

FALL 2023

THE ST JOHN'S JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of St John The Baptist, Lakefield



Dates for Your Diary

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October 1	Harvest Sunday Service
October 14	Culture Days in Douro-Dummer
October 20	Food drive at Lakefield Foodland
October 21	Pumpkin Festival
November 12	Remembrance Sunday

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ One of our former parishioners, Bill Gastle, passed away in September. Our prayers are with his widow Susan. There will be a Celebration of Life for Bill on **Saturday, October 14th at 2pm at Lakefield College School** (in the chapel), with a reception to follow.
- ✦ **Pumpkin Festival** takes place Saturday October 21st from 10am – 2pm at St John's. There'll be a craft table, baked goods, children's activities, pumpkins for sale, and more. Apple cider, coffee, and muffins will be served at the event.
- ✦ **Gift card orders** will be placed mid-November so cards arrive in plenty of time for Christmas shopping and gift giving. Further details will be provided nearer the time. Contact Marty Smith (martysmith1611@gmail.com) with any questions.
- ✦ 2024 Anglican Church of Canada calendars are now available for order. Get one for yourself or give as Christmas gifts! To order, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the parish hall by **Monday October 9th**.
- ✦ Are you on Facebook? St John's former page will no longer be updated so be sure to follow the new page at facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistLakefield
- ✦ We also have a new Communications email address – **stjohnslakefieldcomms@gmail.com** Please add this to your contacts so church notices don't end up in your spam folder!



CHURCH NEWS

From Goodbye...



Arriving as he did at the onset of a global pandemic, Rev. Peter's ministry at St John's wasn't always easy. He overcame those challenges to guide the church through three difficult years and, in August, made the tough decision to move on - prompted in part by his marriage and new commitments to bride Pauline and her family.

The church wished him a fond farewell with a goodbye lunch attended by the newlyweds, several members of the congregation, and some friends from Lakefield Baptist Church. Thanks go to Prim and her dedicated team for a delicious meal (including a beautiful cake for the happy couple!). Our thanks and prayers go with Rev. Peter and Pauline, may all God's blessings descend upon them.

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...To Hello



When God closes one door, He opens another. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our wardens and the Bishop, it wasn't long before we were appointed an interim priest at St John's.

Rev. Canon Dr Judy Paulsen will begin her duties on November 1st. In the meantime, we are grateful to our guest priests - Rev. Frank Tyrrell, Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe and Rev. Bentley Steers.

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more information on the schedule until Dr Paulsen joins us and [head to the website](#) to view her full bio.

Changes & Challenges - a Note From Our Wardens

This is usually the time of year when we think of changes. Change in the season bring changes of colour, students face change to a new year at school, a new class etc. Even at our church of St. Johns we are yet again facing change.

We have said goodbye to Reverend Peter Gachira and look forward to Reverend Canon Judy Paulsen joining us as interim Priest in Charge from November 1st to April 30th, 2024. Rev. Judy comes to us with a lot of experience with congregations and is a retired professor of Evangelism at Wycliffe College in Toronto.

Change is never easy. Your wardens try to keep up with the changes we face on a daily basis. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see an update by Mike of our regular envelope giving and the challenge we face in revenue. Rene Jackman, our treasurer, does a great job of keeping our finances in order.



Wardens' Update cont.

Recently the wardens met with our area bishop, Ryscilla Shaw. She listened to the challenges we face but nevertheless gave us hope for the future.

Other challenges are that of trying to keep up with the maintenance of the buildings. The church hall needs outside painting done which, at the last quote, was a little over \$6,000. The church itself needs the interior wall over the entrance completed and painted. The rectory needs renovating.

Having said that, we are thankful for all those who volunteer their time to keep our buildings safe, clean and welcoming, and those who make sure that our church services run smoothly. You know who you are.

We especially welcome the new volunteers who have recently joined us. Catherine Morris has taken on the work of keeping the website up to date; you may have noticed a slightly different look. She also oversees the Facebook page and has been instrumental in producing this newsletter. We still need people to undertake keeping the outside signs and the notice board in the hallway current. If any part of that is something you might be able to do, please ask Mike or Sheila what would be involved.

As wardens, we are encouraged to look to the future with hope, whatever that may look like. We're reminded of Jesus telling his disciples to look at the birds and the flowers and to worry less. Not the easiest thing, to worry less, but we do have that on the highest authority...

We encourage you to include the prayer on the following page in your daily prayers, praying especially for Bishop Ryscilla as she discerns what our future holds.

God is Faithful.

Your Wardens: Mike, Ann, Sheila.



Prayer for the Parish

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look upon your church with grace, and guide the mind of Bishop Shaw as she searches for a new and faithful servant to lead us. Gracious God, help us to find the one who will lift the name of Jesus Christ as God and Saviour and who will care for your people and align our vision and ministries with Your purposes. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.



Financial Update

It's no secret that our current financial position isn't as we would wish it. In June, then again at the end of August, I analysed our numbers in terms of regular donations versus regular expenses. By donations I mean regular, special and initial envelope donations (including PAR) by parishioners, plus the other donations that go towards our regular expenses. I have excluded designated donations (food bank and FaithWorks) because we don't use that money for regular running expenses.

The results of this exercise are:

Analysis to end of:	May	Aug
Actual total donations to date	\$33,485	\$54,074
Percentage of year to date	42%	67%
Number of donors to date in 2023	42	45
Average actual, per donor per week, to date	\$33	\$32
Projected donations at end of 2023	\$79,146	\$80,339
Routine expenses to date	\$76,408	\$103,748
Projected routine expenses to end 2023	\$180,601	\$154,140
Projected shortfall	\$101,454	\$73,801
Expected bequest interest	\$21,000	\$21,000
Remaining shortfall	\$80,454	\$52,801
Shortfall per donor to end 2023	\$1,916	\$1,173
Remaining weeks in 2023	30	17
Shortfall per donor per remaining week	\$64	\$69

The total number of donors has risen by three, and the projected shortfall has dropped by 27% but the per donor per week number is about the same for the end of August as it was at the end of May.

We're spending more on routine expenses than is coming in as donations. It's not about money, really, but much like an engine without enough oil, without enough money for the routine expenses, St. John's will grind to a halt.

We're watching the expenses carefully and doing our best to avoid waste, but the bills must be paid. Next year's budget preparation is going to be difficult. We can but prayerfully ponder how each of us could help, while we also trust that if we're doing what God wants us to be doing, God will enable us to keep at it.

Mike



Recap on Restorative Practice

This recap covers the work that Fordelm and FaithCare have carried out with St John the Baptist Anglican Church in Lakefield, Ontario. Our objective is to lay out:

- Why this work was undertaken
- Why we decided to take a restorative approach
- What we have done together with the parish
- The outcomes of our work as we see it
- Recommendations for how this work can influence the next phase of the parish's journey

This document is written from Fordelm's and FaithCare's perspective, not in the voice of the parish. Other reports produced along the way have more typically been about what the congregation is doing, thinking or being.

Why Fordelm:

In January 2022, in advance of the annual Vestry meeting, and as the parish was coming out of the post-pandemic 'fog' and getting to know Peter, their new priest, there was a sense of disarray and a need for a shared sense of direction. Fordelm, having worked with the parish through a very significant time before the pandemic and before Munroe's retirement, was considered a good fit because we knew the parish and some of its history.

Fordelm met with the parish leadership to discuss the issues before them largely focused around a sense of direction and mission. The Leadership Team, the Growing Forward Together group, and the MAF Grant group had ceased meeting, because of changeover of priest and the interim period. From the first offer of support, the issues as we understood them at the outset were:

- lacking a shared vision and a shared sense of the current state
- disparate view of an effective leadership model
- significant differences around worship and worship services resulting in conflict
- unresolved hurts and conflicts over a long period
- a concern for what were sometimes unhealthy ways of connecting with one another.



Recap on Restorative Practice cont.

Why Restorative:

We proposed undertaking a Natural Church Development (NCD) Survey to take the pulse of the current state of parish health. Leadership felt strongly that there had been a negative experience with NCD and surveys in general, and opted for Listening Circles to take the pulse of the community.

We were also proposing a restorative approach for the parish, applying the principles and practices of Restorative Practice (RP) to work through conflict and begin integrating new and healthier ways of being together. Listening Circles are a type of Restorative Practice and entirely consistent with the rest of the project.

We as the consultants, sensed that the deeply rooted conflicts posed too severe a place to begin; we did not wish to start by raising the many conflicts, not all of which had arisen in the past two years, some were much more historic in nature. We proposed starting with listening to one another, not only to gain a sense of how one another was coming out of the pandemic, but to begin the restorative journey of rebuilding trust, ensuring fair process in decision making, and dealing with conflict in healthier ways.

Our Work Together

A Reference Team was struck to work with the consultant, to guide the implementation process, and help with scheduling meetings, communicating progress, and identifying who needed to be at which conversations. It took quite a while to populate the Reference Team, itself a measure of instability and mistrust within the community.

The Listening Circle in April, facilitated by Bill, saw about 45 people (a few online a week following the larger Circle) where people just listened to where others were at.



Recap on Restorative Practice cont.

From these times together, we proposed the issues as had heard them:

- the place of the Food Bank in the fabric and outreach of St John's
- how Life Groups augment the life of the parish
- the place of worship services
- identity – what it means to be an Anglican faith community in Lakefield
- leadership styles, leadership effectiveness

Based on push back around the sense that the Food Bank and Life Groups were being positioned as “problem areas”, we and the Reference Team reworked the list to the following: Music; Worship; Identity; and Leadership.

Prior to facilitating Circles around these four areas, Facilitated Circles of six to eight people were held to review how people expect to be together in healthy productive relationships – how people can be “with” one another well, and how decisions are made through Fair Process. These initial circles were designed to introduce the restorative principles and practices, thereby enhancing the way people dealt with one another in love, and to start dealing with the issues. As with subsequent Circles, each ended with ideas about moving forward well together. In time, these lists of ideas for moving forward informed the Action Planning exercise.

About this time, Heidi DeJonge joined Bill as a FaithCare co-facilitator and consultant. Bill's consulting practice, Fordelm, was still the lead on the project, but we were operating under FaithCare's approach to Restorative Practice which typically sees two facilitators. With schedules for the Reference Team meetings, the two facilitators, and everyday issues arising, it was well into the fall of 2022 before we conducted the first Circle on Music. The second Circle, on Worship, was held in December, the Identity Circle was held in February of this year, and the Leadership Circle in March. Throughout the process, we continued to hear from parishioners that they wanted to get “past talking” to “doing” and we tried to balance this with the recurring theme that this restorative work needed to be done first, before a shared sense of mission and ministry could be articulated. We all regret that the process took so long, but relationships can't be rushed, and the deeper work needed doing.



Recap on Restorative Practice cont.

Outcomes

As mentioned, each Circle ended with a series of questions about how to move forward given what people had heard in the Circle. These lists were consolidated and filtered to produce the following areas for further planning together.

More subjectively, we sense that the mood and morale of the parish was calmer. This in no way suggests that all previous conflict had been addressed or that all relationships had been restored. Indeed, several parishioners had left over the ensuing months – some because they no longer saw a fit for their worship styles, their leadership or sense of Anglican identity.

We do believe, however, that the remnant have developed a healthier way of being together and dealing with conflict.

We also sense that the following approach to future planning is well grounded, not just in terms of how the areas of focus have been raised up, but also in the shared sense of how to approach them in a collaborative and positive fashion.

The following four focus areas were distilled from the lists of moving forward ideas from each Circle:

1. Vision: revisiting and updating the current Vision statement based on the Circle discussions
2. Worship: integrates Anglican identity, language & liturgy, prayer & posture, and music
3. Restoration: how people are 'with' one another: consistently using restorative language and approaches to being together; and fair process in decision making
4. Communications Procedures: how information and direction is gathered, bundled and disseminated.



Recap on Restorative Practice cont.

Recommendations:

At our pre-planning day in June, we agreed that work can be done around each of these focus areas, that formal adoption by the parish does not have to happen first. We are confident, as is the Reference Team, that the process and discussions over the last 18 months have led to the way forward together and action plan. While each of the areas will require further fleshing out and refining, we are confident that the Vision is 75 to 85% accurate.

In anticipation of a more formal meeting on how to move forward in music and worship, everyone can be thinking about where to position their preferences on the four continuums:



THE FIVE MARKS OF MISSION

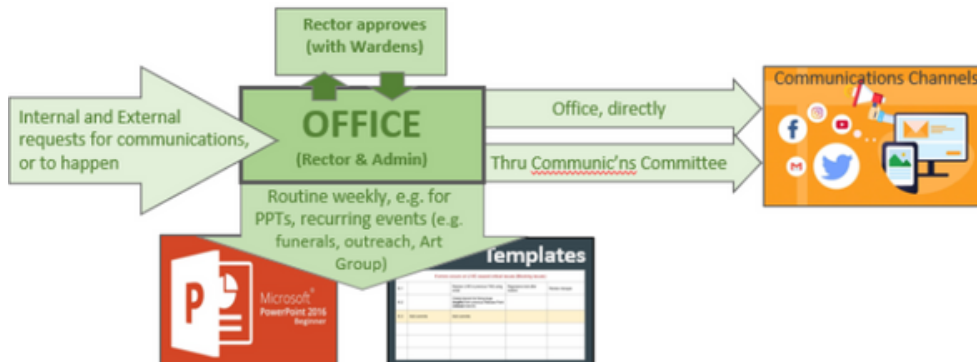
1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

This will give people time to reflect and then come together to find what will work best for the majority. There is a strong sense now that people are ready to give a little, that not having all their preferences met is not a negative way of being, but a conciliatory, trusting and life-giving way to be in community together.

We are confident that the parish has adopted the Restorative Practice principles into its way of being, sometimes quite intentionally, and at other times more as if it's in the background. The Reference Team and other leaders are ideally poised to continue this ongoing investment into the culture of the parish, and we recommend that two or three people take FaithCare's RP training when it's next offered.



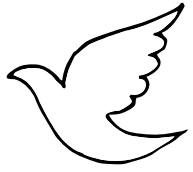
Recap on Restorative Practice cont.



With regard to communications processes and keeping everyone informed adequately, the leadership team is quietly adopting some of the suggested ways forward that came out of the June planning session. This graphic captures the primary elements of the plan: funnel all incoming information through the office; gather information together for dissemination and approval by the Rector; send out communications pieces through well defined channels including primarily PowerPoint, templates (for regularly occurring events like funerals), and online/newsletter/Facebook.

In closing, we are more than confident that the parish can move these objectives forward without further support from Fordelm. We are also comfortable providing check-ins and follow-ups as required, especially if an incoming interim priest or full-time incumbent wishes to review the approach and way forward, to come alongside and be 'with' the parish.

Submitted by Bill Bickle



NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

A Busy Summer for the Lakefield Community Food Bank

We currently have 40 volunteers at the Lakefield Community Food Bank, coming from many different churches and walks of life. Our volunteers are privileged and honoured to be able to offer food to people who are struggling in our community.

On September 12th, we were able to have a wonderful gathering at the home of one of our volunteers. 24 of our volunteers were able to come and enjoy each other's company and feast on a lovely lunch. It was like a family reunion with loads of laughter and good fellowship. We were able to discuss important food bank issues at this time.

We are so fortunate to have a healthy balance in our Designated Account. We continue to be amazed and blessed by the wonderful support from the community. Because of this generosity we can offer a wonderful selection of items to our recipients. However, our current expenses continue to exceed our current revenue.

Here are a few highlights from the last few months at the Food Bank...



The Lakefield Community Garden has weekly provided a wonderful selection of fresh produce. Their volunteers picked and prepared the produce and brought it to us on Tuesday mornings. We even received sunflowers on a couple of occasions!

Each week in August, Leahy's Farm & Market donated many bushels of freshly picked corn on the cob. Everyone was able to take home this delicious treat. YUMMY!

Lakefield College School has a ½ acre garden on their Northcote Campus. Each week, they donated fresh produce to our food bank! Throughout the summer we received many totes of produce (spinach, beets, Bok choy, garlic, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, corn, turnips) It was offered at our outdoor extras table each Tuesday.



A Busy Summer for the Lakefield Community Food Bank cont.



On top of these donations, we continue to receive food weekly from Kawartha Food Share, the Lakefield Pantry supplies us with 15 dozen eggs weekly (thanks to their customers who donate their store points to the food bank), The Market provides fresh produce weekly, and the Lakefield Bakery donates baking on a weekly basis. As well, local gardeners donate produce, and individuals make donations of food and other items.

Jen MacKenzie, owner of The Lakefield Pantry, held a fundraiser for our Food Bank. A customer gave her a handmade wooden logging truck. Jen decided to hold a raffle and donate the proceeds to our Food Bank. What a great idea!

Lakefield Lakefest, “A music festival celebrating local talent”, took place at the Lakefield Fairgrounds on August 25th & 26th. Proceeds from this community event were dedicated to support the Lakefield Fairground, Lakefield Community Food Bank, and Lovesick Lake Native Women's Association.

We were happy to be the recipient of donations from the "Still Breathing Concert" held at the Whatley Barn. We received lots of non-perishable food and generous monetary donations.

A local artist, Cindy Allen is displaying and selling her art at Bridgenorth Library throughout the month of September. She is graciously donating 25% of her sales revenue to our food bank. Cindy is a member of the Lakefield Creative Arts Group, a ministry of St. John's (*see pg. 17*)

Upcoming events on the Food Bank's calendar...

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, Lakefield Foodland will be providing bags of food for customers to purchase. These bags are being donated to our food bank.



A Busy Summer for the Lakefield Community Food Bank cont.

We will offer a special selection of food on October 2nd (the week prior to Thanksgiving). We will encourage our recipients to choose from a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, fresh bread, desserts, and a ham! We are predicting that between 90 and 100 hundred households will come to receive food for a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner. All donations of food and monetary assistance are welcomed. We are planning to hold a Food Drive at Lakefield Foodland on October 20th. We hope to receive lots of food and monetary donations to help replenish our depleted stock.

There is good news to share from the Lakefield Village Lions. They are making plans to, once again, offer gently used clothing (e.g., coats, hats, mittens, etc.) “free” to our food bank recipients. The Club hopes to provide this 3rd annual event on October 31st.



St. Paul school is planning to have a fresh from the farm fundraiser this year. They are adding an opportunity for people to purchase a veggie bundle or an apple bundle and donate it to our food bank. The food is due to arrive between November 6th and December 6th. This is a creative way to boost our food bank offering.

Thank you for supporting this outreach! We appreciate the storage space, space for preparing the food we give out, and the supportive atmosphere for providing this essential work. We will continue with our curb-side model of serving our recipients for the foreseeable future. It is a blessing to be part of this St. John’s ministry to serve God’s people. Please visit us on our [“Lakefield Community Food Bank” Facebook page](#).

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Peacock



Rainy Days & Culture Days for the Lakefield Creative Arts Group

This summer, we had 3 events planned. Our participation in the Jazz Festival in Lakefield and the Buckhorn Festival of Art were very successful. Unfortunately Art in the Park was “rained out”.

Message From

On October 14 our art group will be participating in Culture Days in Douro -Dummer Dummer. This event takes place at the Warsaw Town Hall from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. We will be demonstrating acrylic painting, glass fusion, wool art and tile painting with glass paint.

We meet every Monday, except the second Monday of the month, in St John's Upper Hall. If you are in the vicinity of the church come in and see us at work. You are always welcome to join us too!

Ann & Sharon



CHRIST CHURCH UPDATE

Christ Church Community Museum - Summer Review

The summer of 2023 was a memorable one for Christ Church Community Museum. Through the dedication of thirty returning volunteer guides, four new guides, and our hard-working committee members, we welcomed over 450 visitors to CCCM.

Our visitor demographics ranged from locals and cottagers to those from many parts of Canada and the United States. Several international travellers came all the way from Argentina, Australia, England, Hungary and Sweden!

We were especially pleased to include as visitors, two direct descendants from Samuel Strickland's lineage from San Clemente and Orange, California and one from Plainfield, Ontario. On both occasions, it was a delight to spend a few hours exchanging genealogy, pictures and stories with them.

Our 2023 exhibits and revitalized displays were well-received. One exhibit focused on the restoration sixty years ago of Christ Church back to the time period of 1854 to 1866 with photos and brief vignettes chronicling this painstaking process.

This display was intended to encourage members of our community to reflect upon and continue the work necessary to maintain and preserve this local historic site and museum.

The second exhibit featured an architectural walk across the old concrete bridge to our downtown through historic photos from the late 19th and early 20th century of key landmarks and iconic commercial buildings in the village. Each period photo was paired with a related present-day photo taken from approximately the same spot. With these 'before and after' photos we hoped to instill an appreciation for our village's heritage architecture that still exists and to create an awareness of how quickly it can be lost.



Christ Church Community Museum – Summer Review cont.

On July 16th, CCCM was the setting for the book launch of Laura Elliott’s ‘The Ghost of Catharine Parr Traill: An Ancestor’s Guide to Wellbeing’. This book is a fascinating interpretation of the life and lessons of Catharine, as well as her challenges, and offers us guidance in the form of contemporary wellness thinking – connecting today’s complex world with that of the 19th century.

Four days later, a first edition copy (1853) of Catharine Parr Traill’s ‘Canadian Crusoes’ was serendipitously donated to the museum by Peter Young from Cobourg. Gifted from an innkeeper in Lake Placid, New York to Peter, who in turn, gifted the book to CCCM. It is now on display with the watercolour portrait of Catharine.

A Sunday communion service was held by Reverend Peter Gachira on August 6th in the church, with music provided by Kay Nickel on the pump organ.

Summer maintenance at CCCM included the enzyme cleaning of the marble cemetery gravestones, removal of two trees damaged by the derecho, refurbishing of the Atwood bench and the fresh coat of stain on the vestry. Three committee members continue to write monthly articles for the Lakefield Herald about the church, and Lakefield historical figures and occasions.

Upcoming special events at CCCM include a wedding on October 7th, a potential Fall musical event, and our annual Christmas tree lighting/carol service in December. Stay tuned!

Thank you to St. John’s Communication team for being so supportive of CCCM. We gratefully appreciate the use of the St. John’s sign, newsletter and website for promoting our special events. And to those parishioners who volunteer as summer guides, thank you all for being wonderful ambassadors for Christ Church Community Museum.

Patti McAllister
Chair, CCCM
705-868-6493



ACW UPDATE

The ACW at St John's had no formal meetings this summer but were available when needed. We hosted a reception for Eleanor Kerr's Funeral on June 10th and held a lunch for Rev. Peter and Pauline on August 27th to celebrate their wedding. It was sad to say goodbye to Peter, he will be missed by us all. Thanks to the team for all the help, from set-up to clean-up and everything in between.

Upcoming events on our agenda for fall include the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday 21st October (*see Announcements, pg 2*). If you can help in any way, please let me know. We welcome contributions to any of the stalls - bake for the Bake Table, donate your 'treasures' for our Treasure Table (you may no longer treasure those items, but someone might!). And, of course, you're welcome to just drop by and enjoy some coffee or cider and a muffin!

We also plan to recognize the work of the ACW one Sunday in November, date and details to follow.

On behalf of the ACW ladies, I hope you all had a restful summer and are ready to enjoy the fall.

Prim Lowry for the ACW
705-652-7574



BITS & PIECES

A Good Read

When reading through the Anglican newspaper a little while ago, I came across a review of what looked like a very interesting book – ‘Why Gather’ by Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic, rector of St. George’s Anglican church in St Catherines. I thoroughly enjoyed her take on the importance of why we are encouraged to come together as a community and the value of in person interaction. If you would like to read this, I have a copy for loan. After you have read it, please add your name to the list inside the front cover. If you’re interested, contact Robyn McKinlay 705 292 0487.

Happy reading!
Robyn

Interested in writing for St John’s website?

Message From
Our Wardens
PAGE 03

If you’ve visited our new website, you may have noticed a ‘News’ section. This is intended as a space for us to share updates on what’s happening around St. John’s between newsletters – not just activities but any topic that would be of interest. I’m currently brainstorming ideas for future blogs and would welcome your suggestions. And, of course, I’m happy to publish guest articles if anyone wants to write on a topic they’re passionate about. Please send ideas/submissions/comments to stjohnslakefieldcomms@gmail.com. There are no deadlines, blogs will be published as and when they’re received. Thanks in advance!

Catherine