

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter February 11, 2023.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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St. Brice's Newsletter: 11 February 2023.

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St. Brice's Visioning Scripture

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus." Colossians 3: 14, 17 (NLT)

Christmas Joke

In the foyer of a church, a young boy was looking at a plaque with the names of men and women who had died in various wars. He asked the pastor, "Who are these people?" The pastor said, "Those are members from our church who died in service." The boy asked, "The early service or the second service?"

Dear Friends,
I hope you are well. I held off circulating another Parish Newsletter, until after the Vestry meeting. There are a number of items I want to share with you...

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Lent

As most of us know, Lent is the Church season which begins about six and a half weeks before Easter Day. Not counting Sundays or Feast Days as penitential observances (every Sunday is meant to be a little celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead), there are 40 days in the season of Lent. As recorded in Matthew 4, Mark 1 and Luke 4, the Lord Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the wilderness.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lent is meant to be a time for self-reflection, penitence,

increased devotional practices, and for giving up (or at least reducing) old habits which we know do not honour the Lord. The purpose of Lent is not to have a short period of increased devotion, and then to go back to bad old habits with renewed vigour. Rather, we are learning to be in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, to become more and more the "new creation" (II Cor., 5: 17) as adopted sons and daughters of our true King, through Jesus Christ.

I encourage everyone to undertake some self-reflection *before* Lent begins, about what we take on, or give up or reduce, during Lent. I recommend choosing enough to be a challenge -- but not to set the bar so high that we will give up part way through the season, or that we become insufferably grumpy, or prideful of our accomplishments, to those around us.

Ash Wednesday

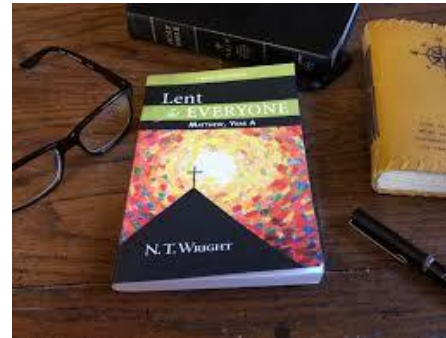
In 2023, Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. To begin the season of Lent, there will be two celebrations of the Holy Eucharist that day (along with the imposition of ashes for those who wish). There will be a celebration using the older *Book of Common Prayer* liturgy at 10am, and the newer *Book of Alternative Services* liturgy at 7pm.



Please also see the note below, about the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 21.

Lent Book

The Spiritual Development Committee has chosen *Lent for Everyone: Matthew, Year A*, by Bishop Tom Wright, as the devotional book we recommend for Lent this year. A number of parishioners enjoyed a similar book last year. Copies are available at the parish office for \$19. One can also get copies of the book electronically.



Please pick your copy of the book soon, from the parish office. If we run out, it takes time to get more copies shipped to us.

Lenten Observances, St. John's

St. John's Parish will be holding Stations of the Cross observances on Fridays in Lent, at noon hour.

Indigenous Relationships

Quinn Clement prepared a presentation about indigenous and non-indigenous relationships in Canada, for the recent Vestry meeting. It can be viewed on the parish website, under the "News" tab:



An Important Little Lesson in Church History

When Christianity was first introduced in parts of western England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, local customs flourished – especially in the early Medieval period. These are described as a Celtic expression of Christianity. Broadly speaking, the Celtic Christians had their own devotions, liturgical customs, language, and monastic communities. They included very many, whom they affirmed to be saints of the Church. They calculated the observance of Easter on a different date than was customary in much of western Europe.

St. Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604) was sent by Pope Gregory the Great (also d. 604) to serve in England. Augustine was perplexed by these different Christian customs, and wrote Gregory for advice. Gregory’s famous response was “that we should not love things for the sake of places, but love places for the sake of things.” That is, we don’t have to keep all the practices as they were in Rome, but that we can adapt or be flexible on some issues, as its helpful for the local population. This adage was recorded by Bede, an early English historian, who served in a monastery in the northeast tip of England. (*Cf. Bede’s Ecclesiastical History of England Chap. XXVII.*)

It wasn’t to last, though. The Celtic Christians and their idiosyncratic habits became an irritant to later leadership in Rome. The imposition of the Roman liturgy, observance of Easter, *etc.*, was decided by the Synod of Whitby (A.D. 664). There still remain slight variants in English and Celtic pieties, which remain to this day.

Quinn Clement quoted Pope Gregory’s adage in his presentation to the Vestry, about indigenous and non-indigenous relationships in Canada.

https://www.stbriceschurch.com/wordpress/?page_id=5842

Alpha

The Alpha Course is a light-hearted review of, or introduction to, the Christian faith. It is being offered in-person, for the first time since before the pandemic began, and ten of us are participating in it, coming from a variety of perspectives. I would be very grateful if this course were held up in your private prayers, that it would be a deep blessing for everyone involved.

Sanctuary: Mental Health

“Sanctuary” is a ministry, and a course, to help equip parishes to minister well among people with mental illness. (The current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is the Patron of Sanctuary.) The course is intended for people who have mental health issues; or who have family members with mental health issues; or who have an interest in this area of ministry.



In Easter season, I would like to offer this course. I have already reached out to Christ Church and St. John’s, inviting them to participate too. If you would like to take this course, or would like to learn more, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005). Thank you.

Confirmation

At the beginning of this month, Archbishop Anne Germond wrote me (PA), to say that she intends to visit St. Brice’s on Sunday, April 16. The service might be a joint service at 10am – that will be decided at the next Board meeting. This worship service will include Confirmation and/ or

Reception, for those who were unable to attend the Confirmation service at St. John's this past fall.



If you would like to learn more about Confirmation, or being Received from another Christian tradition, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005) promptly.

We expect there will be a shared "Lunch and Learn," led by Archbishop

Anne. At the Vestry meeting, we suggested that the Lunch and Learn help us to learn more about the international Anglican scene, given that Archbishop Anne is from South Africa, and recently participated in the international Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops.

Archbishop Anne proposes that we discuss the Lambeth "Calls To Action," and consider what we can do as a parish (or are doing), and what we can do as a diocese. For more information about the Lambeth "Calls To Action," please see the section immediately following.

THE WIDER CHURCH

Lambeth Calls To Action

[The Lambeth Conference is a gathering of Anglican bishops from around the world, which has taken place every ten years or so since the 1867. While every Anglican province is autonomous, the discussions and resolutions of the Lambeth Conferences carry a lot of moral weight for Anglican Christians. The last Lambeth Conference was held last summer, and ended with a number of "Calls To Action."

Archbishop Anne proposed that these Calls be the focus of her "Lunch and Learn on April 16.

I (PA) am somewhat embarrassed to admit that I didn't recall what these Calls were, and had to look them up. I'm a bit reassured to read that we are doing a number of these initiatives already.]

The Calls To Action are a number of initiatives that Anglican bishops hope that people will undertake or focus on, especially in the next several years. For the full text of the document, please go to: [Lambeth-Calls-July-2022.pdf \(lambethconference.org\)](https://www.lambethconference.org/Lambeth-Calls-July-2022.pdf)

These are the "Calls," and their lead authors:

| | |
|--|--|
| The Lambeth Call on Mission and Evangelism | Archbishop Melter Tais |
| The Lambeth Call on Safe Church | Mr Garth Blake (Chair of the Anglican Safe Church Commission) |
| The Lambeth Call on Anglican Identity | Archbishop Philip Richardson |
| The Lambeth Call on Reconciliation. | Archbishop Thabo Makgoba |
| The Lambeth Call on Human Dignity. | Archbishop Howard Gregory |
| The Lambeth Call on The Environment and Sustainable Development. | Archbishop Julio Murray |
| The Lambeth Call on Christian Unity. | Bishop Gregory Cameron |
| The Lambeth Call on Inter faith Relations. | Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon |
| The Lambeth Call on Discipleship. | Archbishop Stephen Cottrell |
| The Lambeth Call on Science and Faith. | Bishop Steven Croft |

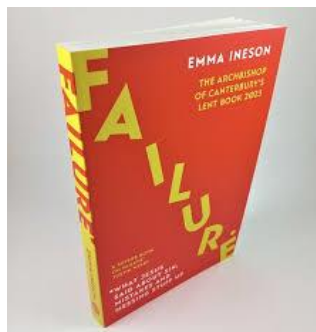
Overall, I notice that there is a strong effort among the bishops to listen more closely to individuals and communities which historically have been marginalized: Youth, indigenous voices, the poor, and so on.

I propose that the Spiritual Development Committee take a look at these "Calls," and I hope they can be shared within the parish during the season of Lent. (We'll be talking about them on April 16 with Archbishop Anne.)

As this is a fairly large document and a short time frame, if there are parishioners who would like to be involved, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005). The aim is not to get everything *done* in the next few weeks. The aim is to develop brief summaries so we learn what each call *is*, and what we might realistically do in the future (or what we are doing now).

Sermon Project

A Christian group intends to produce audio recordings of sermons from important – but sometimes neglected – historical figures. Little Trinity, an Anglican parish in the Diocese of Toronto, is providing some support for this initiative. More sermons will be added as time and resources allow. If you want to check it out, please go to: <https://sermonproject.com/>



Diocesan Book, Lent

If you would like to join an on-line book discussion, Archbishop Anne Germond is recommending *Failure*, by Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington (U.K.). She writes,

It is available on the Kindle format and from Amazon.ca at a cost of \$16.

In the foreword to “Failure” the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby writes this about the book, “*This is a very good book, rooted in Scripture: it will disturb us when we are too comfortable, and comfort us when we are too disturbed. It calls us to let God be the judge, and calls us to take comfort in his merciful and hope-filled judgement.*”

I have just finished reading it and it left me feeling hopeful not helpless, and not a failure at all... Everyone is welcome.

There will be two on-line discussions:

- March 9, 7-9pm
- April 12, 7-9pm.

If you would like to have more information, or if you would like to participate, please contact Liz Hamel at the diocesan office, or contact St. Brice’s parish office at 705 474-4005. (For security reasons, we are not posting email addresses in newsletters which will be uploaded to the parish website.)

Deanery Book, Lent

Another book study in Lent: The Rev. Linda White will be facilitating a study of *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges. The study will be held on Thursdays from 2-3pm, beginning on February 23. For more information, please contact the Rev. Linda, or St. Brice’s parish office at 705 474-4005.

The Rev. Marie Loewen, Bermuda

Although the Rev. Marie is the Honourary Assistant at St. Brice’s, she has been spending the winter serving in Bermuda. She recently sent along an update...



To our St. Brice’s Family,

Rob and I have been given the lovely gift of a longer stay in Bermuda than we had anticipated. We will return to

North Bay at the end of April, which will allow us to assist the churches here over Lent and Easter.



It has been quite an adventure. Bermuda is a little scrap of paradise in many ways -- a tiny island surrounded by an aqua-marine

blue sea, a temperate climate (shirt-sleeves or light jacket these days but too cool for me to swim!) and palm trees. The entire island is about 21 miles long and not quite 2 miles long at the widest point - and 700 miles from the nearest land. The population is about the same as the catchment area around North Bay, yet supports a full slate of government services. About 25% of the population, like us, as "ex-pats" from all over the world. It has been exciting to meet so many people of differing nationalities. The driving is on narrow (very narrow!) twisting roads with no shoulders to speak of and in the left lane. We are glad our car is tiny. I can now relax enough to have the radio on as I drive, but my knuckles are still often white as I bucket around blind corners or have a scooter cut 3 feet in front of my front bumper, narrowly missing oncoming cars.

We are serving two church congregations. St. Peter's has been worshipping in the same church for over 400

years! Sometimes I simply stand in the building and soak in the prayers that have ascended from there for 4 centuries. The church is a UNESCO site and, prior to COVID, welcomed up to 20,000 visitors per year. We are beginning to see some recovery of the tourist industry here, but it is slow and the loss of visitors has played havoc with the economy of St. George's. The rectory where we live is in this little town. We love that we can walk to everything we need and I am getting my steps in each day! The church cat, Georgia, greets us whenever we return home and the feral roosters seem to think that 3 am is a great time to screech at each other!

The congregation is small and older and made up of lovely and welcoming people. They have quickly become very dear to us and we are delighted to watch the Spirit



bringing a sense of hope to some weary and faithful souls.

The second congregation gathers on the island of St. David's - about a ten minute drive away. In fact, we can see that church across the harbour if the light is just right. This island was only accessed by water for over 300 years, and often the seas were too rough for folks to get to church here in St. George's so a "Chapel

of Ease" was built in the 1800's. A bridge was finally built between St. David's and St. George's in the 1930's, but the St. David's remains a very distinct community where everyone is related to someone else. Like St. Peter's, the folks are warm and faithful and somewhat older. The church building is at the top of a high hill, surrounded by a centuries old graveyard and so is inaccessible to many folks. We have begun a weekly Eucharist and Bible Study in the church hall which has easy access and the folks are enthusiastically embracing that.

I have had the unique experience of conducting the pre-ordination retreat for the first three Bermudian-born and locally trained deacons to serve in Bermuda.



Two of the three are women -- the first women to be ordained on the island to serve here in the 400+ years of the Diocese. I am also the first woman priest to have the responsibility of a parish here. I wondered how that might be received, but all three of us women have found our ministries

welcomed with joy. The third deacon is a deeply spiritual and delightful man who takes great joy in telling folks that he is the "mascot" for the other two.

Another blessing has been to renew our friendship with Canon Jerry and Marjie Smith. Canon Jerry is the Canon-residentiary of the Cathedral, and with Bishop Nicholas Dill, keeps us all in line.

While we miss our friends and church family in North Bay and of course, our children and grandchildren, we feel wonderfully blessed to be here and to serve. God is good -- all the time!

Much love to you all

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Coldest Night of the Year

The Coldest Night of the Year is a fund-raising initiative to help homeless or at-risk Canadians. The local CNoY event will take place on Saturday evening, February 25. It will be a 2km or 4km walk around downtown North Bay. There are two Anglican groups participating this year. If you would like to sponsor someone from St. Brice's, or if you would like to go on the walk, please go to <https://cnoy.org/home>

Good Friday Gathering

The Good Friday Gathering is the name for an inter-denominational worship service which takes place on Good Friday, for the past eight years. At different times, the event has been hosted at the Capitol Centre, on-line, or in large local Church buildings.



This coming **Good Friday, April 7**, there are plans to host the service at **Bethel Gospel Chapel** on Tackaberry Drive. The start time is not yet been confirmed, but will likely be 10am. Although the event is being hosted there, participation will be from a variety of local churches. This year's theme is "The Glory of the Cross."

PASTORAL CARE/ FELLOWSHIP

Hospital Visits

Regular hospital visits to provide pastoral care from clergy and laity in local parish communities was suspended during the recent pandemic. (There were exceptions under a few circumstances – for example, when a patient was palliative.) However, the hospital administration is cautiously allowing the resumption of this ministry. The tentative plans are for this to be in place by the beginning of March. I expect that I will



resume my twice-a-week visits for all patients who are identified as (1), St. Brice's parishioners; or (2), listed as Anglican but without a current parish affiliation. There will likely be lay visitors to the hospital as well, representing St. Brice's.

Because of a change in administrative procedures, if you are admitted to the hospital, or if a family member is admitted, please do not assume that the hospital will know you want pastoral care. Please leave a message at the parish office (705 474-4005).

Pancake Supper

Some guys at St. Brice's are putting on a pancake supper, on Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday, February 21, 5-6pm. This

will be open to all St. Brice's parishioners, family members, or a few close friends. (We don't have enough food for everyone's Facebook "friends.") There is no cost, although people are welcome to make donations to offset the cost of the ingredients.



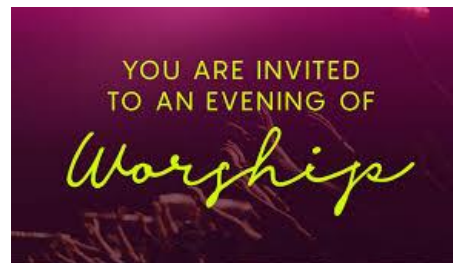
Why is it called "Shrove Tuesday," you ask? Years ago, when people prepared to receive

Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, they would go to Church the day before, for private confession. The old English word for our sins to be forgiven is that they were "shriven." This is where we got the word "shrove."

Why pancakes, you ask? The season of Lent is a penitential time, and the faithful would often give up eating rich food and cakes in that season. A common cake ingredient is eggs, so people would use up their eggs before Lent begins, by having pancakes.

Evening of Worship

The St. Brice's Praise and Worship Band will be presenting an Evening of Worship, this coming Saturday – Saturday, 18 February, 7pm. This will be a wonderful celebration of music and worship. Please feel free to invite friends, regardless of their backgrounds. The format will be a set of 8-10 songs, then a break, and then a further 8-10 songs.



During the break, refreshments will be served. We are still looking for a couple of volunteers to share some

refreshments. If you can help out this way, please use the sign-up sheet near the front door, or contact the parish office at 705 474-4005.

Parish Historian

Amanda Adams is the St. Brice’s parish historian. She plans to be undertaking some “oral history” interviews in the near future, and will be beginning with some of our older members. If you have one or more stories to tell, please contact Amanda, or leave a message at the parish office 705 474-4005.

PROPERTY

Exterior Doors

As many of us know, the exterior parish hall doors were at the end of their working life. The new exterior doors were recently installed. (The weatherstripping will be installed this coming Monday.) The total cost was \$4514, which is reasonable for commercial doors and installation at the present time. We received a \$7500 provincial security grant in 2022, and the new doors were paid for through this grant.

The default for the parish hall exterior doors is that they remain locked. Even when locked, one can always *exit*



through the doors (for example, if there is a fire). If you want to *unlock* the doors so people can enter the hall through these doors, there is an Allen wrench available (it looks

like a long small-diameter hexagonal bolt with a loop at one end). The Allen wrench is hanging on the inside of the door of the right-hand cupboard, when facing inside the hall facing Cassells St.

Push the panic bar on the main exit door, push the Allen wrench into the hole on the panic bar, and rotate it until the panic bar stays in the “open” position. If you listen carefully, you’ll hear a quiet click. Then people can use the door handles to go in and out. The doors will shut themselves unless they are propped open.

Please be sure to lock the door again when you are finished (!), and put the Allen wrench back. To lock the door, please follow the same process, but rotate the Allen wrench in the opposite direction.

The window inserts of the main exit doors were badly damaged by vandalism early last summer. After discussion within the Property Committee, and in consultation during the Vestry meeting, it was agreed that we want to replace the inserts with smaller windows which are more vandal-resistant. We are currently exploring options. We hope that the balance of the grant will pay for a substantial amount of the work, and the possibility of a memorial donation is being explored.

Furnace

St. Brice’s property has three furnaces. The one for the Church building is quite new and is in good repair. The furnace for the parish hall is elderly but is in good repair. The furnace for the narthex/ office area had to be replaced



a couple of weeks ago, at the cost of about \$5000. The new furnace is a very efficient Napoleon gas furnace, which produces 70 000 B.T.U.s of heat.

At the recent Vestry meeting, we talked about how to pay for this furnace. **We warmly** (no pun intended!) **welcome donations.** Any donations to pay for the furnace is not *instead* of our

regular offerings – we need those too – but *supplements* our regular offerings, as much as we are able. Donations to pay for the furnace should be specifically marked as “donations for the new furnace.”

At the recent Vestry meeting, there was a recommendation to apply to the Anglican Foundation of Canada for a grant. However, the old furnace had to be replaced right away – we could not wait, for safety reasons. One can only apply for an AFoC grant *before* work is done.

While not everyone wanted to undertake fund-raisers to pay for the new furnace, most people did. There were a number of **creative fund-raising ideas**:

- Yard Sale (suggested twice)
- Dinner & Silent Auction
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Men’s Breakfast
- Pie Auction
- Movie Night (would have to have permission to show the movie)
- Dog Watch Service
- Open House
- Art Show
- Pet Show
- Live Auction, Silent Auction, or Silent & Live Auctions
- Family Dance
- Dinner Theatre
- Montana Kissing Booth (Montana is a dog)
- Coffee House.



Ideally, we will get to work on a fund-raiser or two soon, and this will very likely be on the Agenda of the upcoming Board meeting on February 23. If you have a particular inclination toward one of these fund-raisers, or if you would like to coordinate a fund-raiser, or help in some specific way, please leave a message at the parish office (705 474-4005).

Roof/ Insulation

Part of the roof area at the back of the Church building, or in the office area, might have to be done this summer. It will be a much smaller job than the parish hall, which was re-roofed in 2021, but will still be significant. We hope to assess all the various planes or angles for the sections in question, and will report when the best path forward is clear.

In an effort to reduce the deficit, there was a recent assessment of how well St. Brice’s is current insulated. Would more insulation reduce our utility costs?

While the main part of the Church building is uninsulated, because of the old building’s structure and design, it is not feasible to insulate this area. A rough estimate would be an \$80 000 capital cost, and it would take many years to recoup this capital investment.



The back of the Church building has R12 insulation; the parish hall has R20 insulation. Both of these are well below the current standard of R60. A price quote from one company was \$6200. Given what we are dealing with to pay for the new furnace, and perhaps to do more roof work in 2023, and

the length of time to recoup costs, this capital project does not seem feasible at this time.

We hope to get a separate quote from the company for the back of the Church building alone:

- This would require less insulation overall, because that attic is a much smaller area;
- This area has less insulation (R12) and so would benefit more from an upgrade;
- The default heat setting in the living space is higher, to protect the pipe organ, so the costs would be recouped sooner.

We will consider whether or not this is feasible, when we have more information.

Monitors

Three video monitors were installed recently in the Church building. This has been a long-standing project, and was funded entirely by special donations from parishioners. Volunteers Don Bonenfant, Rob McDonald, and especially Gary Thoms put in a lot of hours to make sure everything was installed well. Thank you very much.

Parking

We are reminded that the only places where we can legally park is (1) in the parking spaces in front of the Church building; (2) alongside the berm which was the old stagecoach turn-around; (3) alongside Cassells St. on the

¹¹ Years ago, someone who presumably was a parishioner at St. Brice's, left some money in his will to St. Brice's. Some of this estate paid for the rector's moving costs in 2015. The balance has been set aside in a fund called "The Wardens Directed Fund." The Wardens Directed Fund has been used occasionally for special projects, at the discretion of the rector and wardens.

St. Brice's side of the street. Parking alongside Cassells St. is always allowed for funerals and events like that, and is tolerated on Sunday mornings. We are still working to get traffic signs so that we can park alongside Cassells Street on Saturdays and Sundays, all day. We hope to get this exemption, but it is not (yet, at least) guaranteed.

Spectre Construction tolerates parking in their parking lots on the weekend.

We are *not* allowed to park at the Sun Life building, either in front of their building, nor in their back parking lot. Never. There.

Thank you.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Budget 2023

As most of us are aware, St. Brice's ended 2022, uncharacteristically, with a financial deficit of almost \$17 000. This came out of our savings from previous years. We started 2023, then, with \$17 387 remaining in the General Fund.¹ Obviously, this is unsustainable. What do we do to address this?

The remaining balance is \$11 055 at the beginning of this year. The Wardens Directed Fund could be used for operating expenses, but this seems to me (PA) just to postpone the hard task of creating a balanced budget for a few months or a year or two down the road.

The Finance Committee, and the Advisory Board, have taken several important steps, which help, but do not yet completely solve, our deficit:

1. We have **carefully looked** to see if there is a place **for significant savings**, throughout our operations. As we had thought already, we run a pretty lean ship. Our treasurer, Don Bonenfant, does a remarkable job of predicting expenses throughout the year.

2. We **communicate** with the congregation at least monthly about our financial status, on the first Sunday of each month. The wardens and I (PA) wrote a letter to parishioners, giving an update on 15 September. Our sense is that most parishioners are aware of where we stand, and we know that some people have chosen to increase their offerings later in 2022, as they are able. We appreciate this very much.



3. We plan for an **increase of about 5%** in income in 2023. We believe this is realistic and achievable, and there are already some signs that we are on track with this. This will not *eliminate* the deficit, but will *reduce* it.

4. We have limited options for reducing expenses. For the first time anyone can remember, we presented the **Vestry** with a **choice of two budget alternatives**: Scenario #1 keeps our commitments in 2023 as they were in 2022 (for a projected 2023 deficit of just over \$11 000). Scenario #2 would have removed the office coordinator’s position by the end of February 2022, and the honourarium for the cleaner (for a projected 2023 deficit of just under \$7700). Everyone agreed that we wanted to keep the

positions. After thoughtful discussion, the budget with Scenario #1 was adopted. Everyone present recognized that this was the more ambitious target, and that we now *need to live out the direction we believe is the faithful one*.

5. We are actively looking for a **group** who would like **to use the hall regularly**, in return for some financial remuneration.

6. Strategies 1-5 only deal with the congregation we have. The key long-term and necessary strategy, I believe, is to **draw more people into the love of Christ** in the community of the Church. (Of course, that’s God’s job – but we can help.) Eventually, part



of our common life is to contribute financially to the work of the Church, as we are able. I am sincerely grateful for folks who have recently made St. Brice’s their spiritual home. I feel that I am working pretty hard to draw people in – but I can’t do it alone. All ministers – lay and ordained – are called to help make disciples. I encourage

everyone to pray and to invite to this end – not primarily for financial support for St. Brice’s, but for *Christ and his kingdom*.

7. I want our deficit not just to be reduced, but to be eliminated. If we are faithful, I believe we can be **pleasantly surprised**. We serve God, “who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3: 20).

Financial Update

January, July and August tend to be the months with the lowest income. So I (PA) was grateful to learn that our deficit in for January 2023 was only about \$140 (I don't have the exact number). However, it is important to notice that this is the deficit of our projected 2023 *income*, which plans for an income shortfall of \$11 000. To have a completely balanced budget, we'd like an average monthly income of just over \$900 more a month.

In a COVID environment, we have made very significant strides. **Do you think that we can eliminate the deficit altogether in 2023?**

Tax Receipts

The 2022 charitable receipts are now available. Thank you to Fay Ivany and to the counters for their steady work each week.

3rd party cheques

Occasionally, a parishioner is reimbursed for something they purchased for the parish. He or she will sometimes endorse the cheque, and then give it back to the parish. The benefit to the parish has been lower costs; the benefit to the donor is an increased charitable donation.



However, we received a notice from the Credit Union (where we do our banking), that they will not be able to honour cheques this way in

the future. This is happening throughout the industry; apparently, it's a liability issue.

Here is how it is supposed to take place in the future: Imagine Fred broke something in the kitchen and feels a

bit badly. He buys a new one for \$20, keeps the receipt, and gives it to the treasurer to be reimbursed. Now, when Fred gets his \$20 reimbursement cheque, he shouldn't put it back on the offertory plate. Instead, either Fred needs to put \$20 on the offertory plate, or write his own cheque to the parish for \$20 to get his charitable donation receipt.

There is always more which can be added to a parish newsletter, but this is enough for now! More information about the Vestry meeting will be shared, after the Minutes are completed.

God bless!
Peter Armstrong

