

Anglican Church of the Ascension | 476 Sparks Street, Sudbury, Ontario

# ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT 2020



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## MISSIONAL OBJECTIVES

### Missional Objective for the Year 2020 Review

1. Continue with the missional objectives worked on in the year 2019.  
**Objective:** To continue the good work and mission and continue to build on the success of the past year.
2. To offer confirmation and other sacramental preparation classes each year.  
**Objective:** To offer new congregants teaching in the faith and better disciple young people.
3. To focus on stewardship and giving.  
**Objective:** To build a financial stable community that will be able to do the work of Christ well into the future.
4. To continue to build up the youth group that was started in 2018  
**Objective:** To have good discipleship and fellowship opportunities for our young people.
5. To better use social media platforms to reach out to our community with the gospel message.  
**Objective:** To fulfill the great commandment to preach the Gospel to all peoples by using the platforms of our time.
6. To better integrate new families and individuals into the life of the parish.  
**Objective:** To be a welcoming community to all who walk through the doors of our church.

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**Objective:** To fulfill the great commandment to preach the Gospel to all peoples by using the platforms of our time.
6. To better integrate new families and individuals into the life of the parish.  
**Objective:** To be a welcoming community to all who walk through the doors of our church.
7. To expand our online presence and ministry during this time of the COVID 19 Pandemic  
**Objective:** To better connect with parish members and offer mission, ministry and worship in these times that we are not able to gather in person as a congregation.



## ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 11am

Location: Zoom, meeting ID: 207 491 219 or by phone 1-647-374-4685

### Prayer Before a Meeting

*God our Creator, when you speak there is light and life; when you act there is justice and love. Grant that your love may be present in our meeting so that what we do and what we say may be filled with your Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prayer for the Mission of the Church

*Draw your Church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in his mission in the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island.*

### Rules concerning eligibility to vote at Vestry meeting (Canon J-1: Vestries)

All persons shall be entitled to vote in the vestry of a congregation in the Diocese who:

- a) are baptized; and
- b) are of full age of 16 years; and
- c) are habitual attendants at Divine Service in the congregation; and
- d) have contributed during the year immediately preceding to the working expenses of the parish/congregation.

### Agenda

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Election of a Vestry clerk.
3. Adoption of the minutes of the January 26, 2020 meeting.
4. Matters arising from the minutes of January 26, 2020 meeting.
5. Presentation of annual statistical Reports.
6. Presentation and adoption of the 2020 Financial Statements by the Treasurer.
7. Presentation of the 2021 budget by the Treasurer.
8. Motion for the adoption of all published committee reports.
9. Presentation and adoption of the annual Screening in Faith Report.
10. Rectors Charge to Vestry.
11. Announcement of the Rectors Warden for 2021.
12. Vote of thanks to Board Members.
13. Approval of Lay Readers and Eucharistic Assistants.
14. Election of Peoples Warden and other officers.
15. Overview of Missional Objectives and Outcomes for the Coming Year.
16. New Business and Initiatives
17. Motion for the adjournment of the meeting.

### Closing Prayers



## MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2020 ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Attendance: Father Aidan Armstrong, Gladys Abigail, Cathy Dionne, Philippa Howard, Roz Jones, Noella Fowler, David Fowler, Ann Jaas, Sue Bate, Ilmar Jaas, Gary Bate, Jennifer Ames, Lori Cameron, Rob Caines, Cindy Caines, Kath Greenidge, Chantal Rozon, Beaumont Nelson, Clare Andrews, Luke Norton, Helen Wormington, Yvonne Nykilchuk, Betty Bonas, Carol Lennox, Pete Marshall, Andrea Marshall, Dave Wells, Betty McLeod, Anne Trimmer, Marie Vitone, Dee Gates, Marlene Moulton, Harley Moulton, Pat Cunningham, Betty Cunningham, Margaret Leigh, Marcia Leigh, W Brent Leigh, Irene Gilchrist, Earl Nauss, Vanna Nauss, Jim Gibson, Thelma Smith, Christopher Cawte, Lisa North, Jesse Clapperton, Matt Walchuk, Cathy Frost, Marjorie Morton, Cathy First, Michael Sheppard, Bruce Heuft, Courtney Schram

Meeting called to order at 11:22 hours

- Fr. Aidan opened with prayer
- Going over Vestry Meeting voting rules and processes

### Agenda Item #2

- Election of Vestry Clerk – Courtney Schram
- Gary Bate closes nominations.

### Adoption of 27 January 2019 meeting:

- Matters arising - Bruce and Lori – movement to adopt the minutes

### Presentation of Annual Statistics Report:

- 360 persons on parish roll
- Easter attendance had 177 persons
- Christmas Octave had 232 persons - the best in many years!
- Average Sunday attendance was 86 persons, more to come regarding these numbers in Rector's Report
- 5 baptisms - 3 children, 2 adults
- 4 confirmations
- 2 marriages
- 6 funerals
- Movement approved

### Financial Report:

#### 2019 Income Statement:

Offerings have been declining over past 3 years.

- Envelopes and open deposits both came in under what was budgeted for 2019, with envelope offerings nearly \$10,000 under.
- Rentals were above average for 2019, Special Projects (transferring accounts, RBC to CIBC banks) - \$1,000 was transferred instead of \$2,000 because of the furnace issue.
- Highlights of the year - We held two-yard sales bringing in a total of \$4,110, millwork fundraiser, special donations, maple syrup sales, pie sale, Christmas Eve envelopes [Outreach and Anne Germond fund] (\$1,900), coin drive to shave Fr. Aidan, pancake supper brought in \$892.
- Diocese/Expenses - Apportionment down; envelopes and apportionment are proportional to each other; they increase or decrease together.
- Rectory - Costs were due to the roof needing repair and regular furnace inspection.
- Church - The need for the furnace repair hit hard, as well as roof repair. Cleaning was below budget as the cleaner had to quit mid-November, hence lower than normally budgeted.
- Other - Outreach - L'Arche, Coldest Night of the Year, Seniors Luncheon/Flowers, etc.
- Snow removal - We hired a new contractor mid-winter who has not yet billed us, so this number is expected to change accordingly.
- Miscellaneous - gifts, guest preachers/speakers, Alpha, Confirmation class, Ordain Reviews
- Surplus - \$1,530.59 after funds transferred to RBC (our "savings" account). Ending surplus for 2019 is \$7,262.70 in CIBC account.
- Overall, a SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Royal Bank Account, total of \$39,839.04 for 2019.

- Memorial Account had a net increase [\$958.43, 2019 balance \$9,179.03] after memorial donations, submitting funds for new Rectory stove, oil altar candles and required banking supplies.
- Special Projects Account had a net increase [13,508.01, 2019 balance \$28,687.83], however the bill for the new doors has not yet been received, so this number is expected to change accordingly. Monies



submitted for new Rectory stove and Rectory roof repair. \$1000 was transferred to the CIBC Special Account for the furnace repair.

- Anne Germond Fund had various disbursements, exceeding donations by \$82.58, closing with a 2019 balance of \$1,900.38

Question arose regarding the reasons for dealing with two banks.

- Advantages of dealing with two banks - Memorial money would come in and we would have to wait for that project. In CIBC, we could use money if running low; this is a good way to set money aside. The church used to have a 'Building Fund' where the funds could only be used for the building project, nothing else. This name was changed to 'Special Projects' where these funds can be for anything. This is a way of keeping separate from operating budget.

2020 Budget:

*Fr. Aidan would like to implement the phrase "Over 120 in 2020"*

- Envelopes – 2019 had a number of people pass/move away; this resulted in a net revenue of \$800.00/month that is no longer here.
  - \$3000.00/week to run parish, on average bringing in \$2400.00/week. This is a shortfall of \$600.00/week.
  - The Diocese can no longer bail out churches who are unable to pay bills. We need to bring these numbers up. Ascension is one of the last churches to have Sunday School, youth programs, etc., so we don't want to lose that.

*"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."*

- C.S. Lewis.

Motion to accept 2019 Financial Statement and 2020 budget;

- Beaumont offers that should think about increasing our personal envelope offerings to reflect inflation. Regarding weddings, if people want to have a wedding in the church, they should consider making some sort of commitment to the church. Regarding confirmations it is not as often that we see the confirmed young people coming back to church. Should you request to have your child confirmed, one should consider committing to giving back for them receiving confirmation - ie. Attend once per month, not just Christmas and Easter.
- Fr. Aidan responds that he has performed two weddings since coming to our church, where both have had parties involved in the church. In agreeance with envelope offerings - costs go up so as a result we need to keep pace with inflation and rising costs.
- Anne has brought up that many members of the church are on fixed income.
- Fr. Aidan advises that the numbers say that the church has a stewardship problem. Based on our attendance, we should have the funds to do a lot more than we do. The Diocese has no money to bail anyone out anymore, cutting clergy pensions. We need to consider our commitment to the church and ministries going forward.
- Luke would like us to keep in mind that it's similar to skipping a coffee per week; we do not need to be extravagant in increasing personal offerings, however we should consider that there are many simple ways that we are able to give.
- Cathy reminds us that the church should not be run on fundraising; it should be run on envelopes and offerings that we are able to give.
- Fr. Aidan informs us that the hall is booked to the max for the year; these numbers are physically unable to increase drastically. Our fundraising can't go on forever.

A BIG thank you Cathy, Pippa and everyone on the finance committee for all the hard work that you do!

Proposal to move the 2019 Financial Report and 2020 Budge - All in favour, carried.

**#8 - Motion to adopt all committee reports:**

- Motion to approve, seconded, carried.

**#9 - Screening in Faith**

- We must always be in compliance; nothing has changed over the years.
- All in favour to move, carried.

**#10 - Rector's Report**

- Moved to accept, Pippa seconded, carried.

**#11 - Nominations and Elections:**

- Deputy Warden position is up for election - Brent Leigh and Lori Cameron, no other nominations.
  - Voting is explained, with paper and pens handed out.
  - Voting occurs.
  - Brent Leigh elected Deputy Warden
  - Pat makes motion to destroy the ballots, Cath seconded, all in favour, carried.
  - Ballots are destroyed.



- Jen Ames is elected People's Warden
- Treasurer, Cathy Dionne
- Assistant Treasurer, Pippa Howard
- Envelope Secretary, Lori Cameron
- Vestry Clerk, Courtney Schram
- Synod Delegates – 2-year term, so they remain to be Clare Andrew and Kath Greenidge,
- with 1st alternate being Pat Cunningham and 2nd Alternate being Lori Cameron.
- Representatives of Church Groups are Anne Trimmer (Altar Guild), Cindy Caines (Children's Ministry), Jane Cox and Lori Cameron (Indigenous Relations), Father Aidan (Media, Pastoral Care, Worship), Pippa Howard (Memorial), Marie Vitone (Outreach), Jen Ames (Parish Life), Pat Cunningham (Property, Stewardship), and Jesse Clapperton (Youth).

Nominations for five Members at Large;

- Thelma has requested to be withdrawn
- Michael is nominated, no other nominations
- Michael is elected.

### #13 - Lay Readers and Eucharistic Assistants for 2020

Lay Readers (Dave Fowler, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh, Thelma Smith, Jesse Clapperton)

Eucharistic Assistants (Chris Cawte, Dave Fowler, Marie Vitone, Thelma Smith, Gladys Abigail, Betty Bonas, Anne Trimmer, Rachel Charette, Jennifer Cawley-Caruso, Audrey Penn, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh, Maggie Leigh, Connie Lee, Pippa Howard, Kath Greenidge)

- Fr. Aidan, motion to approve, Gary and Pippa seconded, carried.

### #14 - Missional Objectives for 2020

- Objective #6 has been added – To better integrate new families and individuals into the life of the parish – To be a welcoming community to all who walk through the doors of our church.
- Beaumont has suggested holding a small gathering maybe twice a year to introduce new members/families.
- Fr. Aidan concurs that this would be a great idea to get new members and families together, advises there is a young person's group who meets approximately once per month.
- Rose, regarding music and choir advises to let Phillip know if you would like your favourite hymn sung. Everyone is always welcome to join the choir.
- Gary would like to thank Ilmar for all of the hard work that he does!
- Motion to carry forward, seconded by Beaumont. Carried.

### New Items of Business

Roof Replacement:

Prepared and submitted in full by Brent Leigh

We need a new roof! The roof in our sanctuary is WYSIWYG – What you see is what you get. There has been water intrusion in the kitchen, entrance and fellowship hall. More information on this, when gathered, will be brought forward (regarding structural engineering, architecture, etc.)

Many quotes have been gathered, and what is being brought forward is the safest option for all – a steel roof with ice guards. Best quotes have been received from TerraStar Building Products Inc. as the supplier of the steel, and GMG Contracting Ltd. as the installer. This roof should last us well more than 10-15 years, with the current asphalt shingles lasting less than 10 years.

*ITEM:* As the shingles on the Church roof over the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are brittle, dry, cracked, and need replacing, in order to maintain the integrity of the building against water intrusion and leads and to forestall continued repeated excursions onto the roof in order to effect maintenance and repair against the same.

*"ITEM A":* That the shingles of the Church roof be replaced with steel, purchased on spec from TerraStar Building Products Inc. for \$8,091.81, as provided by quote, and installed by GMG Contracting Ltd. for \$14,464.00 as provided by quote [taxes included in both quotes], with all work to be done as early in 2020 as weather, contractor scheduled and Church activity permits.

*"ITEM B":* That the monies required to provide for "Item A" come from the Parish Special Operations Fund, and also from otherwise unallocated funds under Parish Memorial Gifts, if required.

*"ITEM C":* That, if necessary, any additional money needed may come from fundraising returns.

*"ITEM D":* That the General Vestry, at this time assembled, grants its leave to the Incumbent, Wardens, Treasurer and General Advisory Board, working in concert and by mutual consent, to apply to the Diocese



of Algoma for an Archbishop William Wright Loan to secure any additional funds as may be required to see to the details of a sound, proper and timely installation, as provided for in "Item A", in the event this should prove necessary.

Gary motions to accept roof approval, Items A, B, C, D - all seconded, carried.

**"Keep Our Vision Growing" Board**

- Numerical envelopes to reflect donation amount

**Electronic Offering Program**

- Diocese of Algoma Donor Registration/Amendment Form attached to 2019 Annual Vestry Report.
- Please hand in new/updated forms to submit offerings electronically.

Fr. Aidan closes with prayer.

Motion to end meeting, seconded by Gary.

Meeting adjourned, 13:12 hours.

Meeting closed with a prayer.

**RECTOR'S REPORT**

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22-23*

For all of us this was a year unlike any other dealing with COVID 19 and all of the challenges that it has presented. The wardens and the board have guided our church well through this year and I am thankful for all the faithful work that they have done in keeping everything in order at the church and making sure that our ministry continues.

Though this has been a year full of challenge it has also been a year of opportunity and one in which I have become very thankful for this church community, in many ways it has brought out some of the best in us. I am very thankful for all the countless efforts that everyone has put in to make sure that the ministry of the church continues in new and creative ways, many stepped up to the plate and for that I am thankful.

This year at the church we completed some major property projects. We finished up everything with the new doors and are now a fully accessible building. Through a special appeal we raised \$15000.00 in one month to put on a new roof. We have also recently installed new lights in the parking lot for safety and security for our evening services. Thank you to everyone who has generously given of their time and treasure to these projects.

In the fall a sewer backup took place at the rectory and repairs/ improvements have now been completed.

Even in the midst of COVID we have welcomed some new faces to our parish family and I look forward to the time in which we can more fully welcome them.

The biggest shift this year has been sifting much of our ministry online. Our worship services are now live streamed. Godly Play, Messy church, Bible Study, Youth Ministry and Morning and Evening Prayer have all been offered in new and creative ways and have meant a lot to people during these times. A huge thank you to everyone who has stepped up to the plate to make this happen. A special thank you to Chantal Rozon who has put much of our online infrastructure together.

The many ministries of individuals and groups have quietly continued on in the background of our church, whether it be singing or lay reading, or preparing the altar for Sunday or getting Christmas baskets ready for those in need, countless people have been continuing their ministry given them by Christ and for that I am truly thankful.

The church building may have been closed to the public for most of this year but our work and ministry has continued. We as a church community have met all of our financial obligations, taken care of anyone who has needed any assistance, completed two major property projects and continued worship and ministry in new and innovative ways. This year with all its challenges has given me great hope for the future of our parish post-pandemic.

I would like to end with this; I have been consistently amazed by your care and concern for one another during these challenging times and that is a testament to you as a Christian community. I pray we continue to have this care and concern for one another going forward as we seek to live out Christ's mission in our world!

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22-23*

Faithfully submitted by Father Aidan Armstrong





## WARDENS' REPORT

The Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty certainly will remain in our collective memories for quite some time to come. While the COVID-19 pandemic definitely posed a great challenge to our management of the Parish, there were a number of other developments and events that added their share of concern and difficulty. Despite all of these, however, there were also many instances of success, progress, and encouragement, and for all of these things, the trying and the joyful, we give thanks to God for His mercy and grace, and to all of you for your prayers, support, and faithfulness.

The arrival of the COVID-19 lockdown in March necessitated a pause to all our Parish face-to-face activities, including Board and Committee meetings, fundraisers, fellowship functions, and worship. Our community user-groups were unable to meet, and the Fellowship Hall was no longer available for rental use. This has been the unfortunate consequence of both Provincial directions and our interest in observing stringent health protocols, but we look forward for the time when we can once again open our building to our friends in the community. There has been some impact to our budget in this regard, as rentals form a steady part of our revenue, but our commitment to safe stewardship must be paramount in such times.

Along with the Rector and Treasurer, we had a number of meetings over Zoom with Diocesan officials and other Parishes throughout the Deanery, where we examined and discussed implementation of the Provincial health mandates, Diocesan finances (including figures that contributed to the wage subsidy benefit programme), and faith practices during the lockdown. We contributed to an implementation programme for re-opening that included input from local medical and health & safety professionals, and, with the help of Chantal Rozon, filmed a YouTube video related to “best-practices in heading back to Church” once the Archbishop allowed us to reopen in September. Lori Cameron joined with us during the Fall re-opening as the Diocese-directed Reopening Co-ordinator, and helped us perform targeted deep cleaning on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, after face-to-face worship resumed, as well in keeping records for contact tracing, should that information be required by Public Health officials. We are fortunate that such an occasion never arose, and that while we were open from September to December, with restricted numbers, there was never a COVID-19 incident related to our Parish.

Despite the challenges of negotiating the realities of the pandemic, we were able to see a number of projects around the Church building brought to successful conclusion. The wiring of the new doors at the main entrance was completed and the cobblestone walkway was re-installed. With the completion of the main door project, we were at last able to orchestrate a new key log, bringing us into compliance with privacy legislation. Through Brad Davis Constructive Trades Ltd we were able to purchase and install three exterior lamps that have significantly improved the lighting in the Church parking lot and at the back, as well, improving safety and addressing some security concerns left over from 2019. Most significantly, July and August saw the installation of our new metal roof, constructed by Terra-Star Building Products Inc, and installed by GMG Contracting Ltd, all as approved by Vestry in January 2020.

It must be said that the roof could not have been completed without the faithful commitment and unreserved generosity of the Parish in their targeted offerings and financial contributions during the Spring, despite the exigencies of the pandemic and lockdown.

The Rectory proved to be a considerable concern this year. Tenants were accepted in February, but an alteration in their domestic situation necessitated a new lease for April. The lockdown had an impact on the tenant's employment that required a partial deferment on monthly rent payments, under guidelines suggested by Provincial directive, but the tenant has provided us a provisional plan to repay these deferments by installment through the coming year. More significantly, a sewer main back-up occurred at the Rectory at the end of August, caused by an intrusion of tree roots in the line near the road. Considerable grey-water damage was done to the baseboards, walls, and flooring in northern areas of the Rectory basement, in the bathroom, furnace room, laundry, utility room, and rec room, requiring the services of a professional plumber (Al's Plumbing) and remediation company (Paul David) to address. While the blockage was removed without difficulty, and the intrusion problem is expected to be managed with the regular administration of root destroyer chemicals to the sewer line, or the removal of the trees at the south end of the property, the remediation was delayed, in part by supply-and-delivery issues stemming from the pandemic, and most especially by difficulties the Parish officers incurred in dealing with the Diocesan insurance brokers and coverage provider. Fortunately, the Archbishop and Diocesan Treasurer worked to help us address these difficulties, and collectively it was discovered there were several additional outstanding matters between the Diocese and the broker that further needed resolving. The repairs to the Rectory basement were finally completed at the end of January 2021.

One project remains for us to attend to at the Rectory in the year ahead, which is a repair to the weeping tiles in the north-east corner of the building. A quote has been obtained from Alberto Riccio/Duro-Coating, and we hope to see the work begun and completed in the Spring, as soon as pandemic protocols allow.

Throughout the year we continued to meet to count the weekly offerings as they were received, to touch base on matters of special concern, and to ensure things at the Church were sound and safe. We were regularly in conversation with the Rector by text, phone, and email, and met as we were able or whenever necessity dictated. We continue to have complete confidence in his ministry, and are thankful for his



sincere commitment to Christ's Church and dedication to this Parish, especially in a year as unprecedented and trying as this has been.

In closing, we wish to express our gratitude to you, the members of this Parish, for your trust in us and your unwavering commitment to the Parish's ministry—whether through your prayers, your financial stewardship, or your many, many contributions of time, talent, advice, encouragement, and patience.

We do not doubt that Christ's Church plays the vital role in meeting whatever challenges lie ahead for our community, our nation, and the world. Neither do we doubt that this Parish will prove to have a significant part to play in those undertakings.

To God then, let us commit ourselves and our mission for the year ahead.

Faithfully submitted by Jennifer Ames (Peoples' Warden), Pat Cunningham (Rector's Warden), Brent Leigh (Deputy Warden)

## PROPERTY

Much of the regular cleaning and maintenance of the Church has been suborned by the realities of pandemic lockdown; nonetheless, the Church building and repair has been seen to by the dedicated members of the Property Committee, as need or situation has required. To those who have helped see to these tasks throughout the year, the Wardens wish to extend our thanks on behalf of the Parish. Special mention must be made of Rob Caines, who facilitated much of our contact with Terra-Star and GMG Contracting for the installation of the new metal roof; of Christopher Cawte, our fire marshal and fire prevention technician; of Beaumont Nelson, who continues to manage our can-recycling programme; of Chantal Rozon, who was the lead contact in dealing with Flynn Canada and the installation of the new main doors; of Ilmar Jaas for the stripping and waxing of the floors in the Church; and of Lori Cameron, who helped facilitate our re-opening protocols, and the targeted deep-cleaning after services on Saturday evening and Sunday mornings throughout the fall.

Regular weekly cleaning at the Church (paid monthly through the Diocese) - R. Charette

Snowplowing and Summer Lawn-and-Yard Care (monthly invoice) - PRM Property Management.

The following are items of special note or concern, given here to keep the Vestry informed of major issues or to call out things requiring particular attention.

Spring 2020 New tenants received at the Rectory.

Wiring and finalization of main door installation by Flynn Canada.

Provincially mandated COVID-19 lockdown begins. Church checked daily by Rector or a Warden for insurance purposes.

Summer 2020 Provincially mandated COVID-19 lockdown ends. Diocesan Red Stage protocols continue to restrict face-to-face gatherings at the Church.

Fire extinguisher inspection and necessary replacements conducted by Firecheck Inc.

Sanctuary, Narthex, and Kitchen floors cleaned, stripped, waxed by Ilmar Jaas.

Metal roofing materials received from Terra-Star Building Products Inc.

Metal roofing installed by GMG Contracting Ltd.

Parking lot re-gravelled (double-load) by Eric Jacobsen.

Cobblestone walkway replaced Intercity Lawn & Landscaping.

Fall 2020 Sewer main back-up at the Rectory, caused by intrusion of roots from trees at south edge of property. Blockage removed by AI's Plumbing. Damaged materials remediated and repairs begun by Paul Davis.

Diocesan-directed Amber Stage protocols allow resuming of face-to-face worship with restricted attendance. Amber Stage contact tracing and targeted deep-cleaning initiatives begin.

Three exterior lamps installed by Brad Davis Constructive Trades Ltd, significantly increasing lighting in parking lot and at back of Church.

Furnace and boiler maintenance and inspection by Rolly's Heating.

Winter 2020/21 Second Provincially mandated COVID-19 lockdown begins. Church checked daily by Rector or a Warden for insurance purposes.

Sewer main back-up repairs at Rectory completed by Paul Davis.

Faithfully submitted by Jennifer Ames (Peoples' Warden), Pat Cunningham (Rector's Warden), Brent Leigh (Deputy Warden)



## PASTORAL CARE

During this time of COVID pastoral care has continued but we have gotten creative. During the first lockdown in the spring members of the pastoral care team and others made regular calls to people on the parish list to check in with them and make sure that everyone was doing okay. I have been spending lots of time on the phone, doing email, zoom and using various other methods to stay in touch with members of the parish. Essential visits to hospital and hospice have been made throughout this time of COVID 19 to provide sacramental ministry to those in need. I would like to thank members of the pastoral care team for their tireless work and for looking out for those in our community.

Keeping the safety of everyone in mind, we were unable to make our usual deliveries of goodies and flowers at Easter and Christmas. We hope to pick this work up again once restrictions are lifted.

Faithfully submitted by Father Aidan Armstrong

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It was a short season for our nursery program, which ran only from January to March this year; due to Covid restrictions on re-opening in the fall we have not picked up again, but we certainly look forward to being able to see our volunteers and youngest parishioners again soon.

Thanks to Jennifer Ames, our Godly Play Storyteller, Godly Play continued-on by taping videos and putting them up on our church's YouTube and Facebook page. A positive in this is that it's allowed many people from our parish to see what we do in the Godly Playroom, as well as being able to reach a number of people outside our church family. We have had several people of all ages, young and old, as well as different denominations, reach out to us because they've been able to enjoy them from home and will continue to worship along as new one's come up. The Godly Play videos are part of our Facebook content and can be looked up or viewed at anytime, not just the week in which they went up.

Needless to say, we anxiously await having our young ones back in the children's ministry classes, worshipping and continuing to grow in faith together.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Caines

## YOUTH MINISTRY

As with most aspects of our lives, the format for Youth Group has been disrupted due to COVID-19. During Autumn, several videos were sent to the youth connected to the church. In the Spring of 2021, focus will be on producing these videos on a regular basis.

Today's youth face and will continue to face difficulties as a result of COVID-19. However, God works in the midst of all circumstances. Eli was called as a youth at a time when the high priest's sons were destroying the reputation of the priesthood. David was called as a youth in the midst of war. The Blessed Virgin Mary was called her country was conquered and her dynasty secluded in a tiny village. God will continue to work in the lives of the youth of our local church and the Church around the world.

Faithfully submitted by Jesse Clapperton

## EUCCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS & LAY READERS

**Eucharistic Assistants 2021:** Chris Cawte, Dave Fowler, Marie Vitone, Thelma Smith, Gladys Abigail, Betty Bonas, Anne Trimmer, Rachel Charette, Jennifer Cawley- Caruso, Audrey Penn, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh, Maggie Leigh, Connie Lee, Pippa Howard and Kath Greenidge

**Lay Readers 2020:** Dave Fowler, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh, Jesse Clapperton, Cathy First

Faithfully submitted by Father Aidan Armstrong

## INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

The Church of the Ascension is located on the traditional Anishinaabe territory of the Atikameksheng and Wahnapiatae First Nation. We are situated within the boundaries of the Robison-Huron Treaty of 1850. We would like to acknowledge those who came before us on this land.

In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held its closing event in Ottawa and presented the executive summary of the findings contained in its multi-volume final report, including 94 "calls to action" (or recommendations) to further reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous peoples.

The 4th Mark of Mission with The Anglican Church of Canada states that we must "transform unjust structures of society to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation". The



Church of the Ascension has a committee called 'Indigenous Relations' with a mandate to listen and learn from our Indigenous neighbours. The following are the opportunities in the last year, mostly remotely available.

1. Historical, Traditional, and Cultural Significance of the Lands Encompassing the District of Greater Sudbury and Area-book and presentation.
2. Decolonization through Films of Darlene Naponse. Thurs. March 19th 1:30 to 3:30 PM Indie Cinema. 162 MacKenzie (cancelled though the work of this local Indigenous filmmaker is worth watching)
3. Here is a link to the National Indigenous Day of Prayer service put out by the national church in June. <https://www.anglican.ca/im/nidp/>

4. October 7th at 7pm Via Zoom - a play reading and discussion of the play *Debwewin* lead by the play's writer Sarah Gartshore. There were only 11 spots which filled, for this reading. Sarah Gartshore: "The *Debwewin* is that this land and its Indigenous people have a relationship that stretches back much further than the 150 years that many Canadians recently celebrated. The *Debwewin* is that Canada, as we know it, is at a powerful beginning. The next short 150 years will be shaped, in part, by this time of truth telling as we navigate our way towards reconciliation." *Debwewin* is Sarah Gartshore's humble offering to the longstanding Indigenous call to action to protect our land, water and bodies that must begin with the Truth. The following article written by Trish Hennessy speaks more to the play and the Ascension's efforts with TRC. 2

'When a group of non-Indigenous people gathered together on Zoom to read through a play called *Debwewin*, we really could not know what lay ahead for us. We admitted beforehand that we could not fathom, and we could not understand the lived experiences of residential school survivors. In that we were wrong, and we were right.

Intellectually, the entire residential school concept as it played out, its purpose and operation were completely outside our idea of what was right and good, especially for the churches that operated these schools. But emotionally, as it turned out, at some deep visceral level, as we read the play, we could feel the fear, smell the scents, hear the sounds and see the faces of those who lived that experience.

In our everyday life, exterior differences easily allow us to believe that 'we' are not 'they'. This play, however, is written from the interior of characters who experienced residential schools, so when the words of the characters were spoken in our voices, immediately all of the perceived differences fell away.

On October 7th, members of the Church of the Ascension had the privilege of reading from the play, '*Debwewin*' by Sarah Gartshore, about the Residential School program as experienced by the Indigenous people who were students there or were parents of students. Following the reading, the group had a discussion with Sarah. It was a very moving and perspective shifting experience for all involved.

The characters in the play included a mother who grieved that she had let go of her daughter's hand too soon, children whose names had been replaced by numbers once they were in a residential school and who protected one another as best they could with creative ingenuity, and a teenager who traded his natural traits to take on the 'moves' of others in order to invisibly survive.

Each of us who read these parts understood them instantly as ourselves. We are each mothers and children and teens and friends with the same fears and same hopes for our own lives and for our loved ones. In our discussion after the reading, it was clear that we all had universal reactions to universal relationships. And we all recognized in a stark and visceral way, the experience of being dependant and powerless in the face of authority that is often abusive.

Sarah Gartshore's writing is simple and direct, crowded with indisputable truths, heartbreaking truths, disgraceful truths. It is also filled with innocent jokes, unbreakable spirits and somehow, an underlying, unspoken forgiveness and hope for reconciliation.

After the reading, Sarah was generous in comments to the group. "This work is always difficult" she said, "but necessary. You did a beautiful job holding space for the work and each other. I am grateful for your reconciliation journey." Many days after the reading, the feelings and insights shared were still with us and the characters we had read aloud in that gathering, continued to echo more deeply within.

Over the last 5 years, the Church of the Ascension has invited a number of Anishinaabe guests to share their experiences and teachings with us. These guests include Brock Pitawanakwat, professor of Indigenous Studies, Leland Bell, acclaimed artist and knowledge keeper, Frank and Julie Ozawagosh, Elders from Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Health Promoter Ghislaine Goudreau, leader in Anishnaabe-Kweg Water Journey in Sudbury, and Sarah Gartshore, playwright, educator and theatre creator who earlier lead a discussion on the book *Seven Fallen Feathers*. Our guests have all been generous in helping us get to know our Indigenous neighbours. We plan to organize more opportunities where we can spend time with our Anishinaabe neighbours and artists to receive their teachings in new, evocative and resonant ways. We are very grateful to all of our guests and especially to Sarah Gartshore for her beautiful writing, her patience and generosity. *Miigwetch'*.



5. 6 Degrees broadcast. Murray Sinclair is accepting the Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship. He talks about why he originally said no to participating in the TRC and some really interesting stuff about Indigenous self-governance in the future.
6. Treaty Recognition Week, (November 2020) Indigenous Education Week, and Remembrance Day-online educational events offered by Indigenous neighbours/elders.
7. REGISTER NOW - KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE (KBE) - TEACHING AND SHARING CIRCLES Fostering positive relationships between Indigenous & non-Indigenous peoples through truth, sharing and open dialogue is the aim of this new KAIROS online series called KBE Teaching & Sharing Circles. In all, 12 public sessions are being offered this winter. Upcoming sessions include: Saturday, January 30 (3-5pm, EST) - Social Injustice in Court System, Tuesday, February 2 (7-9pm, EST) - The Impacts of Residential Schools, Tuesday, February 16 (7-9pm, EST) - We are all Treaty People. Register today (\$25) - space is limited <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/event/>

Faithfully submitted by Jane Cox

## ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The work of the ACW, like all groups this year, was negatively impacted by the corona virus pandemic. Our only meeting this year was held in January where we disbursed some of our funds from the previous year. We were very happy to contribute to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Zawadi La Tumaini Orphanage, PWRDF and bursaries for Barrydowne College.

In November we held our first "E-mail ACW Meeting" to vote on several motions to disburse additional funds. Again, we were very happy to reach out to our community and contribute to the Elgin Street Mission, Ascension Christmas food baskets, Barrydowne College Emergency food vault and a well-deserved Christmas gift for our Rector.

We look forward to 2021 in hopes of getting back to some form of normal and be able to meet in person once again.

Faithfully submitted by Cathy Dionne

## OUTREACH

It has been an incredible year! In January and February of 2020, two OOTC meals were served at the Epiphany. Meals should resume when the pandemic is over. We are still assisting Barrydowne College. Thanks to some very generous people, we assisted the school with canned foods and gift certificates for the needier students on a monthly basis. The Principal, with the help of her staff, made up and delivered Christmas baskets to their neediest students. In October, the Ascension gave out five scholarships for the Barrydowne Convocation. [three from the ACW and two from the Anne Germond Fund]. This was greatly appreciated by the school and their graduating students.

The Ascension handed out six Christmas baskets. The Ascension were generous for this. There were both food and monetary donations. Thank you to all who generously helped.

Because of the Covid pandemic, we were unable to have baking dropped off to our older seniors for Christmas.

Many members of our community donate clothes, food, winter articles, and gift cards to the church all year round. All these donations have been used for the needy. We thank you for being so generous.

Since last December, a small group has been meeting on Thursday morning via Zoom. We named this group, Home for the Homeless. We are searching for ways to help the Sudbury homeless.

Thank you again for supporting and loving the less fortunate.

Faithfully submitted by Marie Vitone

## PARISH LIFE

Despite what was truly a different year, we still managed to do a Pancake Supper for Shrove Tuesday (our best to date in terms of earnings and attendance), another very successful Maple Syrup fundraiser (we had two more extra boxes of syrup and sold them all!), and we even managed to move 34% of our No Work Fundraiser envelopes, which is just incredible!

While 2020 was nothing like any of us could have expected, we have faith and high hopes for 2021, not just for our fundraisers, but for the getting together as a Parish family and seeing each other once again.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us out this year and in the past, and let's look forward to the year ahead with faith.

Faithfully submitted by Jennifer Ames



## WORSHIP

Our primary call as the Church, Christian people and followers of Jesus is the worship of God. At the Church of the Ascension prayer and worship continues to be at the center of all we do. Worship looked very different in the year 2020 with much of it being done online. When we were able to meet in person safety restrictions were put in place due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

We have shifted our worship online in these times when we are not able to meet together. Sunday Morning worship has been live streamed on Facebook and for much of the year we have offered services of Morning and Evening Prayer via zoom. As a parish we owe a debt of thanks to Chantal Rozon for getting us set up online, the lay readers for leading and officiating worship and to our music team.

For parts of the year, we were able to meet and worship; though different, it has gone well with everyone being kept safe. Again, we owe a thanks to Lori Cameron our reopening coordinator and the wardens for their hard work in cleaning the church each week to ensure a safe worship environment. One of the biggest and most positive changes has been adding in a Saturday night service to comply with capacity rules but also to allow individuals another time to worship.

I am very thankful for Father Jeff and Bishop Andrews and the role they continue to play in the worshipping life of our community. 2021 is likely to look very similar to the year 2020 in the way we gather and worship and through it all we must remember that God accepts our worship wherever we are and as a community we will continue to worship together.

Faithfully submitted by Father Aidan Armstrong

## ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Summary of all Donations by Donor Category

Category	Number	Amount
Envelope	42	\$ 45,125.50
EOP	46	\$ 73,199.85
EDP	4	\$ 1,640.00
Occasional	21	\$ 5,340.00
Not Categorized	3	\$ 54.00
<b>2020 TOTAL:</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>\$ 125,359.35</b>
2019 TOTAL:	151	\$ 139,173.36

Summary of all Donations by Category

Category	Amount	No. of Donations	No. of Donors
Christmas Envelopes	\$ 1,475.00	26	26
Christmas Hampers	\$ 325.00	5	5
Easter Special	\$ 820.00	9	9
General	\$ 102,143.66	1,019	98
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,150.00	12	12
On behalf of the Ames	\$ 618.00	1	1
Outreach	\$ 1,190.00	12	11
PWRDF	\$ 540.00	32	10
Property	\$ 335.00	16	3
Anne Germond Fund	\$ 3,315.00	34	8
Roof Fund	\$ 11,075.00	29	29
Special Projects	\$ 1,533.00	21	20
Thanksgiving	\$ 839.00	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 125,359.35</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Total Distinct Donors across all Categories</b>			<b>116</b>

Faithfully submitted by Lori Cameron



## NOMINATIONS

Rectors Warden (Appointed): Pat Cunningham  
 People's Warden (Elected): Jen Ames  
 Deputy Warden (Elected): Brent Leigh  
 Treasurer (Appointed): Cathy Dionne  
 Assistant Treasurer (Appointed): Pippa Howard  
 Envelope Secretary (Appointed): Lori Cameron  
 Vestry Clerk (Elected): Courtney Schram  
 Synod Delegates: Lori Cameron, Kath Greenidge  
 Synod Delegate Alternates: Pat Cunningham

### Representatives of Church Groups

Altar Guild:	Anne Trimmer	Parish Life:	Jen Ames
Children's Ministry:	Cindy Caines	Pastoral Care:	Father Aidan
Indigenous Relations:	Jane Cox/Lori Cameron	Property:	Pat Cunningham
Media:	Father Aidan	Stewardship:	Pat Cunningham
Memorial:	Pippa Howard	Worship:	Father Aidan
Outreach:	Marie Vitone	Youth:	Jesse Clapperton

### Members at Large (Maximum of Five)

Clare Andrews, Rob Caines, Sabrina Campbell, Kath Greenidge, Pete Marshall, Chantal Rozon, Michael Shepherd, Thelma Smith

### Other Positions (Attendance at Meetings Not Required)

PWRDF Rep.: Pippa Howard  
 Parish Reviewer: Ilmar Jaas



SCREENING IN FAITH

# Diocese of Algoma

## Screening in Faith Parish Participation Report

Our parishes are sacred spaces in which volunteers can develop their leadership gifts and vulnerable people can be part of a safe and loving family. Appropriate screening of volunteers is an essential part of maintaining that ministry, so that we can ensure the safety of our volunteers and their ministries. This “Parish Participation Report” serves as an *annual record* of the process developed by your parish to screen its volunteer leaders.

Complete the following report and provide a copy to the **parish Vestry, your Territorial Archdeacon, and the Synod Office**. This report is due the last day in February for the year preceding. Thank you for continuing to make the safety of your volunteers and ministries a priority.

### I. Contact Information

PARISH: The Church of the Ascension

INCUMBENT: Rev. Aiden Armstrong

**If a person in the parish is assisting the Incumbent with the Screening in Faith process then please give their:**

NAME: Cindy Carnes TELEPHONE: 705-524-5394

ADDRESS: 121 Plumtree Cres.  
Sudbury, ON P3B 4G7

E-MAIL: cindycarnes@hotmail.com

**YOUR FEEDBACK:** What kind of help, if any, does your parish need to develop its Screening in Faith Process?

N/A





**II. Parish Position List:**

Please list all the positions in your parish, along with their Level of Risk, and the Screening Requirements set by your parish. This includes wardens, advisory board members, treasurers, lay readers, and all other parish ministry positions. (Incumbents are screened at the Diocesan level.) Photocopy this page if more space is needed.

**Useful Resources:**

The requirements of a parish screening process are outlined in Canon H-5 of our Diocese. This model is based on the ‘Screening in Faith’ manual produced by [Volunteer Canada](#), and the [Parish Screening and Program Management Kit](#) for the Diocese of Algoma, available online at [www.dioceseofalgoma.com](http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com).

*Level of Risk (check one box only)*

- L = low
- M = medium
- H = high

*Screening Requirements (check all that apply)*

- INT = Interview/application form
- REF = Reference check
- PRC = Police Record check
- TFU = Training/follow-up

(See examples of possible positions and job descriptions on the Diocesan [website](#))

Parish Position	Level of Risk			Screening Requirements			
	L	M	H	INT	REF	PRC	TFU
Wardens			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Board Members	✓			✓	✓		
Treasurer		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Childrens Ministry			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pastoral Visitors			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay Readers			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outreach		✓		✓	✓		✓
Youth Ministry			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Police Record Checks are required for all High Risk Ministries and must be renewed every three years. They are optional for Mid and Low Risk ministries.

**III. Declaration**

We declare that the information contained in this report is accurate and complete.

Date February 14, 2021

Incumbent C. [Signature]

Warden \_\_\_\_\_ Warden \_\_\_\_\_

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FINANCIAL REPORT (not incl. in the web published version of this report)

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## APPENDIX A - ELECTRONIC OFFERING PROGRAM

Diocese of Algoma Donor Registration/Amendment Form Attached (1 page)



**DONOR REGISTRATION/AMENDMENT FORM**  
**Electronic Offering Program**

Ref # \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

---

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of \_\_\_\_\_ please \_\_\_\_\_ start  
(month) \_\_\_\_\_ amend my electronic offering.  
\_\_\_\_\_ suspend/cancel

---

My monthly donation will be as follows:

Parish Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Property/Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Other church ministries you may wish to contribute to:**

Anglican Mission Service Committee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Gitchigomee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Manitou \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Temiskaming \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mission to Seafarers \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Primates World Relief & Development Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHEQUE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please fill in this form and put on the collection plate at your church or give to your church office or mail to the Diocese of Algoma office.**

Diocese of Algoma—Electronic Offering Program  
619 Wellington St East  
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 2M6