

The Parish of the Holy Innocents  
Paradise, Newfoundland & Labrador

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**



**Faith** in God

**Love** each Other

**Serve** the World



# AGENDA

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*The Parish of the Holy Innocents*  
Annual Congregational Meeting: 2023 Year  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

- 1.0 Welcome
- 2.0 Agenda review
- 3.0 Minutes of last Annual General Meeting p. 3
- 4.0 Business Arising:
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- 5.0 Reports
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  - 5.3 Financial Reports
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    - b. Status of Giving's p.17
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  - 5.4 Nominating Report p.27
- 6.0 New Business
  - 6.1
  - 6.2
- 7.0 Date of next Vestry Meeting  
-March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
- 8.0 Closing Prayer
- 9.0 Adjournment

NOTES:



COME  
as you  
are

**The Anglican Parish of Holy Innocents  
Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, March 5, 2023**

**In Attendance:**

Rev. Byron Barter	Rev. David Jarvis
Rose Barter	Gwen Barret
Gail Murphy	Janet Sears
Lori Hoffe	Maxine Miller
Sylvia & Colin Reid	Ruby Parrott
Dora & Guy Durnford	Ada Cutler
Eric & Judith Squires	Thamsie White
Philip & Myrtle Sharpe	Jane Winsor
Nancy & Mason Warren	Frances Bugler
Dorothy Rector	Florence Smith
Nova & Joshua Haggstrom	April Kelly-Barnes
Sara Seymour	Lisa Robinson
Natasha Healey	Lorraine Boone
Shirley Hussey	Christine Cull
Samantha, Alex Howse & family	June Penney
Lisa, Michael, Zachary & Laura Hall	Kay Waye
Elaine Bartlett	Della Healey
Brad & Jen Clarke	

**1.0 Welcome**

The meeting was held during the Sunday morning service. Rev. Byron welcomed all parishioners who attended the service in person and those who joined via Facebook live. The sermon was replaced by the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

**2.0 Agenda Review**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Gail Murphy and seconded by Colin Reid.

**3.0 Minutes of Last Vestry Meeting**

The minutes for the annual general meeting dates March 13, 2022 were presented. No errors or omissions. Motion to accept the minutes by Gail Murphy and seconded by Colin Reid. Motion carried.

**4.0 Business Arising - No new business**

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**5.0 Reports**

**5.1 Rector's Report**

Rev. Byron presented his report. The year 2022 again was a different story. A year of much transition. We began the year under restrictions including face masks, worship registration and

we had to have reduced gatherings in our worship space. On March 14, [2022](#) our province and our church came out of two years of Covid restrictions. The post Covid world is a very different world with one very different church, our parish here, our church family of Holy Innocents like many other church families around country, around the world really will face many challenges including reduced attendance, worship, programs and also increased operating costs, and the changing needs of our community but, despite all of these challenges our parish family here continues to carry on its mission which is Faith in God, Love each Other, and Serve the World.

Our mission is to glorify God through faith, [love](#) and service. When you enter our building here you turn one direction to see our nursery and you turn the other direction and you see our little welcome cafe. Gathering and getting to know each other is a big part of our ministry. For a town really that for the most part is strangers, people who have moved here to join an original small population from all over the place around our province and sometimes even around the world. We say one of our little subtitles is Strangers become Friends, Friends become Family and Family becomes Church.

Many people here offer their talents to serve and that makes worship possible. Worship leaders, Greeters, Readers, Music providers, Choir, High Youth Singers, Sunday School programs and of course our people helping with serving, the Eucharistic Assistant and Altar Guild. All of this and more helps to make sure our worship experience is what it is. On March 15th, [2020](#) of course all of this changed when we were shut down for in person worship. Immediately we went online. Online worship continued from March 2020 until September 2020 when we reopened for in person worship. We shut down again on February 14, [2021](#) and opened on Palm Sunday. We were shut down again in December just before Christmas until February 2022. Then March 14, [2022](#) the Covid restrictions were dropped. There were only a couple of guidelines that remained for our church. One was no common cup and only one baby to be baptized at a time using the water. In person worship was not the same as it was with the momentum for pre covid worship as we were 90 people or more in attendance and [now](#) we are 40 to 50 people with us on a Sunday morning. We now run between 40 - 60 in attendance and since our reset in September we are seeing a gradual increase in attendance and positive energy and laughter as a sign is starting to show. Sunday school program was suspended in March 2020 and restarted the program in the fall of 2021. Shut it down again in December that same year and our program remained until the fall of 2022. Then it restarted with certain days being advertised.

Our confirmation program is called Reform based on the energy program for youth with real life questions. We didn't offer the program in 2021 but we did in January of 2022 where we had 13 young people registered. They made their confirmation in the spring with Bishop Sam.

Our pre worship fellowship has always been important to us here in our church and of course during Covid time we had to shut down we had to limit reopening and shut down again, another unlimited reopening and finally we were able to fully reopen in March along with our cafe. We were able to start the fellowship gathering back to church Sunday in September 2022. Pre Covid where we were having a fellowship gathering once a month. We were able to start the

fellowship gathering again in the fall. It took people a few times to feel comfortable at first and then in 2023 we offered a High Tea with 60 people in attendance. We will be hosting a restaurant gathering now with both parishes coming together. We also have another event on March 18th, 2022 which is going to be the St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

This year we are also very fortunate to support another new ministry Rev. Tracy Sullivan was ordained Deacon on June 12th, 2022. This was a great celebration for her and here for the church in general as she is a deacon in our church doing many things.

The next part is Faith Works as they call it. It is a creation of Rev. Tracy and many others of our team here at the parish have been quite busy. During lent 2022 we offered an online worship experience inviting people in our church community to come in with a thinking Journey to a New Life. We welcomed different people/organizations in our town to come in and speak with us about what they do to help the community in different ways. Starting in the summer of 2022 and going forward Faith Works took part in a number of things like organizing a school supply drive, Paradise Expo that we attended, Pride Parade, we hosted the first community Trunk or Treat, we partnered with Spruce Hill Pentecostal Church for a clothing swap, our annual Blessing Bag appeal to support the Gathering Place, continuing support to the Paradise/CBS food bank by doing a Coffee Appeal, P.W.R.D.F.. The midweek Lenten program, and we will be meeting at Meadow Creek with about 20 of our own people willing to take out and help out with the service. During Covid it was a tremendous challenge to minister to our people in these facilities as some people don't have family for support so we try to help out. We have ~~Karwood~~, Meadow Creek and the new Kingsway every month to provide pastoral care and try to offer a service to.

We also use our space here in the church building to offer to the community which during Covid was difficult. Paradise Daycare is an afterschool program and they rent us out in the afternoons during September to June and for the full days during the summer months of July and August. The 30 plus dart league rents our building every Wednesday evening.

Community connections are a big thing these days with our internet, ~~facebook~~ where we have well over 1100 followers and 4 to 5 thousand people who check in regularly on our ~~facebook~~, twitter and ~~instagram~~. We also work with the town whenever we are asked to attend a formal ceremony Remembrance Day, Canada Day and other things.

We have a fairly big property here to maintain. The biggest challenge right in the mists of Covid was our roof. The roof on the parking lot side was damaged during the high winds in 2021. We couldn't get it repaired at the time so we had to figure out what to do. We put out a contract for \$19,435.00 to Fort Properties. We had a capital grant from the Government during Covid for \$10,000.00 so we put that down towards the roof and we had an online auction put together by Natasha that worked out really well and we got \$3,300.00. The rest came in through personal donations. So by the time it came to do the roof last summer we had funds on hand to do it. During Covid when this was very difficult we managed to raise the funds to replace the roof on the south side.

Some of our expenses increased: for example our snow clearing is now 6 months. We pay a small stipend to have the church cleaned weekly. The daycare cleans the hall during the weekdays and we have a person hired for a fee to clean the hall after rentals on the weekends.

Financially we were struggling before Covid but we are doing better year after year but with all of the responsibilities with Covid we really had difficulty. Most of our income that came in during this time was a government funded program (CWS) rent from the daycare program as they stayed with us all during Covid and our personal savings especially our auto-givings (68 families) and e-transfers. We have been able to start with our fundraising programs again and the Ways and Means have really helped in organizing things like the Christmas tickets, cafe bake sale, Christmas bakeless bake sale, Christmas concert and our Advent bottles.

Our Partnership after much talking and consideration evolved with St. Nicholas Anglican Church in Torbay with a one year trial. We would share the expenses 50/50 when it comes to the full time paid person and we also share 50/50 travel expenses. We have other people helping out in both places like Deacons, Lay Readers, and music. We are able to have worship at the same time in each community each week. We are also supporting each other's fundraising events and we are bringing both parishes together at events for fellowship.

Looking ahead we know we have to change to suit the community. A lot of people who are interested in our church may not be sitting here each and every Sunday due to where they live, work schedules and many different lifestyles. The church family is made up of so many people who are not even here. Our partnership plays an important role going forward. There is also a generational change in our church as everything around us changes as well.

Rev. Byron in closing would like to thank our leadership teams who provided leadership in many, different ways. The wardens, verstry, financial assistance, time and talents along with anyone else who helped out as we continue our mission as best a s we can to have Faith in God, Love each Other and to Serve the world.

The Rector's Report was accepted by Christine Cull and seconded by Michael Hall

## 5.2 Altar Guild Report

You can follow along in the report on page 14. The Altar Guild is a group of people who you don't often see as they do things behind the scenes.

## 5.3 Statistical Report

On page 15 you can have a look at the Statistical Report. You will see the number of services (41), baptism (8), confirmation (1), marriages(1), funerals (3) and Ordination (1).

On page 11 you can see the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador report budget for information purposes. The statement shows a revenue decrease of \$1,141,147 in 2022 to \$1,061,028 in 2023.

On page 16 the Status of Giving and the number of Subscribers (180).