community and bear one another's burdens. If at any point a member no longer has this willingness or if there is a change in a member's circumstances which prevent her or him from remaining in the Community, membership may be ended at any time without obligation or penalty. In addition, continued membership in the Trinity House Community is entirely at the discretion of the Rector, and the member may be asked to leave the community at any time. Membership in the Community will extend for a period of one year from August to August. Existing members who wish to remain in the Community must reapply to the Rector on an annual basis.

It must be noted that membership and residency in Trinity House is subject to an ongoing discernment process relative to the long-term use of the Rectory property for the mission of the Parish and the role of the Trinity House community within the parish. This Covenant is subject to ongoing review and development at the discretion of the Rector.

Application for Membership

All potential members must apply (typically by the end of June each year) to and be interviewed by the Rector who will decide who will join the community. The Rector may consult with the Parish wardens and other members of Trinity House community in deciding who will join. All members commit to an initial trial period of three months at which time they will meet with the Rector to discern whether they are called to full membership with the community and to address any concerns. Members also commit to meeting individually with the Rector twice per year (or more, as requested) to discuss their current commitment to life in Trinity House, the shape of their Rule of Life, and whether they will continue to be a member of the community.

Community Meals and Fellowship

Each week (preferably on Sundays), a community meal will be convened by the Fellowship Head so that members might come together in friendship and hospitality. All members are expected to contribute to the meal. Through these meals, the community will also seek to offer hospitality regularly to the parish and beyond, inviting parishioners, visiting clergy and preachers, and other guests when and as deemed appropriate.

Guest Room and Guests

For the purposes of hospitality, two guest rooms are kept available on the third floor of Trinity House for those visiting the Parish or Trinity House community, including retreat leaders, visiting clergy, or invited parish visitors, and for those who wish to spend time within the community, whether as a form of retreat or spiritual refreshment. All guests must be approved by the Rector. One member of the house will be the Hospitality Head who will be responsible for the use, cleanliness, and upkeep of the guest rooms. From time-to-time, the community may also be asked to host Parish gatherings (e.g. youth group, receptions, potlucks). The Hospitality Head will either convene or approve (after consultation and approval by the Rector) these events with the support of other members of the House.

Maintenance and Upkeep

Members are expected to keep the Rectory property in good repair, excepting regular wear-and-tear. A Maintenance Head will liaise regularly with the Chair of Property and other parish officials to communicate about the maintenance needs of the building, reporting deficiencies, and to ensure it is kept in good repair.

Appendix

All expectations of behaviour for members of Trinity House are built upon the conviction that normative rules for Christian living support and nurture our life in community. The following norms constitute basic requirements for life in community. Members willingly commit themselves in a spirit of humility, love, and obedience. These rules constitute an *ascesis*, a voluntary work of self-denial, for the sake of giving life to others and tempering unhealthy passions.

1. Excessive consumption of alcohol is to be avoided, and smoking is not permitted inside the residence. Illegal and recreational drugs are forbidden and their use is grounds for immediate termination of membership within Trinity House.
2. No overnight guests, unless, on occasion, visiting family and friends are approved by the Rector.
3. No parties or large gatherings, except as initiated by the Rector and/or wardens in consultation with other members of the Trinity House community.
4. Other aspects of community life (including the care of food, dishes, laundry etc.) will be subject to guidelines established from time-to-time by members in consultation with the Senior Resident. This must include weekly cleaning of the Rectory, including common areas, and prompt removal of garbage.
5. The presence of pets requires the permission of the Rector who may also consult other residents. Residents are responsible for cleaning up after their pets daily and any damages to the house or the property of other residents caused by their pet.



St. George's YouthNet

STAFF AND BOARD

This year we made great strides in adapting and modernizing our approach to working with youth in the neighbourhood. YouthNet personnel were dedicated to building relationships with the children and providing them exciting opportunities around Halifax.

Our team changed over the year, since we said goodbye to Sarah Sharp and Jonathan Werbitt, to whom we extend gratitude and good will for their contributions to our programs. We were delighted to welcome Ran Jacob, Program Coordinator, and Thomas Ly, Programs Assistant, to our full time positions, with Apolonia Perri as Executive Director. Jenna Clayton and Austin Jennings are coordinating the Teen Program activities with our older kids. Our best wishes and thanks to Nyon Butros Wayo, who was our Teen Program Coordinator for four years. In the summer, we had an additional three summer leaders, with Rachel Kimmelman as Wilderness Coordinator, Hana Morgan, and Grace Rowan-Quansah as Camp Coordinators.

Thank you as well to our Katimavik volunteers and to our student placements, Kaleb, Mélodie, Zachary, Jake, Noah, and Jeff.

This year our staff was trained by Dennis Adams, Chief Harmony Officer and Executive Director of LOVE Nova Scotia. Dennis and Apolonia worked hard to develop a stronger culture at YouthNet, by clarifying how we can work together to support the development of our participants and build healthy relationships between all staff, volunteers, and youth.

Current Board Members are Fr. Nicholas Hatt (Chair), Tracy Lenfesty, Jacquie de Mestral, Rosalind Curran, Valerie Bobyk, Jamie Angus, and Rotimi Adebayo (Treasurer). Thank you to our Board of Directors for their dedication and care for Saint George's YouthNet.

A big thank you to all YouthNet personnel, to all those who are dedicated to building positive relationships with the youths in our city, and who participate in our supportive network for the community.

LUNCH PROGRAM

In the lunch program we are still serving 36 hearty meals to kids at Joseph Howe School every day. The lunch program is made possible by those who contribute their time and effort to help us prepare culturally appropriate meals for the kids. Thank you to Palma Heming, Dave Deveau, Lauren Boutilier, Leslie Hallett, Anna Paton, Mary Hills, Susan Harris, Neil and Patricia Robertson, Cameron Lowe, Iona Taylor, Livy Lyle, Mehreen Dillon, LF Bakery, Randy's Pizza, Dominoes Pizza, and Feed Nova Scotia, for their contributions to the lunch program.

In November of 2023, YouthNet worked with Nourish Nova Scotia and the Loaded Ladle Ltd to provide enough lunches for all the kids at Joseph Howe School. Once a week, we've prepared 250 portions of healthy lunch options to assist the school in moving towards a universal lunch program which will provide daily lunches to all the students. Thank you very much to Allie Lum, Alicia, Isaac, and Claire.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

This year in the after-school program, we did many exciting things in our time together. The after-school program runs every school day, from the dismissal bell at 2:40pm, until 5pm. We have up to 22 kids ages 7-12 in the program. We organized a mix of educational programs and opportunities with the usual free time and informal activities in the Parish Hall. We continued our valued music and dance program at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, where two kids were able to start private lessons with their instructors. We went ice skating at the OVAL, we visited Ataraxy Farm for a wellness field trip and beach day, we did a five-week boxing program at Queensberry Boxing Studio, we did a swimming program at Centennial Pool, we did a five-week fitness workshop with Tempest Total Fitness, we made some Halloween masks with a local leather worker. We also resumed our tutoring program with the students at King's! We visited local museums, participated in team building and fun activities, prepared meals and desserts together in the Parish Kitchen, and played many games in the hall, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for the kids in our program.

This work would not be possible without our volunteers and Junior Leaders, who connect with the youth and engage them in the activities, helping to cultivate a sense of belonging and social security. Thank you to all our volunteers; Syed, Nick, Mehreen, Megan, Emy, Sonny, Rosie, Annie, Tanuj, Lara, Morgan, Devon, Jordane, Luca, Eli, Haley, Frances, Lulu, Cindy, Justin, Lucy, Jaydn, Zoe, Cassandra, Cece, Tasha, Iona, Aimee, Jenna, Liam, Joseph, Radin, Gabby, Sam, and Sophie. We also rely on and want to thank all our instructors, the Deans of MCPA, King's and Chartwells staff, all our partners, guests, and especially to the parents, families, community members, and the Joseph Howe School teachers and administration.

Thank you to the Parish for sharing their space with YouthNet. We have made a great effort to pay attention to the needs of those who share the Hall and the Kitchen, and to improve our use of the space. Thanks to Jordan, the Wardens, Andrea and Fr. Benjamin, and to Fr. Hatt. Thank you for continuing to open the doors to the neighbourhood kids, and for continually learning with us how to be involved and engaged together in community.

The after-school program would not be possible without the financial support and contributions from the Halifax Youth Foundation, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Culture, Heritage, Tourism, and Communities, the Halifax Regional Community Health Board, United Way, the Bill Black Foundation, private donors, and Feed Nova Scotia.

TEEN PROGRAM

YouthNet engages with about 25 teenagers in the neighbourhood, and up to 15 of them come to our teen nights in the Hall. This year the teen program did a lot of cooking workshops, and we tried some field trips with the youth to the lakes and Point Pleasant. We also went sledding, we went bowling during March break, we visited the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, we went rollerskating... but mostly the teens really enjoy being in the Parish Hall, hanging out playing basketball and board games. So thank you St. George's for accommodating the teens, and giving them a free space to be themselves and feel comfortable twice a week. Thanks especially to our staff for keeping the teen program going, and to the financial contributions of the Segelberg Trust, the Ted Rogers Community Fund, and the Mental Health Foundation.

JUNIOR LEADERS PROGRAM

The Junior Leaders program is a preemployment program that encourages the Teen program participants to be leaders in the After-school program. This program is a great way to encourage the youth to use their natural gifts

and leadership abilities to connect with the younger kids as mentors. This program really helps us foster the community based atmosphere by cultivating the social support network at YouthNet. This year, we trained Junior Leaders in a series of short workshops at YouthNet. This program is made possible by the Halifax Youth Foundation, and the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM AND SUMMER CAMPS

This year in the wilderness program we continued the tradition of going for a five-day canoe trip in the backcountry of Kejimikujik. Our Wilderness Coordinator, Rachel, was great at encouraging youth to be aware of their environment, to be present and responsible to the Land, and to have fun! YouthNet summer staff also brought two groups of 12 younger youth to St. Anne's Camp for two nights each. Then we prepared the teens for their camping trips by reviewing wilderness skills and safety with Parks Canada staff at Learn to Camp. We camped at York Redoubt and learned how to canoe at Shubie Park on Lake Charles. Thanks to Aaron Shenkman for his continued support of the Wilderness Program. We did not go to Cape Chignecto as we had last year, but instead we went on a modest hike in Musquodoboit Harbour, the Admiral Lake Loop, then we slept overnight at Porter's Lake Campground and visited Ataraxy Farm the next day. Since the trip was simpler and shorter, we were able to take more youth. Thank you to all the drivers who helped us get the kids to beautiful destinations across Nova Scotia. This year, the wilderness program was made possible by funding from the SKILL Provincial Wage Subsidy, Parks Canada Nature Access Grant, the Flemming Foundation, and those who donate in the seasonal appeals.

The summer day camps were lots of fun with Grace, Ran, Hana, Sarah, Thomas, and Apolonia leading great activities based on the weekly themes. We collaborated on a canvas painting of the Round Church in Art and Mindfulness Camp, we worked with SuperNOVA during Ocean Camp, we played DDR and danced during Music and Dance camp, we visited the Prince of Wales tower and spent a day at Point Pleasant with Parks Canada during Sports Camp, we enjoyed the new pool at the Commons, we went on a field trip to Shubie Park, we went to the Escape Room, the Dalhousie Planetarium, the Discovery Centre... and we celebrated a great summer together at Extravajam! These camps would not be possible without Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy program.

Respectfully yours,

Apolonia Perri

Please continue to pray for us.

THANK YOU

Property

Property Committee

Active on Property in 2023 were Allan Snook, Ian Porter, Jordan Gracie (ad hoc member), and Jacquie de Mestral (Property Chair).

The mandate of the Property Committee is to be responsible for all parish buildings and grounds. This includes general upkeep and maintenance, overseeing renovations and repairs to all buildings, ensuring safety regulations are kept, providing regular reports to Parish Council, an annual budget to the budget committee, and this report.

Throughout this year, as so faithfully in the past, Edmonds Landscaping maintained our grounds, both at the Round Church and the Little Dutch Church, for which we are very grateful.

Two of our buildings, the Round Church (built 1800) and the Little Dutch (Deutsch) Church (started 1756) and Graveyard (1752) are designated National Historic Sites of Canada. The old rectory, now called Trinity House, was built in 1838, and the Parish Hall in 1887, to be used as a school, with the Annex added in 1906. Caring for these old wooden buildings takes time and money; in 2023, 57% of total Parish expenses (\$801,500) were spent on property matters (\$456,638). This figure is elevated from the more usual 45-50% due to the wall restoration project at the Little Dutch Church, now complete.

Also important is the cleaning of our Church and Hall, week in, week out, throughout the year. Our faithful cleaners are much appreciated; James Rawding weekly in the Round Church (with help from Josh or Justin from Edmonds), Andrea Lee in the main hall several times a week, and Richard Kent who cleans the hall and kitchen area after Soup Kitchen Saturday to be ready for fellowship on Sunday. Many thanks.

Allan and Ian are always ready to step in for the small, everyday jobs that don't require professional help but make an enormous difference for the running of the buildings. Thank you both. To have other handy folk on call with a bit of time to spare would be much appreciated. Vital to upkeep of these buildings are the scheduled annual maintenance tasks. Our Parish Administrator, Jordan, ensures that these tasks happen on a regular basis, as shown on the attached list of Regular Inspections and Maintenance. Jordan also, as person on site, interacts with the contractors and workmen, as well as lending support to the committee in other ways. Without his assistance, the role of property chair would be much more challenging.

Being property chair these past five years has been rewarding; we have been able to tackle some large projects, as well as look after the necessary day to day maintenance of our buildings, for the benefit, hopefully, of generations of parishioners and visitors to come. However, after five years as chair I feel it is now time for me to step back to allow others to take over. I'll be around for consultation but do not feel able to keep up the pace needed to adequately care for our buildings. Please contact the wardens if you are interested in providing stewardship in this area.

Highlights of work done in 2023:

Round Church, National Historic Site of Canada

Work on the lower nave windows has been ongoing these past few years. The lower sashes are now all openable, and storm windows hinged to permit air flow. With higher summer temperatures and humidity, increased air movement will assist in the ventilation of the church, both for the comfort of parishioners, and for the wellbeing of the building. Several window boxes needed replacement, as well as some sills, jams and storms. This work was carried out by Parsons Heritage Works, the company who previously rebuilt the sanctuary windows and storms. Also rebuilt and made openable was one of the vestry window boxes.



A south-side clerestory window with drywall removed



The skirting boards around the chancel are replaced

Water leakage inside the building is being monitored. The compromised caulking around the perimeter of the asphalt platform below the cupola which had permitted some water entry was removed and replaced. Leakage around the upper dome gallery windows has caused concern. It would appear that flashing around the windows has failed in places, probably due to weathering, especially on the south side of the building. Removal and reinstallation of all these windows will be required; how best to proceed is still under consideration. In the short term, all visible holes have been sealed.

New gutters with leaf protectors have been installed on the Brunswick Street entrance way. The rotting exterior skirting boards around the chancel were replaced. Some unexpected costs included the replacement of the 25-year-old air compressor for the sprinkler system and repairs to the chandelier.

**Projected work for 2024*

The chancel floor is badly in need of a thorough sanding and refinishing job. One of the storm windows on the second floor needs replacing. A heat pump has been ordered for installation in the crypt. This will hopefully help with dehumidification and air circulation in the summer.

Parish Hall

Work in the hall this year included adding usable storage area under the Maitland Street stage (thanks to Terry from Edmonds), and a new exterior door outside the machine room with flashing added overhead to divert water away (again, thanks to Edmonds). Some painting was done in the upper hall area.

We are pleased to report that shared use of the upstairs main kitchen space is now working well.

Advantage was taken of the only days in the year when the hall is not in use, between Christmas and New Year's, to refinish the main hall floor, thanks to former warden Nathan McAllister and family members, all at no cost to the Parish. While one day a new floor may be part of the Deck the Hall plans, in the meantime we now have a high quality hard finished surface, much easier to keep clean.

We had several unplanned events in the hall this past year. The cold snap last February resulted in burst pipes in the machine room. Fortunately, the flooding was discovered early, thanks to the presence of a workman in the music room. Damaged dry wall needed replacing, as well as a burnt out furnace pump. The pipes in question have been wrapped in insulation. Heat in this part of the building will need further monitoring once the new Music Room is in use.

Our security system was upgraded, with better video coverage, after a break in through windows on the lower Sunday school level. This permitted seeing when the latest break in occurred in the new year and what items the individual involved stole from the hall.

**Projected work for 2024*

The tiles in the Sunday school room are lifting which creates a safety hazard. Replacement of the flooring is required. Emergency lighting should be installed in the windowless passageway between the guild room and office area, and in the outer office area itself. Gutters are being repaired, cleaned and leaf guards installed.

Trinity House

The lower section of the hardwood banister in the house was repaired. We are pleased to report that the renovations in the Trinity House kitchen are almost complete; the new flooring was installed late December.

**Projected work for 2024*

The skirting board on the Maitland Street side needs replacing and repainting, and a gutter should be installed. Some lighting issues remain to be dealt with in the kitchen and adjacent hallway. The third floor fan needs a wall controller in order that it can easily be utilized to promote ventilation in summer and heat circulation in the winter months.

Little Dutch (Deutsch) Church and Graveyard, National Historic Site of Canada



From left to right: John Scott, *Chief Mason*, Mike Saunders, *Archaeologist*, Syd Dumaresq, *Architect*, Susann Myers, *Consulting Conservation Architect*, Golnaz Karimi, *Built Heritage Advisor, Parks Canada*, and Erin Haliburton, *Student Architect*

This year saw the completion of a project ongoing since 2018 to restore the 250 year old dry stone walls surrounding the LDC graveyard. After the initial wall assessment, we were able to raise funds in 2019 for the Brunswick St. wall restoration. For the more complicated and extensive restoration of the Gerrish Street retaining walls, it was necessary to split the work over two years; major funding was obtained from Parks Canada and the work accomplished in 2022 and 2023. The same excellent team was used each year with masons (a dozen individuals overall under chief mason John Scott) of Dry Stone Canada, and local archaeologists (led by Mike Sanders of CRM Group, Bedford), heritage architect Syd Dumaresq (S P Dumaresq Architects Ltd, Halifax) and Susann Myers, heritage specialist, Halifax. Phase 1, in August 2022 saw the dismantling and rebuilding of the westerly section between the church and gate; Phase 2, between mid-August to mid-September, 2023, included the dismantling and rebuilding of the easterly section, including the



The repaired bannister

1950s extension, and the finishing with horizontal and vertical coping stones of the entire wall.

The projected costs of phase 2 were \$350,000. The total bill came around \$315,000. Of this Parks Canada again funded us for 50% of costs, from the National Cost-sharing Program for Historic Places. Grants were also received, as in 2022, from HRM Community Grants Program, HRM Councilor's discretionary fund, NS Built Heritage Grants, Halifax Foundation, and NS Heritage Trust. The remaining monies came from carried over funds raised but

not needed in 2022, further donations from parishioners and other interested individuals, with approx. \$6,000 remaining, to be covered by the Parish. Total project costs, Phases 1 & 2, came to ~\$455,000.



Left: The Gerrish Street wall prior to restoration. Note the missing stones and mortar from previous attempts at repair.



Right: The partially deconstructed wall.



Left (foreground): the deconstructed 1950's extension to the Gerrish Street Wall. Until the early 20th century, a house stood on that spot. It is thought that the wall extension (added in the mid-20th century) was built on top of the foundation, hence the setback between the two wall sections.



Right: the reconstructed extension. Note the difference in the colour of the stone, clearly distinguishing the original, 18th century wall (darker stone) from the modern extension (lighter stone)

Our work on these historic dry stone walls has not gone unnoticed. I felt honoured to be sponsored to attend the National Trust of Canada's 50th Anniversary Conference in Ottawa last October as a Heritage Volunteer. The conference theme was Transforming Heritage; for three days sessions addressed the questions of reconciliation, affordable housing, accessibility, climate change, social justice and economic resilience. The participants included professionals, craftspeople, heritage advocates, developers, planners, heritage site operators, academics, students and volunteers. The highlight of the conference for me was attending a talk in the Chateau Laurier ballroom on the restoration of our LDC graveyard walls given by head stone mason on the project, John Scott of Dry Stone Canada, to over 500 conference participants.

**Projected work for 2024*



Jacquie and John Scott at the 2023 National Trust Conference in Ottawa

Some of the brick foundation needs re-pointing; this was last done over 25 years ago. The floor needs repainting. Flaking plaster over most of the windows should be monitored in case this reveals problems with humidity. It would be prudent to replace the 25 year old fan that runs continuously when the church is not in use.

Work on a few shutters in 2023 led to an examination of all the LDC windows; some window boxes and shutters need repairs and/or replacement. Also, at present only one window is openable; more windows with operable sashes would allow for better ventilation and cooling in summer. These restorations will be expensive; grants should be sought for this work.

A list of identified issues and property tasks in our four parish buildings follows.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquie de Mestral
Property Chair

Appendix A: Property Issues, Jan 2024

N.B. Shaded sections will require professional expertise

Building	Location	Problem	Solution	
RC, interior	Dome	water damage on ribs	remove plaster, paint make openable window, safety ring, replace flashing	
	3rd floor windows	leaking	refinish?, carpet?	
	Front landing (floor)	badly worn, 15' x 10 1/2'	continue to monitor	
	Memorial room	repaired plaster above door window can open, but needs stay	make stay	
	Memorial room	cracks in plaster repaired	monitor repair job	
	Nave ceiling, near window #5	badly scratched in places	faux pew restoration	
	Nave pews	noisy	insulate ductwork	
	Nave AHU	showing signs of wear	sand, varnish	
	Chancel floor	marking floor	replace felting	
	Chancel chairs, choir desks	carpet in bad shape	remove, restore floor	
	Vestry	in poor shape	replace (Parsons)	
	storm window no.15, 2nd floor	poor ventilation	install heat pump	
	crypt	poorly lit	put photocell controls on exterior lights	
	RC, exterior	Brunswick St. entrance way	missing on part of front entranceway	remove old, replace, add gutter guards
	Hall	Gutters	floor tiles missing	replace, remove
Sunday School room, south end		worn floor tiles	replace	
Upstairs washrooms		paint on floor, etc	remove	
Upstairs washrooms		exposed	metal security bars	
Ground level windows		need annual cleaning	clean	
Gutters		leaks water over windows	replace	
Gutter, south side		grease trap difficult to clean	can't relocate, annual cleaning	
Kitchen			establish P.O. letter/parcel box	
Office entrance		unlit	install emergency lighting	
Guild room hallway		unlit	install emergency lighting	
Outer office area		unlit	fix	
LDC	South entranceway to hall	missing newel post, broken newel post	replace, repair	
	S. stairway up to hall	oil cloth removed, rough surface	paint	
	Raised sanctuary floor	some rotten sills, broken shutter	do necessary restoration (Parsons)	
	windows/shutters	some loose, mortar missing	get quote (Coastal?, Jen C.?)	
	brick foundation	works OK but old	get inspected	
fan	ceiling over interior windows	some peeling plaster	monitor	

TH	Kitchen	WiFi apparatus needs securing	install housing (Tim C.)
	Kitchen	poorly lit	purchase, install better chandelier
	2nd floor rooms	paint patchy	repaint
	3rd floor fan	missing chain?	install accessible switch
	Smoke detectors	working?	replace batteries annually
	Roof skirting on Maitland	peeling paint, rot?	scrap & paint, replace board if necessary
	Gutter on Maitland	not present	install
	Lower bathroom fan	working?	check

Appendix B: Routine inspections and maintenance items

Round Church

Task	Frequency	Building	Who does this?	Phone Number
Emergency Light Test	Annually	Round Church	Don Brenton's	1 800 296 8997
Fire Alarm Test	Annually	Round Church	D&L Engineering	302 429 3790
Fire Extinguisher Inspection	Annually	Round Church	Don Brenton's	1 800 296 8997
Boiler Cleaning	Annually	Round Church	Bremner's OR Barracuda Heating	902 453 4800 OR 902 576 3020
Sprinkler System Inspection	Annually	Round Church	K&D Pratt	902 852 1276 (office) / 902 830 2080 (cell)
Sprinkler pipe interior inspection	Every 5 years	Round Church	K&D Pratt	902 852 1276 (office) / 902 830 2080 (cell)
Sprinkler System Flushing	Based on inspection result	Round Church	K&D Pratt	902 852 1276 (office) / 902 830 2080 (cell)
Backflow Prevention Device Testing	Annually	Round Church	Atlantic Backflow Specialists	902 499 7748
AHU maintenance and filter change	Annually	Round Church (Below chancel, in crypt, and in gallery accessed by main staircase closet on 2 nd level)	Black & McDonald	902 468 3101
Wash outdoor interpretive panels with mild soapy water	Twice annually	Round Church Lawn	Property Committee	

Parish Hall

Task	Frequency	Building	Who does this?	Contact Number
AHU maintenance and filter change	Annually	Parish Hall Annex, basement	Black & McDonald	902 468 3101
Emergency Light Test	Annually	Parish Hall	Don Brenton's	1 800 296 8997
Fire Alarm Test	Annually	Parish Hall	D & L Engineering	302 429 3790
Fire Extinguisher Inspection	Annually	Parish Hall	Don Brenton's	1 800 296 8997
Boiler Cleaning	Annually	Parish Hall	Bremner's OR Barracuda Heating	902 453 4800 OR 902 576 3020
Fridge and Freezer maintenance	Annually	Parish Hall, upper kitchen	Nagle Refrigeration	902 497 7611
Dishwasher maintenance	Annually	Parish Hall, upper kitchen	Art Penny	902 497 7611

Trinity House

Task	Frequency	Building	Who does this?	Contact Number
Boiler Cleaning	Annually	Trinity House	Bremner's OR Barracuda Heating	902 453 4800 OR 902 576 3020
Fire Extinguisher Inspection	Annually	Trinity House	Don Brenton's	1 800 296 8997
Emergency Lights	Annually	Trinity House	Don Brenton's	1 800 296 8997

Little Dutch Church

Task	Frequency	Building	Who does this?	Contact Number
Fire Extinguisher Inspection	Annually	Little Dutch Church	Property Committee	N/A
Wash outdoor interpretive panels with mild soapy water	Twice annually	Little Dutch Church	Property Committee	N/A

Appendix C: Utilities Consumption

The average price we pay for natural gas decreased by around 7% in 2023 compared to 2022. Consumption remained mostly consistent year over year, with the exception of the hall, which consumed the equivalent of an additional tank of oil over the course of the heating season. Fuel consumption in the hall is *very* responsive to the outdoor temperature. As the gradual project to insulate the hall building proceeds, we should expect to see consumption in the hall become less volatile year-over-year.

In 2023, the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board approved a restructuring of natural gas rates and an increase in electricity rates. The new rates came into effect on January 1, 2024. The restructuring of the gas bill increases the fixed monthly cost increasing the volume discount (ie. the more fuel you burn, the cheaper each additional unit of fuel). At our levels of consumption, this should amount to either a small increase in cost or be cost-neutral. In spite of the massive increase in overall natural gas prices in 2022, it remains the most cost-effective fuel to use to heat the parish's buildings.

All of our utility bills are comprised of a fixed cost (usually a monthly connection fee) and a variable cost (the price per unit consumed), therefore the average price that we pay varies between our buildings. Note: the Financial Statements record expenses on the statement or billing date, whereas the numbers below have been prorated to the

end of the calendar year. Because of this, the figures do not exactly match. Here are the last four years of consumption data:

Fuel Oil and Natural Gas Consumption in Gigajoules

	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Consumption (GJ)	Average Price (\$/GJ)	Consumption (GJ)	Average Price (\$/GJ)	Consumption (GJ)	Average Price (\$/GJ)	Consumption (GJ)	Average Price (\$/GJ)
Parish Hall ²⁰	368.09	\$17.46	449.57	\$18.54	425.55	\$26.52	462.89	\$24.33
Trinity House ²¹	117.89	\$16.53	154.22	\$19.23	125.94	\$27.89	126.24	\$26.04
Round Church ²²	467.95	\$16.48	375.32	\$17.27	357.53	\$23.91	356.54	\$24.36

Fuel Oil and Natural Gas Consumption in equivalent litres of fuel oil (this is the same information as in the chart above, but in units that may be more familiar to residential homeowners).

	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Consumption (L)	Average Price (\$/L)	Consumption (L)	Average Price (\$/L)	Consumption (L)	Average Price (\$/L)	Consumption (L)	Average Price (\$/L)
Parish Hall	9607	\$0.6690	11734	\$0.7105	11107	\$1.0161	12081	\$0.9322
Trinity House	3077	\$0.6333	4025	\$0.7367	3287	\$1.0686	3295	\$0.9977
Round Church	12214	\$0.6313	9796	\$0.6617	9332	\$0.9161	9306	\$0.9333

Assuming a conversion factor of 26.1 L of fuel oil per GJ

Electricity Consumption²³

	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Consumption (kWh)	Average Price (\$/kWh)	Consumption (kWh)	Average Price (\$/kWh)	Consumption (kWh)	Average Price (\$/kWh)	Consumption (kWh)	Average Price (\$/kWh)
Parish Hall	36631	\$0.1614	31554	\$0.1635	45186	\$0.165	45295	\$0.1676
Trinity House	8953	\$0.1726	7959	\$0.1764	7214	\$0.1802	8284	\$0.1873
Round Church	10388	\$0.1706	11347	\$0.1715	12850	\$0.1723	11143	\$0.1811

20 Most of the Parish Hall is heated with natural gas, with the exception of the Counters' Room, upper washrooms, and YouthNet's PlaySpace, which are heated with electricity.

21 Trinity House is heated with a combination of natural gas (ground floor and 2nd floor) and electricity (3rd floor).

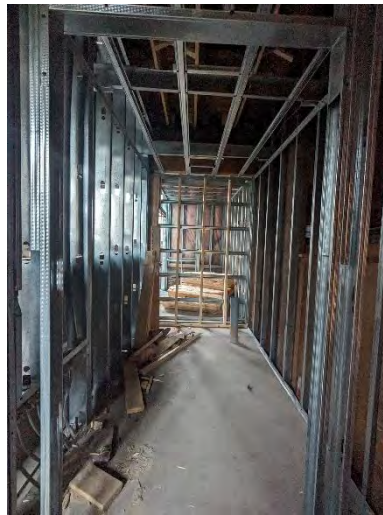
22 The Round Church was heated with a combination of fuel oil and electricity until September 2020, when it converted to natural gas and electricity.

23 Excluding the Little Dutch Church, which draws a minimal amount of power.

Deck the Hall

Deck the Hall 2012-2023

A ten-year project to put new life into the parish hall and fit it to serve as the social centre of Saint George's and the home of its outreach programs for many generations to come.



The following is a letter from C Savoury summarizing his work in the Music Room.

Since I commenced work on the music room project in August, I have to date worked a total of 80 hours give or a couple.

Here is the January update for the ongoing work in the music room space since the last update dated November 21st.

Things are moving along rather nicely I feel, with the bulk of the framing nearly completed as detailed below:

1. *The framing of the kitchenette is now complete including ceiling support. Next step here is to plan for the electrical and plumbing needs of the space and I have a mental plan for the mentioned services which will be hashed out in the coming weeks. Backing support for cabinetry will be installed.*
2. *The accessible washroom is now fully framed. Electrical and plumbing needs here are also being contemplated. Further, due to the requirements for accessibility, a fair amount of inner wall support for things like grab bars,*

- and sink support will be put in place (accessibility requires a wall mounted sink)*
3. *The Hall Service area passageway access is now completely framed and ready.*
 4. *The Closet on the opposite side of the hall service corridor door is now fully framed with the exception of the foundation wall. It is a well-proportioned storage room with lots of space for the storage of folding tables, mobile carts for stacking chairs and there will be a shelf inside for holding incidentals as well as a power outlet.*
 5. *ROXUL Insulation has been placed between the floor joists in the area to separate the storage rooms from the music room with a small amount to drywall installed to facilitate framing the curved feature wall.*
 6. *Curved wall is now framed.*
 7. *Measurements were taken of the high windows of the sanctuary/chancel in the church in order to provide adequate room for the possible future installation of the old stained glass window salvaged after the 1994 fire. Said window would need significant restoration...*
 8. *All ceilings in the space are now fully supported.*
 9. *Light trough framing under the new steel I-beams is partially completed. When the major bulk of the drywall is installed, the detail to finish this look will happen then.*
 10. *As per a conversation I had with JM, the electrical boxes were remounted to the framing work along the outside walls with wood stud placed between the device box and the metal stud to enable the use of said boxes without needing to replace them. They were also set level with each other around the perimeter of the room. The insulation and vapour barrier was repaired as needed.*
 11. *Tidied up a few small framing loose ends.*
 12. *Started installing the metal trims to the windows for later drywall finishing.*
 13. *The columns near the curved wall are framed to match the profile of the above light trough and the thermostat has been relocated to be out of the sunlight and direct line of sight from the main body of the room.*

The following items are still to be done:

1. *Finish installing metal trims to windows for drywall finishing*
2. *Frame the ceiling vaulting details*
3. *Vestibule. It is my intention to not complete this particular section until the floor and door leading from the hallway are replaced. A future meeting of the DtH committee is necessary to move this item forward.*

I have incurred NO expenses to date.

There will be an expense related to sound absorption material of roughly \$3000 but this is still a few weeks away. ROXUL is the desired material as it will provide the greatest degree of noise reduction from activity above and has the added benefit of being fireproof. It is worthwhile to note that total sound cancellation is practically impossible, however, the measures I have implemented will mitigate the undesired creaks and bangs and squeaks to negligible levels.

That said, with the hall above effectively used as a gymnasium, nothing short of a six inch thick solid concrete floor will eliminate all sound penetration. I do have access to an amount of surplus acoustic treatment that can be installed later should the need arise.

A DtH committee meeting will need to be called once the framing is substantially completed, which I think will be relatively soon. We will need to begin to sort out getting a plumber in to do their rough-in work as well as an electrician to plan our needs. It is in our best interest to consider a ductless mini split heat pump. It is not necessary to install one right away, however we need to plan for that possibility by running any electrical services such a device may require. I will personally meet with the plumbers and electricians on site along with JM when the time comes to sort out details.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Jamieson
Chair, Deck the Hall

Nominations 2024

Leaving, with many thanks for their years of service:

Kieva Diamond, Warden	Trudie Urquhart, Parish Council	Jan Connors, Synod Delegate
Nicholas Lucciola, Parish Council	David Sheppard, Parish Council	
Emily Harnish, Parish Council	Nadine Savoury, Parish Council	

Position

Warden

Warden

Warden

Treasurer

Secretary to Parish Council

Parish Council Members-at-large
(maximum of 12)

Returning

Tracy Lenfesty (2 of 2)

Matthew Vanderkwaak (2 of 3)

Jacque de Mestral (3 of 3)

Kara Holm (3 of 3)

Cameron Lowe (3 of 3)

Elisabeth Stones (2 of 3)

John Mark Dawson (2 of 3)

Mark Hilchie (2 of 3)

Nominated

Marilyn Orr (1 of 1)

Sarah Stevenson (elected annually)

William Hibbitts (1 of 3)

Brian Mann (1 of 3)

Tanya Welton (1 of 3)

Andrew Thorne (1 of 3)

Non-Parish Council Positions

Regional Council Delegates

Synod Delegates (2)

Rector and Synod Delegates

Cameron Lowe (3 of 4)

Andrew Thorne (1 of 2)

Youth Synod Delegate

Financial Reviewers for 2023 (2)

Mark Hilchie

Stan Salsman

Leadership Responsibilities within the Parish (appointed):

Honourary Assistant

Father Peter Harris

Spiritual Development

Marilyn Orr

Property Committee

Committee to be formed

Deck the Hall Committee

Meghan Jamieson

Refugee Sponsorship Committee

Susan Dodd

Finance Committee

Sarah Stevenson

Altar Guild

Sacristans

Sacristan

Nadine Savory

Assistant Sacristan

Cameron Lowe

Head Server

Scott Connors

Greeters

Palma Heming

Parish Librarian

Trudie Urquhart

Envelope Secretary

Judith Fisher

Counters

Elizabeth Haigh

Hospitality Team Leader

Mary Hills

Christmas Outreach

Kim Lickers

Safer Church

Emily Harnish

Submitted by Nominations Committee: Rector, Wardens Tracy Lenfesty and Matthew Vanderkwaak, Palma Heming

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, and Funerals in 2023

Baptisms

Felix Oscar Stones

Keith Warren Burke

Robert Francis Bird Vanderkwaak

The O'Connor Children (3)

Ruby Lynn McKelvie Edmonds

Confirmations

Coryn Stehouwer

Marriages

None

Deaths and Funerals

Melvin and Thelma Boutilier

Walter Kemp

Irma Brown

Pauline Himmelman

Many thanks to those who helped to get this Annual Report printed:

To all those who took time to write the reports in this document,

To Susan Harris for proofreading,

To Tracy Lenfesty and to all those who catalogue the life of this parish in photographs, and who have kindly allowed their work to be included in this document,

To the Rector, Wardens, members of Parish Council,

To the Treasurer, Sarah Stevenson, and the members of the Budget Committee for their work on the budget, thoughtful time spent on revisions, and their commitment to carry the Parish forward in good financial health.