

Warden's Message

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” *Matthew 28.18-20*

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ *Matthew 25.40*

Greetings,

Licensed Lay Ministers fulfill the promises of their baptisms by serving in the name of the One who calls us to be the servant of all. Licensed Lay Ministers are often the key leaders of our congregations.

Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple once said: “The Church exists primarily for the sake of those who are still outside it.” This issue of the Diakonia focuses on the ways in which our

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parishes have responded to mission and outreach during the Covid pandemic. The mission of the Church is to reach those who are strangers to the Gospel and to make disciples. Outreach means to bring help and God's love to those of our neighbours who need support and encouragement.

Christian ministry, lay and ordained, combines faith and works.



Faith is the foundation that makes all things possible even when difficult. Works are the activities that fulfill our faith.

For some Parishes, mission and outreach was somewhat of an impossible task as the health and safety guidelines did not permit the use of the church buildings. Many who would carry out these good works found that they needed to step back as a way of keeping themselves and others safe and healthy.

Covid 19, combined with world events, is moving us to a different place. Our regional reps are gathering stories from all over the diocese. What the future holds is anyone's guess. Yet whatever awaits us, ministry, mission, and outreach will continue. In the midst of a changing world, we can draw hope: Christ promised that he would be with us until the end of the age.

Yours in Christ,

Archdeacon Thomas W. Henderson
Warden, Licensed Lay Ministers
Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

The Association's "NEW" banner



President's Report

I did not expect to be writing another President's Report for the Diakonia when my term as President finished a couple of years ago; however, I am honoured to be the President of our organization once again. At our 2021 AGM, I was elected President, Barb Bergeron was elected Vice President, Lois Durant was elected Treasurer. Marilyn Massie Clarke became the Past President and Victoria Henrikson remains as our Secretary and Diakonia Editor.

Many thanks to Lois for stepping forward; being the Treasurer is a complicated and stressful position. Many thanks also to Victoria, her hard work and many skills hold our organization together!

The past two years have been very difficult for many of us. Separation from family, loss of loved ones, the inability to gather for worship, restrictions on social activities has been hard on all of us. It was the decision of the Executive to use this edition of the Diakonia to showcase what Licensed Lay Ministers in all of the Regions have been doing in support of our congregations during this stressful time.

Communication has been difficult with in-person gatherings being limited. I do know, that in my case, I have found that Zoom has been extremely useful, not just with meetings, but to stay in touch with family members who live in different countries. The Executive has made the decision to continue the use of Zoom for the majority of our meetings even when things return to normal. Even when we meet in person, we will provide the option for those who do not wish to travel, to attend via Zoom.

COVID-19 restrictions are being lessened, hopefully we will be returning to a more normal way of living our lives. It will be wonderful to meet everyone in person at our Annual Meeting which will be held on June 11 from 9:30am to 2:00pm at St Peter's, Eastern Passage. For those unable to attend in person, we plan on providing the option to attend virtually via livestream.

At the last Executive meeting, we were disappointed to learn that the person we had invited to be our keynote speaker at the 2022 Fall Conference is unable to attend. Plans are in place to have a

very informative in-person conference in PEI in the Fall. More information will be forthcoming. The conference will be held September 23-25 at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre, Stanley Bridge, PEI.

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From the Desk of the Editor
*As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

We are all praying that Spring is around the corner; that the pandemic will take a hike, and that we will soon be able to gather in community, albeit safely, to experience fellowship with one another.

As we look across the Regions, we see from the reports that there is still much which is being done to carry out God's mission in this world despite the limitations placed on us by the pandemic. I am amazed by the touching and heartfelt ministries being carried out in God's name. It appears that many of our Licensed Lay Ministers did not let COVID-19 take away their desire to reach out and touch their parishioners through phone calls, staying in touch with shut-ins and by leading in worship services during the week.

We are so much richer for all the ministries you carry out to make sure that God's love is made know in all creation, whether that means with the person right next door, or further afield through contributions to the PWRDF fund.

Looking ahead to the Fall issue of the Diakonia, I would welcome any and all suggestions from you regarding what you would like to see in that issue. We will be putting it together in early August in order to publicize information about the Fall Conference.

Charles Spurgeon has been quoted as saying ***“One of the greatest rewards that we ever receive for serving God is the permission to do still more.”*** I wish you continued blessings as you daily serve

God more in whatever ways and ministries you are called to whether in mission and outreach or in a myriad of other places/ ministries where God calls us.

Victoria Henrikson, Editor

Since we have been called to care for ourselves and others through health and safety guideline, these scripture references seem so very appropriate.

My eyes are ever on the LORD. Psalm 25:15

Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD.

Psalm 121:1-2

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

Psalm 119:35

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-19

In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philippians 2:13

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Cape Breton

God will not lead you, where "His Grace" cannot keep you.

The Collieries Parish is feeling like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon and that we are at last looking forward to the endemic. Over the past couple of years (by zoom and in-person), the Parish has conducted Lay Minister training and refresher training programs at the Collieries Parish. They are thrilled to add three newly minted, fully qualified Licensed Lay Ministers to the team. They are Ken MacIntosh, Annie MacQueen and Allister Moore. Welcome, congratulations and thank you for taking on this important Ministry.

The following is a snapshot of where the Parish is focusing its resources as it begins to open up to the world again. This is exciting stuff.



In response to the "Marks of Mission", The Collieries Parish is leading a project with a number of community groups to hire a Community Engagement Consultant to cultivate effective partnerships to build trust and foster collaboration in the non-profit sector in the Collieries Parish communities. The person hired will network with local community-based organizations and develop an action plan for community partnerships with a focus on groups who assist those who are socially and economically disadvantaged members of the community. The goal will be to update existing community resources, develop a directory of community resources and contacts; assess community resources using a strength-based approach (Asset Mapping), identify the gaps and opportunities, as well as identify funding sources (government, community based, foundations, other). As stated in the last update The Parish is weathering the storm in a somewhat positive way and is excited to say they are continuing to do so with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Licensed Lay Ministers of the **Parish of North Sydney** have been busy doing services online and in-person. They continue to call parishioners to check in with them and keep them updated. There is also a newsletter “John’s Messenger” which is being sent out at the end of each month, to all those who have an email, updating them on services and other events or challenges. One of our Licensed Lay Ministers was part of the Diocesan Connectors’ group and has started a program called “Feeding the Need” where every third Thursday of the month a meal is prepared for those who wish to pick it up at the church parking lot. Some meals are also delivered. About 50 meals are prepared. All are all looking forward to getting back to normal and to having a new Rector, hopefully in the near future. It has been a difficult two years but the Parish continued, with God’s help, to serve in anyway they could.



The Licensed Lay Ministers of the **Parish of the Resurrection** have been very busy. The Rector is on leave and the Priest-in-Charge lives in Neil's Harbour and cannot travel much in the winter. The Parish has five Licensed Lay Ministers in Sydney and one in Louisbourg. They continue to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Parish, this past year, had two outreach projects - 1) school supplies for the Jamie Elementary School, Iqaluit; 2) Advent Challenge - Fill a box with food items for the local Food Bank; both projects were very successful. For Lent 2022 a bag will be filled and distributed to those attending church in both parishes. The Licensed Lay Ministers are very involved in all aspects of Parish life. *May God walk with us as we walk with God.*

Respectfully submitted,
Georgina Granchelli
Cape Breton Region Representative

Chebucto

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

The Parish has been working on the following Missional and Outreach activities:

Reaching Out to Seniors

Involving Youth in Mission

Connecting to the Larger Community

The following provides a quick snap-shot of what these programs are about:



Reaching out to Seniors - A number of monthly weekday services followed by coffee, tea, sweets and fellowship were held for residents of Samuel Prince Manor in 2021 in accordance with the proposal and funding provided by our Diocese. Due to the restrictions placed on us by the COVID-19, the committee had to put this missional initiative on hold in late 2021. However, it is the committee's intention to restart this missional initiative in 2022 as soon as the restrictions are no longer in place.

Involving Youth in Mission - As reported to the annual meeting of the Parish in 2021, this missional initiative was completed in the fall of 2019 and a report was prepared for the Diocesan Times. The report was well received.

Connecting to the Larger Community - Fifty (50) St. Margaret of Scotland "welcome to the neighbourhood" gifts bags, for new residents in our North End Community, were filled with useful information about our church, as well as information about other neighbourhood churches, local services and businesses. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions only about 25 of these welcome bags were delivered. It is the committee's intention to complete this missional initiative in 2022 when COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in place.

St. George's Soup Kitchen – Licensed Lay Ministers were also scheduled to serve at St. George's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, March 12, 2022, and are hoping to provide a cooked meal this time. The service again is expected to be the "brown-bag" ver-

sion. We are looking to develop a roster of volunteers to help prepare the meal and two or three to help distribute the meals on the Saturday.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 23:35

The Missional Initiatives Team will be preparing a final report to the FMDVSST committee of the Diocese by June of 2022 and an article for the Diocesan Times giving a summary of the initiatives and what we learned from undertaking these missional initiatives on behalf of the parish.

Respectfully submitted
Sherry Smith
Chebucto Region Representative

Chignecto

Like the rest of the Diocese, the Chignecto Region Licensed Lay Ministers, have had their usual activities curtailed by COVID-19. It has not all been negatively so, as some of our adaptations have been a blessing.



Telephone chats, in order to keep in contact with parishioners we do not see each Sunday has led to some interesting conversations and deeper friendships. More time has been spent talking to others, rather than a cursory “Good morning” or “How are you?” on the way out of a morning worship service!

Needless to say, much has also been lost with the lack of physical contacts with others. All the visitations to the sick in hospitals and those who are lonely in nursing homes were greatly missed, as were those to the elderly living alone.

Modern technology was quite well used in some parishes, with Sunday services being transmitted by Zoom or online through Facebook or other means. St. John’s in Truro did this for the duration of the pandemic, as did Christ Church in Amherst and St.

George's in Parrsboro. Email and old-fashioned snail mail were also used to send out the weekly morning services in many parishes, including St. James in Shubenacadie and the Parish of Northumberland.

In the smaller parishes, the Licensed Lay Ministers wear many hats in their ministries - Wardens, Treasurer, Organist, Sunday School Teachers, Choir Members, ACW members, etc. and are, therefore, involved in many activities within their churches. Some of these have had different activity levels during the past year.



Book Clubs have thrived though, and four Licensed Lay Ministers in Northumberland have been enrolled in the EFM (Education for Ministry) course, which two of them have now completed.

Due to the shortage of full-time and permanent priests in many parishes, the morning services are often being led by Licensed Lay Ministers. The Parish of Rawdon does not have any clergy to call upon, so a couple of times during the year, a Licensed Lay Minister from St. James in Shubenacadie will lead the morning service when necessary.

The Food Banks in most communities are often associated with, or held in their church halls, as in Parrsboro and Oxford, with staff provided by many parishioners too.

Unfortunately, due to the increasing ages of many of our congregations, their activities are diminished. Sadly, stoic willing workers are getting fewer, and some sadly lost during the past year and are truly missed.

As the seasons change, so does our ministry and we look forward to continuing as our ministry develops.

Respectfully submitted
Anne Williams
Area Representative – Chignecto Region

Dartmouth

Greetings from the Archdeaconry of Dartmouth! I hope everyone remains healthy and safe after another unusual year. Here is the report from the Dartmouth Area Parishes.

Church of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour ~ It's been a year of changes and adaptations to new ways of doing and being church. With COVID-19 regulations changing a number of times, our Parish did a mixture of on-line and in-person worship. We put our best efforts into doing all we could to continue our involvement with worship online and in-person.

As Licensed Lay Ministers we stayed connected and supported each other through monthly meetings. We continue to be supported by Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere, the Ministry Team and the Parish. We saw the continued growth and development of three Lay Ministers-in-Training, Marilyn Smith, Pat Gooch and Adam Ascah and as they participated in and took on responsibilities within this ministry. All will receive their full licensing in 2022. We welcomed the opportunity to invite Licensed Lay Ministers from Holy Trinity Emmanuel, Dartmouth to these meetings with Archdeacon Katherine as well as to participate in our on-line services as they awaited the appointment of a new Rector.

The Parish said its good-byes to Shirley Williams, a long time Licensed Lay Minister, who died in December of 2020. As a testament to the respect her colleagues had for her, all Licensed Lay Ministers were present and robed for Shirley's Celebration of Life Service in October. Discussions are taking place as how to best recognize Shirley through a memorial in the Parish.

Many Licensed Lay Ministers have engaged in "new" opportunities for growth and leadership within the Parish and continued with others already being offered. They took the lead in:

- organizing a guest speaker on September 30th, the first Truth and Reconciliation Day in Canada.
- writing customized prayers.
- Mike Hobson led a workshop for our Parish on Mental/Spiritual Health aspects of Resiliency in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also spoke to Dartmouth Regional Council regarding Mental Health Awareness and Resources

which are available.

- Two of our Licensed Lay Ministers learned Zoom and recorded the live worship services to make them available to our parishioners.
- All adapted to using a “pipette” to dispense the wine on the communion wafer.
- All became quite proficient in using Zoom, in order to participate as part of the ministry team for online services and meetings.
- The Dartmouth Regional Licensed Lay Ministry training program was coordinated by one of our Licensed Lay Ministers, while others delivered sessions.
- Three who are part of the Parish’s Pastoral Care Team, participated in the development and delivery of a Blue Christmas service.
- One of our Licensed Lay Minister’s coordinated the editing of our on-line worship services and uploaded to the Parish website. Also modified a small room at the back of the church to accommodate online worship service delivery, sourced, purchased and installed new equipment to improve the quality of the recording and for ease of use.
- Part of our Licensed Lay Minister team is the primary writer of prayers and organizer of people to lead intercessory prayer for the weekly Prayer Time with Archdeacon Katherine.
- Another member of the Licensed Lay ministry Team coordinates readers for the second reading during worship.
- Another dedicated Licensed Lay Minister coordinates the Licensed Lay Ministers schedule.
- Others are actively involved with a variety of groups, including working on administrative duties while others support the music ministry.
- Some Licensed Lay Ministers are also involved in ministries at the Diocesan level.

Our ministries are varied and all serve with humility and profound respect for the leadership of the Rector, Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere. The Licensed Lay Ministers are truly blessed to be part of a team serving the Parish of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour and the Diocese. They are also blessed to be supported by each other in their Christian walk and ministry and to know that they serve a Parish which is devoted to living out the Gospel of Christ.

Church of the Holy Spirit, Dartmouth ~ Five Licensed Lay Ministers and one Lay Minister-in-Training are active at the Church of the Holy Spirit. All Licensed Lay Ministers take their turn in reading, proclaiming the Gospel and leading the Prayers of the People. On Sundays there is a 9 a.m. in-person service (when the church is open depending on Public Health restrictions) and an 11 a.m. Morning Prayer service on Zoom. The Parish had a part-time Priest-in-Charge from February to the end of the year, so Holy Eucharist was held three Sundays a month and the Licensed Lay Ministers led the congregation in Morning Prayer on the fourth Sunday. During January two Licensed Lay Ministers led Morning Prayer in church as well as on Zoom.



Support was given the Priest-in-Charge with programs such as Bible Studies, Blessing of the Animals and Blessing of the School Back Packs. One of the Licensed Lay Ministers led the Evening Prayer service on Wednesday afternoons when the church was permitted to be open. Two members are attending some of the Licensed Lay Ministers' Training Program which is presently ongoing. Telephone calls are being made to connect with each other and with members of our congregation, who either cannot attend church, or who do not have a computer to join the zoom services. Blessings to all who provide this ministry.

Trinity Emmanuel ~ Last year was a very busy year for the Licensed Lay Ministers at Holy Trinity Emmanuel, Dartmouth North. Not only are they Licensed Lay Ministers for Holy Trinity Emmanuel, but both are Wardens for the Parish which keeps them quite busy. During 2021, COVID-19 and the Pandemic kept the church, like others, closed for periods of time. Whenever it was possible, both Licensed Lay Ministers shared in leading in-person services and also having services recorded so the congregation could watch from homes on Sundays.

Both individuals were involved in many meetings during the first part of 2021 with Archdeacon Katherine Bourbonniere and the Wardens of St. Albans of Woodside on bringing the two congregations together in a shared ministry. These meetings were successful with the appointment of The Reverend Marian Lucas-Jefferies as Priest-in-Charge beginning on August 1st, 2021.

Both Licensed Lay Ministers kept in contact with all of the congregation by calling them and visiting them whenever possible and to keep them informed on what was happening in our parish. They continue to help with the Sunday services by doing the readings and prayers and helping the Priest. They also preach every now and then, and also lead Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer which are recorded during some weeks and uploaded to our Facebook page so our congregation could view them.

It has been a very tough two years for everyone with the pandemic but now we are able to see a light at the end of the tunnel and we are all very excited to get back to some form of normal and regular activities.

Sending out a huge thank you to all Licensed Lay Ministers in our Diocese for all of your hard work and commitments. God's blessings as we move forward with the work that we do as Licensed Lay Ministers. A Special Thank You to the Executive of the Diocesan Licensed Lay Ministers' Association.

St. Alban's, Woodside ~ The Licensed Lay Ministers continue to work closely with the Priest-in-Charge, The Reverend Marian Lucas-Jefferies. With the "new" partnership with Holy Trinity Emmanuel Church (effective July 1, 2021), the Licensed Lay Ministers from both parishes have been meeting together and sharing in conversations. During the public health closures to in-person worship, the Licensed Lay Ministers have recorded services of Morning Prayer and Compline, as well as taken part in the live Zoom Sunday services. With in-person worship allowed once again, the Licensed Lay Ministers are back to assisting with communion, writing and delivering the Prayers of the People, and reading scripture. One Licensed Lay Minister continues to record Morning Prayer services and post them to the Parish Facebook page. Recently a Lay Minister-in-Training received his License, bringing St. Alban's up to four Licensed Lay Ministers.



St. Andrew's Locks Road ~ The Parish suffered a major loss on Thanksgiving Monday when the Rector, The Reverend Robert Richmond, passed away while on vacation in Ontario. The Parish is still mourning his sudden death. We now have a Priest-in-charge, The Reverend Edwin Ebsary. The Licensed Lay Ministers

are working closely with him and have had several worship committee meetings.

They have been fortunate that since the beginning of COVID-19, The Reverend Robert started recording church services. He also moved the Parish along with meeting via Zoom for services, worship committee and parish council meetings. One section of the church, through the handiwork of both Reverend Robert and Edward Barnstead, is a mini recording studio. With the technical knowledge of Mary Anne Earle, the Parish is now able to live stream services as well as have the services on Zoom, our church website and YouTube. For the past three Sundays, in-person services have been held for which the Licensed Lay Ministers are thankful. The Parish continues to maintain the use of hand sanitizers, wearing masks and social distancing.

Looking ahead, the Parish, at some point, will be involved with Canon 25 and the setting up of a Parochial Committee to begin the process of engaging a Rector. The two Licensed Lay Ministers will have their work cut out for them as both are also Parish Wardens.

St. John's, Westphal ~ The Parish has three Licensed Lay Ministers. They are very happy to have Tracey Dewar join us as she has begun the Lay Minister-in-Training Program. She began her practical training assisting with Holy Eucharist in the fall, when in-person services resumed and has been participating in online Lay Minister training. Tracey also participated in various capacities, in earlier online services.

During the spring and summer, services of Spiritual Communion were held with The Reverend Mike Foley, our Priest-in-Charge, where the main portion of the service was recorded in either the church building or the church hall. There was a lively portion recorded with the organist and she usually gave us an update on the antics of our church mice Deuteronomy and his daughter Eeka.



Numerous parishioners have been called upon to submit their heartfelt prayers of the people, some of whom have come in to pray them at virtual services. Carefully selected hymns were chosen, played and sung at home by one of the music team and

spliced into our video. One Licensed Lay Minister prepares an appropriate dismissal prayer and records it and all our virtual Services of Spiritual Communion end with his 'Thanks Be to God, Halleluiah' (except during Advent and Lent, of course). Another Licensed Lay Minister leads a virtual Wednesday Morning Prayer service from one of the Wee Worship Books or a Morning Prayer service from the Anglican Liturgical services online. This allows the selection of prayers to be chosen to fit appropriately with the readings, without having a prepared homily each week and fits with the normal small group prayer circle. Her husband joins her in these services and there is singing with ukulele, praying of the collect, two or more scripture readings and a brief reflection on the readings.

In the fall, the Parish was able to return to in-person services. It was so wonderful to be able to gather and worship together with about 40 people each Sunday! A few services were held with The Reverend Mike and then the Parish welcomed the new priest The Reverend Gary Barr. All were very excited and thankful when one of their Licensed Lay Minister was able to resume his service assisting at the altar, after recovering from injuries in a car accident. Another resumed playing and singing in the very downsized choir and doing readings and prayers. Like other Parishes throughout the Diocese, St. John's did an about turn just before Christmas and returned to virtual services; Licensed Lay Ministers recorded a Service of Morning Prayer for Christmas Day and one assisted at all subsequent virtual Sunday services with The Reverend Gary. One Licensed Lay Minister does all readings, except the Gospel, and leads the Prayers of the People, in order to limit the number of people present at the services. The Parish is looking forward to resuming in-person services in our church hall at the end of February.

The Licensed Lay Ministers serve in the following ministries: the Spiritual Development Committee; Return to Church Committee, which meets via Zoom each week; members of Parish Council; active in leading Sunday School; the Health and Wellness committee, which offers guidance and support to our Parish Nurse, and the parish Prayer Chain ministry.

The Parish is planning to continue recording church services and making them available online, even after resuming in-person

church services. Additional people have been trained, with this in mind. It is recognized that this will make those, who are no longer able to attend church on a regular basis, feel a part of worship and community at the Little Church with the Big Heart.

St Luke's ~ Due to COVID-19, the Parish has unfortunately not increased the number of Licensed Lay Ministers at St. Luke's beyond the current five. Their ways of serving have changed but their dedication has persevered. They have continued to support The Reverend Matthew Sponagle as he has managed superbly to switch back and forth from in-person to virtual services at a moment's notice. They continued being ready to read scripture or leading prayer on both Sunday and Wednesday morning services. When called upon, the Licensed Lay Ministers have been able to lead Morning Prayers, especially on weekdays or in the summer while The Reverend Matthew has been on a much-deserved vacation time. During these times, the Licensed Lay Ministers have been given the opportunity and privilege to give the Sermon or a Reflection at the Sunday service (mentored and encouraged by The Reverend Matthew). It is their hope to be able to resume leadership in the second module of the Revive program in the near future. All Licensed Lay Ministers are also hopeful that with the safe resumption of regular "in-church" services that they might encourage new people to step into the role of becoming Licensed Lay Ministers.

St. Peter's, Eastern Passage/Christ Church, Cow Bay ~ It has been an interesting year in and out of church. Following public health guidelines, in-person services were held when regulations allowed. Through the summer of 2021, Drive-In services continued alternating with in-person worship. This is because they were so popular the previous summer and not everyone was comfortable returning to the church building. It is also a huge blessing to have these outdoor services. The Parish is not sure how much the very close neighbours appreciate it, but we have had community members who are out walking or driving, stop to enjoy part or all of these services. When regulations permitted indoor services, they alternated services at 9 am between St Peter's and Christ Church – the little church by the sea in Cow Bay. The 10:30 am service was held at St Peter's.



When the church building was closed, The Reverend Cate Ratcliffe recorded a weekly Morning Prayer service. The Licensed Lay Ministers of the Parish continued to assist with services in-person, and at times when the church was shut down, they pre-recorded prayers and readings to be included in the online services. Licensed Lay Ministers have begun taking turns preaching once a month, in addition to the regular Sunday duties. During the past year, two Lay Ministers-in-Training – William Mitchell and Richard Kirkey completed their training and became fully licensed. An additional trainee started her training recently - Linda Williams. Several of our Licensed Lay Ministers have become less active throughout the pandemic and all are very happy to have this new support.

Respectfully Submitted
Barb Bergeron
Area Representative Dartmouth

Fort Sackville

Outreach is a word we are all familiar with and one of the most important ways in which a parish connects with its surrounding community. The Parishes in the Fort Sackville Region support a wide variety of organisations, which respond to those in need, by loving service. At the top of the list are support for food banks, the homeless, those returning to life after prison, women with addictions, youth who are homeless and at risk. The parishes in this Region provide meals in many forms from soup lunches to cooking hot meals for community kitchens. Most parishes support the efforts of PWRDF, which provides much needed material support both in Canada and around the world, through their varied campaigns. Most recently, the whole Fort Sackville Region came together through fundraising activities to provide solar suitcases in the “A Light for Every Birth” campaign. Outreach and Mission are both important parts of Christian Discipleship.

Parishes in the Fort Sackville Region are making progress towards implementing the other Marks of Mission in a variety of innovative ways. The Licensed Lay Ministers have stepped up and learned new skills to provide online or virtual services to con-

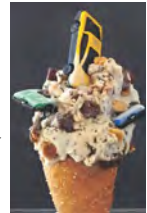
nect with their parishioners and others in their communities. Efforts are being made to reach out to families through Messy Church programs and with activity packs aligned with the church year.

Some bold and innovative endeavours in the Region include:

St. Timothy's, Hatchet Lake where they are working towards supporting a refugee program, reach out to the local community with an online Spiritual Cafe and sponsored/moderated a session on youth trafficking in the region.

All Saints, Bedford holds a regular zoom Bible Study and sends out daily devotions to those who are interested.

St. Nicholas, Westwood Hills opened Father Art's Scoops of Joy ice cream shop over the summer, providing a community gathering place. They recently received a grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada for a Community Family Supper Night which grew out of interest by their Parents & Tots families and patrons of the ice cream shop.



The **Parish of French Village** has also received a grant from AFC to create a Peace and Friendship Garden in partnership with a local school.

St. John the Evangelist, Lower Sackville has built a solar array and installed heat pumps in their church with grants from AFC and our Diocese which takes them off fossil fuel dependency.

St Luke's, Hubbards has created a pollinator garden near the church and produces a Mission Report to keep their congregation focused on mission work. When their Two Coves Café weekly drop-in was shut down due to COVID-19, they brought muffins to their regular attendees.

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Simpkin
Fort Sackville Representative

Northumbria

Anglican Churches of Pictou County (ACPC) (Parishes of St James', Pictou; St Bees', Westville; and Christ Church with St Alban's, Stellarton)

In mid-December the Rector for ACPC, unfortunately, went on sick leave which continues to date. ACPC is very fortunate that The Reverend Dr. Lee Sinclair, a retired Priest, who lives in Pictou, was appointed Priest-in-Charge. The Licensed Lay Ministers continue to provide coverage for services of Morning Prayer in the three parishes when our congregations are allowed to meet in-person. When in-person worship is not permitted, services are live-streamed and recorded to YouTube from Christ Church by David Harrison with the participation of Licensed Lay Ministers from Christ Church and St James. Thanks to the three Licensed Lay Ministers who have been leading Morning Prayer for “online” worship. Any Licensed Lay Minister in ACPC is more than welcome to take part in this ministry.

ACPC has decided to continue live-streaming and recording of services even when life returns to normal.

The Licensed Lay Ministers, with our Rector, have started a prayer shawl ministry, which is well supported by our congregations. One Licensed Lay Minister has taken the initiative and started a project, with members of the congregation, to make pillowcases for our local Palliative Care Unit.



Loretta Armsworthy has been particularly busy; she has been accepted into this year's Connector's Group and as well, she has also become an Inquirer to the Third Order of St Francis of Assisi.

The Licensed Lay Ministers are also inserting information in the bulletins during Lent to collect funds and supplies for a local elementary school.

A Licensed Lay Minister is recruiting members for a new face-to-face Education for Ministry group based in our area. Dave Harri-

son is recruiting for EfM online class as well as a new monthly online class for EfM Graduates.

Everyone is being asked to remember the people of Ukraine and the initiative of the PWRDF to raise funds which the government will match. Please keep them in your prayers during this terrible time.

Parish of Three Harbours:

The past two years have limited missional/outreach activities in the Parish. The Parish has continued to contact people, by phone, who are more isolated. Each week an online service is offered on the Facebook page “Parish of Three Harbours”. Home communions are taking place once again now that COVID-19 restrictions are loosing.

The New to You Shop in Country Harbour continues to support people living on limited incomes. The Parish has also sent clothes and other supplies to various organizations. The local food bank in Antigonish continues to receive the support of the Parishes as well.

David Harrison
Northumbria Region Representative

Valley Region Report

Parish of Bridgetown

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6: 9

We have not given up! Despite the challenges necessary to control the spread of COVID-19, the Licenced Lay Ministers of the Parish of Bridgetown have continued to serve, as they were able, to provide support for the clergy and minister to the people of St. James and St. Mary’s.

During 2021, there were four Licenced Lay Ministers in the Parish. Each tried to use his/her gifts to support the priests, the church services, and the parishioners. When the Parish was unable to hold in-person services, online Morning Prayer Sunday services were held. At the end of August, Reverend Deborah passed in her resignation to the Bishop. She was a positive, diligent, and open-minded servant of Christ and we will miss her calming presence and Jim's ready smile and pleasant and welcoming personality. Our prayers go with them.

One Licensed Lay Minister has taken on the task of Warden on Parish Council, serving on the Property Committee, leading



Morning Prayer, and singing in the choir to mention some of the ministries carried out by this lay person.

Another Licensed Lay Minister shares his gift of music as Choir Director and sometimes as organist, produces the church bulletin, leads morning prayer at St. Mary's and St. James and quietly assumes leadership roles whenever the need arises. Another, continues to support our Parish sharing the duties of Morning Prayer and preparing the Readers' and Servers' list with a retired Licensed Lay Minister. These Licensed Lay Ministers support the ministry of the Reverend Falen McNulty, who took over as part-time priest at the beginning of September.

As is the case with many other Licensed Lay Ministers, it has been a huge challenge to do mission and outreach during COVID-19. However, we would be remiss in not saying how widespread the Good News of Jesus Christ has been with our on-line services which the clergy, the Licensed Lay Ministers and members of the congregation have participated in, and often, those services reach more than 400 viewers across Canada and the UK. We thank those who help with and support those broadcasts.

Despite the challenges of the coronavirus, *“Let us not grow weary of doing good...”*

Trinity Anglican Church Parish of Digby

During the COVID-19 pandemic, like other churches throughout the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, our Parish churches were closed for extended periods in accordance with NS Health guidelines, and additional specific guidelines set out by

the Diocese. When church was permitted to open, the Licensed Lay Ministers continued to assist Clergy with Holy Eucharist, along with Intercessory Prayers and Readings. We also conducted Morning Prayer and preached when a Priest was unavailable. We were very thankful for the guidance of the Priests-in-Charge assigned to our Parish during 2021: The Rev. Ross Hammond, The Rev. Deborah Lonergan-Freake, and our current Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Ruby Carter.

During Lent 2021, on the initiative of a theology student and newcomer to Trinity, the Licensed Lay Ministers actively participated in and sometimes, led Morning Prayer services, mostly by Zoom. Morning Prayer was held “in-person” in the church during Holy Week and the Licensed Lay Ministers were active in those services. All activities in the church followed Public Health guidelines of masking, physical distancing, and hand-washing, etc.



As part of our Pastoral Care Ministry, a Licensed Lay Minister provided home communion to an elderly couple who were no longer able to attend in-person services. COVID-19 precautions certainly limited the number of home communion visitations to our shut-ins and to parishioners who are now in long-term care. The Prayer Shawl Ministry was active throughout the year, with one blessing of shawls and eight shawls/lap quilts given to members and friends of Trinity. The Anglican Church Women were also active throughout the year, with hosting the Regional ACW Meeting in October, Christmas Cheer boxes for shut-ins and Christmas shoeboxes for the Mission to Seafarers. Although not a lay ministry activity, we are happy to report that all parish members and the community have benefited from the installation of two accessible washrooms in the church in 2021. The only previous washroom was not accessible, and required walking outside to the church hall. Fundraising through various means contributed to the new washroom project, along with grants from Accessibility Nova Scotia and Turning the Tide, a community initiative.



Our intention is to open the church to more community events and groups, as opportunities arise. May God preserve us, guide us, and bless our ministries in the year ahead.

The Parish of St. James, Brooklyn

It seems as though the Parish didn't do much missional because of COVID-19 but there was a lot of Zooming! Some of the things that were Zoomed were DEN (Diocesan Environmental Network) a network within the Mission, Outreach, Social Justice Task Group of the Diocese, which one Licensed Lay Minister is involved with. This Licensed Lay Minister also attended Vital Church Maritimes. Another Licensed Lay Minister attended Revive, that was offered by the Diocese which started in January and ran until June with a closing Retreat and Revive reunion in September.

Because of restrictions, our church doors were closed for the most part, however, we had 13 services combined in both churches. They were led by seven of the Licensed Lay Ministers with only one Holy Eucharist in December. Sermons and Reflections were done by Licensed Lay Ministers. The readings, psalms and prayers of the people were carried out by other members of the Parish.

Communion to nursing homes, hospital and in-homes were carried out, when restrictions permitted. Phone calls and personal cards were also sent. Church services led by The Reverend Tom Henderson were sent out every Sunday morning for our congregation and nursing homes as well as other friends and family, far and wide.

The Gospel of John is full of signs and Jesus performs signs that people may come to believe in Him. The Parish has one of those signs in the name of The Reverend Kent Greer, who offered us his priestly service as a gift late this year. The Parish is so grateful to have him slated each month for the second Sunday for Holy Eucharist. Another sign presented to the Parish of God with them was when a Licensed Lay Minister was picking away ice at St. James and comparing it to fishing for disciples, when he was approached by a couple new to the area asking about attending church. They will be welcomed with open arms!



Thank You to The Reverend Tom Henderson, our Priest-in-Charge for keeping us on the straight and narrow. We look for-

ward to 2022 to see the face of Christ in everyone we meet and hope that they see the face of Christ in us!

St. James, Kentville

The Licensed Lay Ministers at St. James in Kentville have been busy during the pandemic working around zooming of church services, as well as understanding and helping to implement the Diocesan and Government rules for services. Once the Parish was permitted to hold services in the building, there was need to understand and provide a safe practice around serving of bread and wine.

The Licensed Lay Ministers have been involved in home visits when the guidelines allowed. One of our most devoted Licensed Lay Ministers, Gail Lightfoot, moved to be closer to family and has been greatly missed by those she visited on a regular basis, along with hospital weekly visiting when allowed. Thank you, Gail!



Several Licensed Lay Ministers have been involved in leading Morning Prayer services and other activities in the Parish. The Parish of St. James, Kentville, are very thankful for the devotion of our Licensed Lay Ministers.

Ted MacDonald
Valley Area Representative

Prince Edward Island

Island clergy facilitated nine training sessions for Anglicans interested in Licensed Lay Ministry. Several Licensed Lay Ministers also participated in these sessions. More than a dozen “seekers” explored the different facets of this ministry in Zoom meetings hosted by Rev. Cathy Pharo via Zoom. The sessions were based on the training videos offered by the Association. As a result, five seekers made the decision to continue as Lay Ministers-in-Training. I give thanks to God for the clergy who facilitated these sessions (especially Rev. Cathy who facilitated the sessions in a caring and supportive way) and for all who participated.

One of our Licensed Lay Ministers, Janet Vieth-Forbes, from the Parish of Saint Mary and Saint John (Summerside/St. Eleanor's) participated in and completed the Connector 3 program through the Diocese. Considering that this required travel outside our province and adhering to the many COVID-19 protocols and restrictions, Janet is to be commended for her perseverance and dedication!



As restrictions ease, we are hopeful that 2022 will be a year of blessing and renewal for all who participate in and are interested in joining this ministry.

God bless,
Dawn Upham
Prince Edward Island Representative

Mark your Calendar!!

Fall Conference

September 23—25, 2022

Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre

Stanley Bridge, Prince Edward Island



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as of June 2021*

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Licensed Lay Ministers Ribbons and Medallions



The “NEW” Licensed Lay Minister Medallions can be purchased for \$10.00 each.

Ribbons (blue or purple) are \$5.00 each.

These items can be ordered through Dennis Eisan using any of the following methods:

- a) Canada Post Dennis Eisan
 1309 Main Street
 Dartmouth, NS B2Z 1B2
- b) Telephone (902) 435-6217
- c) E-mail dennislinda@ns.sympatico.ca

Please note: A small shipping fee will be added to cover mailing costs, for example, \$2.00 for mailing one medallion and ribbon.

Licensed Lay Ministers' Prayer

Loving and eternal God, who through your Son, Jesus Christ, calls your people and sends them forth to witness and serve in your name, bless each member of the Licensed Lay Ministers' Association of this Diocese. Give us grace that we, walking in the footsteps of your Son, and being filled and strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may serve you and your Church, as faithful stewards in the ministry to which we are called and, by our example, enable others to know and love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Annual General Meeting Licensed Lay Ministers' Association

Saturday, June 11th, 2022
9:30 am—2 pm



9:30 am Gathering

10 am Eucharist

Refreshment Break

11 am Annual Meeting

12 noon Lunch will be provided

1pm Education Program with:
The Reverend Frances Drolet-Smith,
Vocations Co-ordinator,
Diocese of NS/PEI

Details of the program will be included in an e-mail prior to the Annual Meeting

Notes:

- 1) For this year, there will be no Registration Fee for the day.*
- 2) It is our plan to live-stream the meeting and the education aspects of this AGM for those who are unable to attend in-person.*





Change of Address/E-mail? Please Let Us Know!

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

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