

RECTORS REPORT 2015

Presented to the Vestries of All Saints and St George's Feb 1 and 8, 2015

"Embracing God's Future"

An exciting journey, calling us to joyfully live a dynamic faith as disciples of Jesus. A strategic road map for the Diocese of Ottawa. An initiative launched in 2013 to gather ideas from all the congregations of the diocese to help us be the church God is calling us to be as we move forward in these most interesting of times. Five priorities were identified to help us Embrace God's future. So how do we here at All Saints and St George's engage with these priorities?

1. Buildings and the shape of ministry

The buildings of All Saints and St George's continue to serve us well as places of worship and fellowship. At All Saints we were able to offer use of the building to the wider community again this year. We have been blessed with accessible facilities including a hall and kitchen that we believe we are called to share with others. Thanks to the Men's Group and Ladies Group for their work in keeping the church, hall and property clean and in good repair. We continue to explore the feasibility of enhancing the exterior of the building through the construction of a cupola/steeple for the bell. We also hope to look at upgrading the kitchen.

At St George's 2014 was the year of building. The new entranceway with washroom is almost complete. Thanks to all who volunteered their many, many hours of loved filled labour. Thanks also to those who generously donated financially. Special thanks to Harris our tireless project manager. May the new facilities be a blessing to the congregation of St George's but also to the wider community as we seek to embrace God's call into the future.

2. Engagement with the world

We continued to reach out in love and service in a variety of ways. Locally we generously supported the Food Bank, Carefor and CPAN. We continued to support the Bales for the North, Operation Christmas Child, the work of PWRDF and our own diocesan community ministries centred in Ottawa. May we continue to be generous to those in need whoever they may be and with God's help be a people of love and peace and mercy in a troubled world.

3. Lifelong formation

As followers of Jesus we are on the journey of a lifetime and a lifelong journey of growing in the love and knowledge of Jesus. Baptisms at St George's marked the beginning of this journey with Jesus for 4 little ones and 2 adults. We, as their faith community, have promised to do all we can to support them in their life in Christ. We must seek new ways to nurture their faith and not just wait until they choose to join us in worship. Messy Church, a once a month gathering for families with young children is being offered by Holy Trinity and Calvin United in Pembroke and is one attempt to serve those we rarely see at traditional Sunday morning church. At St George's we rejoice that the "Kids with Character" were a vibrant presence during the year especially at the Outdoor Worship service in May and the recent Christmas Concert "Come to the Manger". Thanks to Wanda for coordinating the program with our children.

During 2014 the sermon time was enhanced with a few different voices as Gloria shared her testimony, Rev Robert Lauder proclaimed the Thanksgiving message and Major the Rev Liam Thomas reflected on the life of a soldier at our Remembrance Sunday. At All Saints students from General Panet shared their experience of their mission trip to Nicaragua. In Lent we were encouraged to read through the Gospels with the aid of a reading guide and during Holy Week we celebrated together 'The Last Supper Meal' with song, scripture, reflection, fellowship and food. May we look forward to this new year as followers of Jesus with open hearts and minds to learn more of the love and grace we have been offered.

4. Worship and hospitality

Every Sunday we gather to worship celebrating the love of Jesus. We give thanks for our dedicated and gifted musicians, Kim, Chris, Lois, Margaret, Carol and Richard. Thanks also to all who participate in our liturgy; readers, intercessors, servers, chalice bearers, altar guild, greeters and all who provide lunch and refreshments for our after service fellowship. 'Back to Church Sunday' in conjunction with All Saints Day Celebrations was a glorious time of worship with guests and returning parishioners filling the church. Let us be truly welcoming of all who appear at our doors and in our pews. Vibrant worship and gracious hospitality are central to our identity and critical to our future.

5. Communications

There are so many voices vying for our attention these days. Did you know that we have a Web Site, a Facebook Page, and a Facebook Group for Anglicans in the Deanery? We advertise our events in local newspapers, radio stations and with posters. However, by far the most effective means of communicating is the old fashioned word of mouth approach. Share what your church and faith mean to you. Listen well and invite your friends to 'Come and See'.

On behalf of the parish I would like to thank our churchwardens Bernie, Kim, John and Yvonne for their support and dedication. Thanks to treasurers Kevin and Bob and Linda and envelope secretaries Elaine and Claire. Bob and Linda are stepping down as treasurers at All Saints. Thanks Bob and Linda for your ministry. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to serve as treasurer. Thanks also to Louise, chair of the rectory committee, and our liaison with the rectory tenants.

In 2014 we did well financially with the assistance of a small support grant from the diocese. Our average attendance is down slightly but we were delighted to welcome some new members. We did however say goodbye to many faithful members in 2014 who will be dearly missed. May they rest in peace and arise to glory.

May we, the people of All Saints and St George's, embrace God's future for his church and move into 2015 with thanksgiving, joy and hope in our hearts.

By grace in Christ

The Reverend Cathy Davis (January 2015)