



Parish Profile

REVISED JAN 2013

"We are, by the grace of God, a caring community, celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ, sent to share, through the power of the Holy Spirit, His love with others."

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T H E P A R I S H

“We are by the grace of God, a caring community, celebrating The Lordship of Jesus Christ, sent to share, through the power of the Holy Spirit, His love with others”

A Caring Community

The theme of being “a caring community” is a key goal of all of the members of the parish. Each of the three Sunday services offers a unique worship environment that reflects the passion of the particular congregation, and the various groups all work towards this goal.

Celebrating the Lordship of Jesus Christ

The Parish represents its past through both traditional Christian doctrines while making use of modern liturgies.

- We desire a diversity of worship expression while longing for tradition
- We explore new understandings and expressions through progressive, liberal, inclusive, catholic thought, engaging in learning and discussion
- We strive to find a delicate blend to value all forms of worship, yet preferring some more than others
- We represent diversity of opinions on how to adjust to changes such

as wanting to include children and interactions in worship, yet desiring quiet contemplation

- We desire to provide worship that is relevant to all generations
- We actively seek to understand the Anglican way within the complexities of science, environment, politics ethics and quantum theory

Sent to Share His Love with Others

Our Parish lives sharing the love of God through evangelism, ecumenical partnerships and by reaching out to the marginalized within our community and abroad.

Evangelism

We work with area wide children and youth ministries, with Camp Hyanto, Vacation Bible Schools, Good Friday Walks, PA Day programming (PAD), ministry to home-bound and nursing homes, individual counselling, in home bible studies, women’s study group,

meditation, learning more about progressive Christianity and exploring being an affirming church.

Community Partnerships

We are actively involved with Bridge Street United Church, sharing special Earth Day services and a Lenten series. We also share a joint service in the fall. We participate with the Quinte Youth for Christ in various ministries. We are also the regimental church for the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

We share Holy Week services with Christ Church, the other Anglican Church in Belleville.

Outreach

We have a long history of outreach activities that demonstrate our commitment to live the Gospel by showing Christ's love in our community, in our country and internationally. A committee seeks input from the congregation to identify and select organizations that could benefit from our support. We also support the work of the PWRDF.

O U R B U I L D I N G S

The Parish of St Thomas' was established in Belleville in 1818 and the first church was consecrated by Charles Stewart, the second Lord Bishop of Quebec. Throughout the past two hundred years, generations of faithful have worshipped at St Thomas' and have gone out from its walls to serve their community. The parishioners of St Thomas' have provided a constant witness and worship in the Anglican tradition throughout its long history.

The first St Thomas' church was a brick structure completed in the 1820's. It was soon deemed inadequate to the growing population and the second St Thomas' was erected in 1858.

Less than 20 years later, that building was partially destroyed by fire and it was rebuilt on the original plan in the 1870's.

This building remained largely unchanged until the night of April 20,



1975, when fire once again ravaged St Thomas'. A police investigation determined that the fire was deliberate. The church was totally gutted, with only the severely damaged exterior walls and bell tower remaining.

The congregation rose to the task and chose to rebuild the church while preserving as much of the original building as possible. Architects were contracted to draw up plans for the present building, including its roof that 'floats' above

the reconstructed and reinforced walls. After the reconstruction, the exterior remained unchanged while the nave and sanctuary were completely renovated, now flooded with light through the glass that connects the new roof to the old walls.



special vestry meeting supported this recommendation and the tower repair commenced in October 2007. This work is now complete and a program has been put in place that should ensure the structure's integrity in the village area of Belleville for years to come.

Build St Thomas' rose from the ashes of destruction to find new life in yet another generation. The contrast between the traditional exterior and contemporary interior, reflects the way the congregation largely sees itself to this day.

Major work was again undertaken in 1990 when the cemetery was excavated and a new Parish Hall was constructed. The hall is connected to the church and contains the parish offices.

In the spring of 2007 the parish received an engineering report recommending immediate restoration of the tower. A

The Parish of St Thomas' currently comprises St. Thomas' Church with St. Paul's (the former St. Paul's Mission, the last in the Diocese). St. Paul's has a strong and faith-full history, dating from 1874. It is located at 35 St. Paul Street, Belleville, between Church Street and John Street, South.



W O R S H I P

Worship is the one thing that we all do together – it is our central activity as a community. It is our time to praise God, to hear God’s word, and to be fed as we share bread and wine – body and blood.

Services & Average Attendance

St Thomas’

8:00am – 20 people

10:30am – 140 people

10:00am (Wed) – 6 people

St Paul’s

9:00am – 20 people

There are several special services throughout the year:

- 7:30am Lenten Eucharist and breakfast each Wednesday in Lent
- Holy Week services with Christ Church, Belleville
- Occasional Solemn High Mass
- Intergenerational Services at the 10:30am service (four times per year)
 - Seniors Eucharistic Service and Tea in the spring



The Book of Alternative Services and the Common Praise Hymn Book are used almost exclusively during worship at St Thomas’. The usual form of worship is the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Music is integral to worship at St.

Thomas’. We worship in the Anglican Liturgical context and style. Singable, solid, engaging music is used to support and enhance the worship experience. We strive to integrate high calibre music of different styles, genres, and methods of performance.

At St. Thomas’ we are proud to have a talented choir, chime choir and several contemporary worship leaders. We have an extensive and diverse list of talented musicians in the parish, many with

experience leading worship in different settings.

St Thomas' is fortunate to have a 1977 Gabriel Kney organ, an electric Yamaha Clavinova piano, an upright piano and a set of chimes.

St Thomas' holds licensing agreements with three music resource groups: CCLI, One License and LicenSing. We have an extensive music library. Music ministry outside of the worship service is important for the community and fellowship, including Sunday school, youth group, vacation bible school, pastoral care, and other community gatherings. We are proud to be the host church for the Hastings & Prince Edward Regional Chorus and the Belleville Choral Society.

Lay people are involved in worship through positions as servers, acolytes, chalice bearers, intercessors and readers. Others lead the children's time, serve as greeters and sides persons, and offer the laying on of hands for healing on the third Sunday of every month.

We have licensed lay readers in the parish that assist with regular worship services and offer a particularly important ministry in nursing and retirement homes throughout the community.

There is a worship committee comprised of a variety of representatives of St Thomas' which meet regularly throughout the year.

There is also a dedicated core of volunteers who run

the nursery.



Pastoral Care

P A S T O R A L C A R E

While faith resides within the heart and soul of every person, we believe that it is vital to “reach out” and connect to those of our parish and community who cannot come to us.

Faith in action is demonstrated by our pastoral care team through weekly hospital and nursing home visits (Hastings Manor, McQuigge Lodge, the Belmont, Westgate Lodge, Quinte Gardens, and Bridge Street Retirement Residence), get well cards, sympathy cards, thinking of you notes, and birthday / Christmas mail outs.

The pastoral care committee also coordinates home visits where the situation requires and offers a ministry of prayer support. When particular concerns are encountered, these are communicated to the committee and incumbent for ongoing monitoring and care.

The Spring Eucharist and Tea

(for those 80+) is also one of the highlights of parish life. A number of parishioners offer their time and their vehicles to bring those who require assistance. Others prepare the food and are on hand to serve the luncheon.

The Lay Ministry Team visits local nursing and retirement homes leading worship and sharing the reserved sacrament.

There are regular members of the Pastoral Care Committee, with occasional help from others that carry out this ministry.



Program

P R O G R A M

At St Thomas' we have a commitment to life-long learning for people of all ages. The volunteers who make up the Christian Education Leadership Team are dedicated individuals who give many hours to help the entire St Thomas' family come closer to Christ.

We have regular Church School, Vacation Bible School, and seasonal programming, including an Ash Wednesday day-long program for children. We have two youth groups, one for grades 7 and 8 and the other for high school aged children. For adults we have a variety of programs including bible study groups, Seekers Groups, Living the Questions, a bi-weekly meditation group, and the Later Life Learning program to name but a few.

Baptism is an important step in a person's faith journey. It is currently the responsibility of the priest, sometimes with help, to prepare

candidates and their families for baptism.

Confirmation is a rite that is available provided that the confirmand has met established criteria: the minimum age of 15 years, participation in the life of St Thomas' on at least a monthly basis for the period of six months, and readiness to commit to an active ministry in the life of the church.

The Priest and/or the Education

Coordinator (with youth leadership) run confirmation classes. Various materials have been used, including the Quest video series and the VIA Media series.



The priest, using a number of resources, has traditionally handled marriage preparation. Alternatively, couples have also been allowed to participate in organized programs elsewhere (Kingston, etc).

BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

There are several active groups within the parish that build Christian community through organized social events, study times and opportunities for building friendships inside and outside the church.

Fellowship

- Stitchers and knitters
meet regularly to
share skills and
build relationships
- Prayer groups

Affirming Church Working Group

- meet regularly to plan and coordinate related parish activities
- organize educational activities for our parish as it

discerns whether or not to self-declare itself ‘open and affirming’ and maintain the ‘Affirming Church Resource Library’

Coffee Teams

- prepare and organize refreshments after the 10:30am service
- team members rotate on a schedule and provide their ministry once every two months

Cornerstone

- the seasonal newsletter of the parish
- distributed to all parishioners and updates them on activities and events
- articles are submitted by parishioners and compiled by a volunteer editor with the help of various others

Community

Green Committee

- promote taking care of the planet as a spiritual responsibility
- encourage parishioners to act responsibly and reduce their carbon footprint
- provide information about events

Other community-building groups:

- dedicated parishioners who cater for funerals
- members active in Amnesty International

Besides individual groups, there are many social events organized for the parish as a whole. Over the past number of years, these have included:

- The Warden's Corn Roast – welcomes everyone back after summer and held the Sunday after Labour Day Weekend
- Summer Barbeque – end of Church School, usually held mid-June
- Themed Social Events – occasionally hosted on an impromptu basis

Wine Tasting, *etc.* These are held a couple of times throughout the year, but have happened less often in the last year

- Family Nights – Family Pizza & Bingo, potlucks, Talent Night, Family Games Night
- Newcomers lunch includes a meal and child care provided for children when needed
- Free Trade Coffee sales – providing a source of awareness for fair trade products and support fair trade producers
- Social based educational opportunities – *e.g.*, Ballroom Dancing Lessons, Trapunto quilting classes, Banner making, Tai Chi and cooking classes
- GST Auction (Goods, Services & Talents)

E D U C A T I O N

There are educational opportunities for adults, children and youth.

The Church School provides opportunities for healthy child development in a Christian context. Laypeople offer their skills and time to present a program on Sundays throughout the year and on other special occasions.

An active Bible School is also delivered annually in July thanks to many volunteers from the parish and community.

There are two youth groups entirely run by laypeople.

Both the children's and youth programming are greatly enhanced by the ministry of our half-time Christian Education Coordinator.

The Lenten Lecture Series is a learning program offered during Lent. It provides the whole community with an opportunity for directed learning. Topics in the past have covered the Environment and the study of various faith practices. This event has been co-hosted with Bridge Street United

Education

Church and people from both churches attend these lectures.

They are also well attended by members of the broader community.



The Later Life Learning series was brought to life as a community initiative within St Thomas'. Since the fall of 2010, a Steering Committee has planned and hosted a series of lectures for the community. Lecturers have come from Queen's University, Trent University, the Royal Military College of Canada, and members of Canada's Diplomatic Service. This is regarded as a community outreach activity, responding to a desire for learning by seniors while also showcasing our beautiful sanctuary. There are

also Seeker's Groups which explore aspects of

Christianity through essays, books and video resources on a range of topics.

St Thomas' has hosted and continues to host a

number of individual events.

There are also occasional opportunities to host community forums.



P A R I S H A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

St. Thomas' Anglican Church
201 Church Street Belleville,
Ontario
K8N 3C2
Tel. (613) 962-3636

E-mail: office@stthomasbelleville.ca

Website: www.stthomasbelleville.ca

Parish officers and staff:

A current list can be found on our website
under “**leadership**”

Parish Council meets eight times during the year, excluding July and
August.

The Annual Vestry meeting is typically held in early
February and special meetings are called as required.

Communication

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

St Thomas' is comprised of many groups and individuals, all of whom have a need to communicate with one another. One particular challenge is communicating between the three congregations.

The Communications Committee works to develop policies and procedures to enhance our communication with one another. This committee includes representatives from the Wardens, Parish Council, staff and clergy, the treasurer, the website and newsletter editors, and vestry.

Together, they examine all the ways we communicate with each other, and with the community. The committee continues to identify better ways to keep people informed and provide appropriate opportunities for response.

This committee realizes the importance of making sure that the transmission of messages between persons and places is clear, consistent, timely, accessible and authoritative.

Included in the committee's operational mandate is the

Development of policies with respect to marketing, publicity, advertising and media contacts.

The Communications Committee meets on a regular basis and reports regularly to parish council regarding suggested policies requiring approval.



T H E W A Y F O R W A R D

St. Thomas' sees itself as one of the most progressive and vocal churches in the diocese. In the big picture, we are looking for ways to engage all those who are marginalized by society.

We are blessed with a large number of very gifted people. The church serves as a centre for learning and discovery, for sharing and mutual exploration both for members of the parish and for the community at large. This is a ministry that needs continued support. We face challenges in the area of communication, particularly between the three congregations. A plan is being developed to enhance communication between all interested parties but there is still work to be done.

A P P E N D I X A

Canon J.W. Burke, the Rector of St Thomas', established St Paul's Mission in 1874. Except for a brief period during the 1920's, St Paul's has remained open for worship throughout the past 130 years.

Initially the mission served the spiritual needs of the sailing and shipping communities (hence its location close to the harbour), but latterly it served the needs of the community as a whole. Today it has a distinct identity and a group of dedicated people who call St Paul's their home.

The regular pattern of worship is Holy Eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services, with Matins on the third Sunday, usually led by one of the parish layreaders.

The members of St Paul's run the mission and hold congregational meetings once a month.

St Paul's supports a number of local organizations and gives internationally through the PWRDF. There is also a regular and generous collection for the Gleaner's foodbank.

The regular pattern of worship is Holy Eucharist (BAS), three times per month, and matins led by one of the parish layreaders on the third Sunday. The service time is 9:00am.

St Paul's is located at 35 St Paul Street, which is between Church Street and John Street, south of Dundas and close to the Belleville waterfront on the Bay of Quinte.



A P P E N D I X B

Belleville is ideally situated between Toronto and Montreal on Highway 401. It is only 3 hours from Ottawa and less than 90 minutes from a U.S. border crossing. The community is also serviced by VIA Rail and a bus service, connecting it to major communities in the corridor and across the country.

Nestled on the north shore of the Bay of Quinte, Belleville is known as the 'Friendly City'. The Quinte region has been identified as one of the best areas in Canada in which to live. Approximately 46,000 people make Belleville their home and over 192,000 live within 30 minutes of the City.

There are many attractions close at hand: the beaches and wineries of Prince Edward County; the wonderful live theatres in Stirling, Picton and Belleville; the beautiful Waterfront Trail; the excitement of OHL Hockey with the Belleville Bulls; the excellence of our sport fishery; the access to boating, rowing, and sailing; the bounty of our local farms sold at the roadside stands and downtown markets; and some of Ontario's best golf courses.

Nine percent of Belleville's population is immigrants, adding to the cultural diversity of the City with their blend of skills and experience. Belleville is also home to a large aboriginal population

and is located beside the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. The Rev'd John Jeffries, one of our honorary associates, is Cree and ministered in First Nation's communities in New Westminster. He lives on the territory.

Businesses in the community are diverse: Nortel Networks, Black Diamond, Sears Canada, The Kellogg Company, Procter & Gamble, Donini Chocolates, Exxon Mobil, Bioniche Life Sciences, many Hospitality based businesses and call centers, as well as the famous Hawkins Cheezie company among others.

Belleville is the center for the Bay of Quinte Region, offering all the commercial and public services of a large urban center including the region's largest hospital and retail mall.

Belleville has eighteen elementary and six secondary schools offering the finest of education. These schools are operated by both public and Catholic school boards and offer a complete range of educational opportunities for children of all interests and abilities. French immersion and gifted-student programs are available within the school board systems, as are educational support and assessment programs for children facing learning challenges. There are other

educational opportunities at Albert College – a private school for both elementary and secondary students, Sir James Whitney – for the hearing impaired, Quinte Christian High School and Elementary School, Belleville Montessori School, the Quinte Ballet School, Loyalist Community College and several other business colleges.

Housing is diverse in Belleville. The average purchase price for a home is approximately \$200,000 with apartment rental between \$800 - 900 per month for a two-bedroom. Although ‘market rent’ units are in abundance, low-income rental housing is insufficient to meet people’s needs with wait lists at more than two years. Additional retirement/nursing homes are being built for local seniors but not quickly enough to keep up with our aging population. St Thomas’ is looking at how to best assist those living on the margins.

The average income for a family in Belleville is approximately \$6,000 lower than the provincial average. Detailed statistical information is available in the electronic package or by request.

There are more than fifty other churches in the City. They range in size from 15 to 2000 members. We are connected to some of these parishes

through the Quinte Area Youth Network and through this have been able to help support PAD (Professional Activity Day) programming for grades 6 to 8 and the united worship and leadership training events in the city.

There is one other Anglican Church in Belleville, Christ Church. We share some events with this parish including the Holy Week Services and Good Friday Walk. We also have a unique relationship with Bridge Street United Church, with whom we share two worship services annually as well as a Lenten Learning Series.



O N L I N E R E S O U R C E S

St Thomas' Anglican Church
<http://www.stthomasbelleville.ca>

The Anglican Diocese of Ontario
<http://ontario.anglican.ca>

The Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment
<http://www.theregiment.ca>

The City of Belleville
<http://city.belleville.on.ca>

Quinte Region Tourism Site
<http://www.quinte.on.ca>

The Belleville Intelligencer
(daily newspaper)
<http://www.intelligencer.ca>

Statistics Canada
(access "Belleville, ON" through community profiles)
[http://www.statcan.gc.ca/s
tart-debut-eng.html](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/s
tart-debut-eng.html)

