

June 19 — National Indigenous People’s Day and the Second Sunday after Pentecost

We were honoured with Presider and Preacher, The Most Rev. Anne Germond Bishop of Algoma and Moosonee Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.



New Song, the Singers (special guest Pastor David Knudson joined in)



Archbishop Anne presented Garth O'Neill with an orange feather created by a Diocesan Elder for his work in the Diocese.



Archbishop Anne new est fan Evelyn.



Coffee Hour with members of the LSSR.



August 2022 Wardens Notes

Hello Gathering Table friends. Happy summer!

We trust and hope that you are doing well, and are enjoying the warm weather. It has been quite lovely and seems the more so after the long winter and spring.

It has been “steady as she goes” at Gathering Table. We have been given direction from the Diocese, effective June 24 that all in-person activities of any size are allowed. However, safe practices developed during the COVID-19 pandemic should continue, such as:



- Mask wearing; this is up to the individual, and is supported and encouraged (masks and hand sanitizer are available at the church)
- Self-screening for symptoms before coming to church for worship or other activities, and staying home if feeling ill
- Online meetings should be used where possible, as this not only allows safe distancing, but saves time and gas

“Steady as she goes” also includes: Our Concurrence Committee has been hard at work; our Lay Readers have been officiating and preaching most Sundays, with the Rev. Gordon Holroyd or the Rev. Nancy Ringham presiding at Communion services about once per month; Donna and Ted Hamill have often provided live music, and our Tech team carries on, ensuring that the worship services are broadcast each Sunday and recorded so that folks may see them at other times. We have had a number of coffee hours and quite enjoyed connecting in person with each other.

It was great to have Nancy and George join us for worship and coffee time on August 7 while they were here on vacation from Massachusetts. They advised that their Southwick Episcopal church has been praying for us – for the right incumbent to join us. Isn't that great?

Our Food Cupboard ministry continues each second and fourth Sunday, and while the

children's camps had to be cancelled, Camp Gitchigomee had a Family Retreat weekend and a well attended 75 +2 year anniversary on the August long weekend. Great to see these missions carrying on.

We wish to say “thanks so much” to all of our faithful regular donors. In particular, the monthly EOP donations that have been our main source of income since the pandemic restrictions kicked in. Our Sunday offerings have decreased substantially, however, we are still in the black because our expenses have been low without having to pay an interim or incumbent. This will change, however, once we have a new incumbent. We are still hoping to roll out our Stewardship plan this fall.

Our “physical plant” – the buildings and yards- are continuing to be maintained mostly by volunteers: cutting the grass, doing minor repairs, planting flowers and trimming vegetation. We recently received a couple of grants to improve security which have been / will be put towards better exterior lighting, remote (office) opening of the driveway (red) doors, and five new windows for the parish hall. Per the approved Vestry motion, the Cameron Street rectory is up for sale, and as of this writing, there is an accepted offer with conditions that need to be removed by the end of August. With Diocesan approval, we hope to use a portion of the funds from the sale of the rectory to demolish the church house next to the church building. Sadly, it seems that a number of folks have been using the back yard for nefarious activities and leaving their messes behind. We have asked the police and Superior Points to make regular stops to check on things. So a word to the wise if you are doing yard maintenance, please ensure you have a “buddy”.

We give thanks for the life and witness of Dorothy Cook a long time member of St. John's – whose funeral was held on August 12. We give thanks also for the recent birth of Elliott Sirkka Pyne, daughter of Sarah and Alex Pyne, and baby sister to Emerson and Evelyn.

Lastly, we would like to encourage everyone to come back to church to join in the worship and fellowship. Of course – only as you feel comfortable and safe to do so. Please also continue to pray for us, our next incumbent, and everyone at Gathering Table – especially those listed in our Sunday bulletin. Thanks so much!

Your Servants

Dave, Sheila, Jim

Church Gardens

One of the Deanery suggestions that came out of Archbishop Anne's Charge to Synod for honouring Truth and Reconciliation was to encourage parishes and individuals to plant orange flowers in support of Orange Shirt Day/ Every Child Matters.

A few volunteers planted a variety of orange flowers by the steps of the old parish house and scattered a few more in the bed along the driveway nearest the red doors. These and the other flowers along the driveway have flourished surprisingly well with limited attention. Watering using the rain barrel supply and watering cans and dead heading spent flowers was accomplished on a hit and miss basis. Thank goodness for the mulching last fall which has limited the weeds and helped retain moisture.

All other flower beds have been left to grow wild as was recommended in the last Vestry booklet.

Parishioners or their friends have transplanted many perennials from the back yard gardens to their homes. All of the stepping



stones have also been taken away. Thank you to everyone who made donations to the church for any of these items. The last two items, no longer needed, are black compost bins. Call the office or speak to one of the wardens if you are interested in one.

Next year some bags of black mulch will be needed to replace what the gusting winds have scattered near and far.

Erminie Reid



Please contact the Altar Guild if you or your family would like to place flowers on the altar on a Sunday.

Margaret Boone
mboone@tbaytel.net
807-345-2184

Rose Jardine
roseanew@tbaytel.net
807-625-5515

Ermine Reid
dandereid@shaw.ca
807-767-4566



Harvest Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 25th. Donations of fruit and vegetables and flowers can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, September 24th by 9:30 am (time to be confirmed so please either call the church, an Altar Guild member or check the bulletins).





Since the spring we have been joining for coffee and tea after the Sunday service on the 1st, 3rd and sometimes 5th Sunday of the month.

We will continue this schedule in the fall with the hope to meet every Sunday sometime soon.

If your family or a couple of friends would like to be included in the coffee hosts rotation, please contact Sheila Chisholm by email cholmhissheilak@gmail.com or phone 807-787-0253.

Set up and clean up is simple- it can be done in about 15 minutes each. On the job training will be provided.

Sheila Chisholm



Ellen has not had any volunteers come forward. There will be a small number of children but there needs to be a second adult/youth with the group according to Screening in Faith protocols.

Expected start date is October 2nd.

If you are interest in either having your children attend Sunday School or would like to volunteer, please contact Ellen Teahan at eteahan@shaw.ca or phone 807-473-8599.



With planned events coming up in September and October and with the success of the coffee hours, it is certainly my hope that a congregation lunch or supper can be held in conjunction with either or both events.

Time and back to school will tell with COVID case numbers. I know there are still a large number of our congregation who are not comfortable in a group setting even with protocols in place but it would sure be nice if they could join in at a happy gathering to catch up with all their church family.

Watch for more details and a sign-up sheet along with emails or phone calls.

Carol Lee Kostyniuk



Groups or individuals wishing to use the Parish Hall, or Kitchen, must fill in the Gathering Table Booking Request Form that is available by calling the office at 345-6898 or by emailing the office at office@gatheringtable.ca.

They have to be approved by the Wardens.

Our Daily Bread

The September, October, November 2022 Is now available at the back of the church.

Contact the office at 807-345-6898 or office@gatheringtable.ca for a copy.

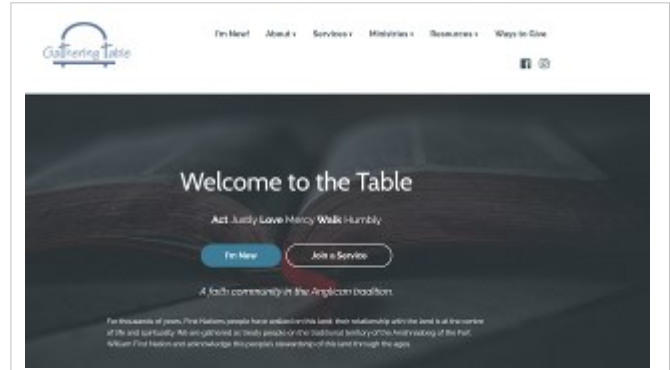


This project was started a couple of years back; however, was not completed due to unforeseen circumstances.

We have decided to begin the process anew as, due to COVID-19, everyone looks a little different!

David Reid will be set up to take pictures in the hall during coffee hour on the following Sundays in October – 2nd, 16th and 30th.

If you can't make it in for a picture, and we would like to capture as many of the parish as possible, you can submit a photo to Sharon Corston at socialmedia@gatheringtable.ca.



A small group has been working on a new look for Gathering Table's website.

It is still a work in progress; but, having been given the thumbs up by the Parish Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Corporate Team, we have decided to move it over and begin using it.

You see the new website in the next few weeks and we do hope you feel it is more user friendly.

We welcome and appreciate any comments.

You can send them to socialmedia@gatheringtable.ca.

Don't Miss Out!

September 1 to October 2	Season of Creation	
Saturday, September 24	Decorating the church for Harvest Sunday	Starting at 9:30 am (time to be confirmed)
Sunday, September 25	Harvest Sunday	Communion Service with Clergy officiating
Friday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Deanery and Diocesan service details tba
Sunday, October 2	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Sunday School begins tentatively Photo directory pictures in the hall after the service
Sunday, October 16	Celebrating 150 Years of Church Services at 228 Pearl St	Photo directory pictures in the hall after the service Possible Parish Event
Sunday, October 30		Photo directory pictures in the hall after the service



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund



PWRDF Wild Ride/Put Your Stamp On It

The UN High Commission for Refugees announced that there are now over 100 million refugees and displaced persons, 1% of the world's population.

We can join the PWRDF Wild Ride campaign to support PWRDF's partners who serve refugees and displaced people.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will present 2 Hymn Sings on Facebook Live on Sept.22/22 and Sept.24/22 at 7 pm ET. Request your favourite hymn when you make your donation to her campaign. Go to pwrdf.org/wild-ride and look for her fund raising page. (Look for the search bar and click on Hymn Sing)

Linda Rintamaki
PWRDF Rep (linjrin@tbaytel.net)



or Visitation.

Pastoral care visits will continue to be restricted to emergency situations.

Please contact the office at 345-6898 if such a situation arises.



Mission to Seafarers – Thunder Bay

Caring for seafarers around the world

September

- 7 10:30 am Board of Directors meeting
- 7 12:10 pm Eucharist and Lunch
- 25 1:30 pm Open House at the Seafarers' Centre, a light lunch will be provided. **** to be confirmed at the beginning of September****

October

- 5 10:00 am Board of Directors meeting ****if required****
- 5 12:10 pm Eucharist and Lunch
- 28 5:30 pm Symposium, 6:15 pm Annual Fund-raising Dinner at the Current River Community Centre, 450 Dewe Ave.

We will once again be collecting items for the Christmas Gift Bags starting in December.

Marg Boone, Parish Rep will be giving us updates in the near future.



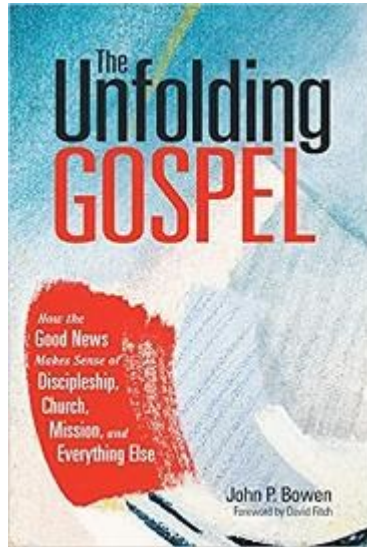
The prayer chain continues to be active, responding in a timely and confidential manner to all prayer requests that are received.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry or you have a prayer request, please contact Sheila Chisholm by email (chisholmsheilak@gmail.com), by text or phone (807-787-0253).

You can also contact the office at 345-6898.

Bible Study

A 5 week bible study using the book, *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission, and Everything Else* by John P. Bowen, will be held this fall. Dates tba.



Many congregations and their leaders are discouraged about the future of the church. John Bowen's conviction is that the solution is to be found not in new programs or strategies but in a recovery of theological vision--that of Jesus and his gospel, which transforms every aspect of life. This vision restores hope in the only way realistically possible.

Words

like *mission, discipleship, church, evangelism, renewal, and church planting* are used like billiard balls--all rolling around a single table, unconnected and bouncing randomly off one another. This book pulls these ideas together into a coherent and organic whole. The gospel is the hermeneutical key for understanding each of these topics and what draws them together.

Thus, chapter 1 is an exposition of the gospel (God's determination to make all things new through Jesus Christ). Chapter 2 discusses discipleship (we only understand discipleship in light of the gospel), and chapter 3 covers church (we only understand church if we understand discipleship). Chapter 4 considers culture as the arena in which the gospel is lived and talked about, and chapter 5 builds on that with a discussion of translation, not only as a missional necessity but as a ministry which itself incarnates the nature of the gospel. The remaining chapters (on evangelism, the future of "inherited churches," church planting, and leadership) demonstrate how the gospel is the integration point for all.

The author's hope is that church leaders--evangelical and mainline, young and old, emerging and traditional, present and future--will have a transformative "Aha!" moment as this gospel hypothesis unfolds.

For Sale by Donation

2 black compost bins at the church. Please leave a message at the church office – 345-6898 or contact a warden if you or a friend are interested in obtaining one.



Still Seeking Volunteers to work on the Technology Production Team

If the past year has taught us anything, the Sunday broadcasts are an integral part of our services and church life. To this end, we are in need of volunteers to make the experience an even better one.

The roles are:

Camera and Media using Vmix (2) and

Projection Media Visuals using Powerpoint (2)

and **Sound** (2) using an Allen & Heath QU Chrome Edition Mixer via an iPad.



Please, if you are interested or if you know of someone who would be interested, please contact Sharon Corston at 355-1549 or sjcorston@gmail.com.

A Stewardship Message through a Sermon given by Lay Reader Brenda O'Neill on July 24, 2022

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Wow! What a line! I feel like I don't even need a sermon to go with this. Sounds like a magic spell, abracadabra, al-a-kazam, and now you have whatever your heart desires.

“For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds”

I don't know about you, but I think that this sounds too good to be true. And let's be honest, it is!

We have all asked God for something that we have not received. We've asked for someone to be healed, we've asked for a new job, we've asked for someone we love to get something they need... and sometimes we get what we pray for and sometimes we don't.

What do we do with the fact that sometimes we pray for something and just don't get it. I've heard it said that people didn't get what they prayed for because they didn't believe enough. Or maybe that they didn't get what they prayed for because they didn't deserve it, they were not “good” enough, or they didn't have enough faith.

It makes me nervous to hear people say things like that. The thought that good things happen to good and faithful people, and that if bad things happen to you, you must be bad and unfaithful. It's a message that is sent often enough through media, novels, and movies. Everyone wants to believe that that's the way it works – makes for a good story. No one likes if the bad guy gets away with stuff, or if the good guy is not rewarded, or doesn't win in the end.

But the truth is, bad things do happen to good people. Faithful people who lead rich and meaningful prayer lives have times when their prayers are not answered. How can we read a passage like this and then understand when the door was **not** opened to **our** prayers?

Well, to be honest this is where a divinity degree would help. This is why we need an ordained, trained leader! I don't really have any



good answers for you. I do know that for all of us life is hard at times. For some of us, life is hard a lot of the time. I also know that many of us pray, many of us seek, many of us knock, and often the door does not seem to open.

Well I have no definitive answers but I can tell you that I think that when it comes to prayers, we don't always know if and when God has answered our prayers. I know that sounds a little feeble – if you've prayed for your child to get well, and your child gets well then obviously the prayer worked! But what if you've prayed for a friend whose marriage is in trouble and they end up getting divorced? Is that a failed prayer? Or is the death of the marriage the solution to a problem that is leading both people down a destructive path?

How about a little personal story to demonstrate? A few years back I applied for a new job that I really wanted. It would have meant moving to Toronto, but it was a job that I had worked toward for quite a while. When I was younger, I didn't prioritize my career so that I could spend more time with my girls and I just assumed that once I was ready to get back in the working world full time, good things would just happen for me. But... nope! I struggled for years to get full time work, and then to put the final nail in the coffin, I didn't get this job in Toronto that I really wanted and thought that I would be great at! I had prayed about and for this opportunity and yet, I didn't get it!!!!

Gotta say, I was mad! I thought I had paid my dues, I had done the “right” thing, and yet God did not see fit to open the door when I went knocking.

It is now three years later, and I can tell you honestly that I am grateful that God did not open that door. Several things occurred in my world that made it obvious that it was a blessing that I had not moved to Toronto, and then the pandemic struck and living in Toronto would have been a disaster! Fast forward 2 years and the job that I wanted was available again. This time I got it and I get to do it from the comfort of my home in Thunder Bay because my new workplace is set up for me to work remotely. I got the job and I don’t have to move to Toronto! The other catch is that the person who beat me out for the job 3 years ago is now a coworker and friend and not only is he good at his job, but it was more important for him to have gotten the job that I wanted three years ago and it was better for me to have not gotten it!

We talk about hindsight being 20-20. Well, I have been given the gift of getting to see clearly why what I had prayed for was not in my best interest but was in the best interest of the wonderful person who did get “my” job. I can see that prayers are complicated because it’s not just about what I want; that if God had answered the prayers for my perceived self-interest that would have meant that the prayers of my coworker and his family would have gone unanswered.

So I must confess that with my new found wisdom I read this passage quite differently.

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”

This doesn’t say that you will ask and be given exactly what you asked for, it doesn’t say search and you will find exactly what you were looking for, and it doesn’t say which door is opened when you knock. Along with prayer we must have faith; faith that God is listening even though we sometimes feel like we are screaming into the void. I know that all of us can look back in our lives and recall an incident that at first felt like a failure or a disappointment but led to something wonderful that was unexpected and not what you thought that you were looking for.

Most of us have stories like mine, where a job fell thru but it opened up an opportunity for a better job. Or a relationship fell apart but shortly there after you met the love of your life. These stories are innumerable.

But what about the stories where you didn’t get what you prayed for and there was no “good” reason even years later? I can play Pollyanna up here and say maybe the bad thing that happened would have been worse without prayer. But I think that just minimizes the sadness and tragedy that befalls God’s people sometimes. Sometimes prayers are not answered, and there is no silver lining. I have no pat answer for that, I have no trite response. Because sometimes we pray but there is still profound loss and sadness.

In times like this I encourage you to recall that even in darkness God is light. I don’t believe that we are to expect that thru faith and prayer we will always get what we want, but that thru faith and prayer there will always be light in our darkness.

Living a life filled with prayer will always be good. To offer praise and thanksgiving to God, to ask for and offer forgiveness, to pray for others and yourself, will always be good for us. We know that God will always answer our prayers but maybe not in the way you planned. Sometimes God answers our prayers by simply wrapping his arms around us and crying with us.

For everyone who asks receives, but not necessarily what we asked for!

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

*Let everyone who asks receive **the light of Christ**, and everyone who searches find **God’s love**, and for everyone who knocks, may the **door to the Kingdom of Heaven** be opened.”*

Amen.





Anti-Hate and Security Grant

The Ontario government has investing \$25 million in a new grant program to help faith-based and cultural organizations protect their communities against hate-motivated crime and improve the security of their premises. The new Ontario Grant to Support Anti-Hate Security Measures for Faith-Based and Cultural Organizations will help eligible organizations cover expenses related to security and safety measures including enhancing security of their buildings and training staff on how to respond to hate-motivated violence.

Eligible organizations include charities and not-for-profit corporations that host, as a primary activity, regular gatherings of religious, spiritual or cultural significance at least once a month, and that rent or own indoor facilities used for these gatherings. Organizations are required to use the funds to enhance security of their facility, complete security assessments, and/or train their organizations on how to respond to a hate-motivated incident.

Gathering Table applied for the 2022 grant and received it last June. The funding was used to improve and add to yard lighting on the East and West (parking lot) sides of the church. A hard-wired doorbell was installed at the kitchen door. As well, two additional motion scanners were installed inside the church to eliminate two blind spots in the original installation and a remote access system linking a camera at the side hallway red entry doors to the office enables secure monitoring and access control. This work was carried out by contactors during early summer.

The 2023 cycle of grants became available in July and Gathering Table’s application has been approved and funds received. The project will be the upgrade of windows (4) in the parish hall. Estimates have been received and the work should proceed for completion in the fall. The new windows will be thermo-panes with a vent section. The windows will be more secure than the present units and will improve the energy efficiency of the building. Hopefully another grant cycle will be announced and Gathering Table will then seek funding to complete the window replacement project.

Submitted by Dale Sparkes



Prayer for Our Young People

Our young people in Junior High School, High School, College and University who are struggling academically, socially and mentally, especially during the uncertainty of Covid-19 times, as well as with understanding their own identities.

Amen.

Prayer during Vacancy in Our Parish

Heavenly Father, During this vacancy, guard and grow our Parish as we serve you together in this period without an incumbent.

Lord Jesus, we know that you have plans for us and that these plans are always good. We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.

Holy Spirit, please guide those who are seeking the right person for us, and those who are seeking the right place for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future of Gathering Table and see your kingdom grow.

Amen.

Gathering Table’s Mission Statement

We are on a spiritual journey as a dynamic, inclusive, diverse community rooted in the life-giving, life-affirming and life-changing love of God, reaching beyond ourselves, caring for creation and making a difference for others. Come and meet us, we’d love to meet you.

Treebilee

Trees are life!

A Great Green Canopy of newly planted trees extending from Thunder Bay to Gravenhurst is starting to form across Algoma as we celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

In response to my Charge to Synod 2021 and the motion from the Bishop's Charge Response Team to participate in a 'Treebilee', I am delighted by how many parishes have taken up the call to beautify our neighbourhoods and plant trees for LIFE and the future of the planet.

The first four of sixteen trees to be planted in Bishophurst garden have been planted. They will be dedicated in a Garden Service during the Season of Creation this autumn.

An Ivory Silk Lilac tree is given in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11's Platinum Jubilee, a Gravenstein Apple Tree is given in thanksgiving for the original gift of money by Lady Angela Burkett Coutts in 1876 to build this home for Algoma's Bishops.

A Greenspire Linden Tree is given in remembrance of the Covid-19 pandemic, and a Clump Whitespire Birch Tree is given in honour of Thorneloe's 60th Anniversary in 2021 and for Algoma's longstanding relationship with that University. It is given with hope for a new and long future for Thorneloe.

When a Sugar Maple becomes available we will plant it as our shared commitment to truth telling, peace and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

In the next three years 11 trees will be planted in Bishop's Row for each of Algoma's 11 Bishops. Each one of them made a distinct and wonderful contribution to our diocese and served well to bring glory to God.

God bless The Diocese of Algoma: Shaped by a Living Hope

Archbishop Anne Germond's Facebook post from July 23, 2022

Gathering Table will be planting one or two trees this September—date tba.

Are you planting a tree? Send in your pictures to socialmedia@gatheringtable.ca



Ivory Silk Lilac Tree in joyful celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd Platinum Jubilee.

Whitespire Clump Birch (In remembrance of Covid-19 pandemic)



Greenspire Linden Tree in thanksgiving and hope for Thorneloe University

Gravenstein Apple Tree in gratitude for Lady Angela Burkett -Coutts - the English Baroness who gave the first gift of money to build Bishophurst in 1876





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Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Phone: 807-345-6898
E-mail: office@gatheringtable.ca
Facebook: Gathering Table

Hall: 807-345-6088
Web: gatheringtable.ca

Service Time: Sunday at 10:00 am
Food Bank Open: 2nd and 4th Sundays starting at 11:30 am

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 2:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am to noon

Pastor: Vacant
Phone:
Mobile:
Email:

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.
Phone: 768-9865

Lay Readers: Kim Bienvenue, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill , Richard Pepper, Frances Bennett-Sutton, Jim Sutton

Rector's Warden: David Reid
Deputy Rector's Warden: vacant
People's Warden: Jim Sutton
Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Co – Music Directors: Vacant (Organist) and Donna Hamill (Pianist)