



Parish of the Valley



Diocese of Ottawa
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"I am about to do a new thing"

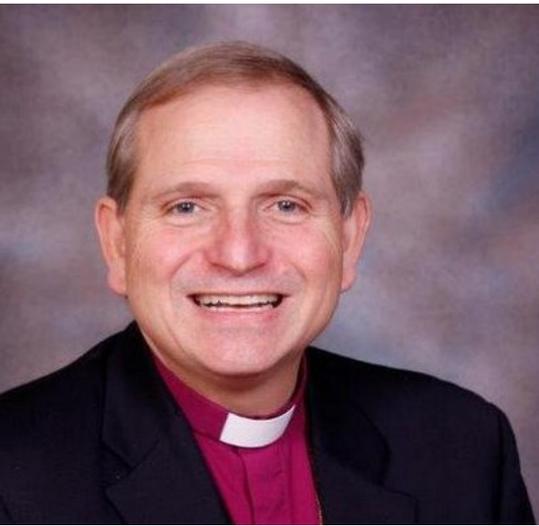
When we met together in Eganville in March of this year, the scripture read to centre our time together came from Isaiah 43:18-19: "I am about to do a new thing...." In these intervening months, a lot has changed for many of us who worship in the churches that make up this part of the Diocese of Ottawa in the valleys of the Ottawa, Madawaska, and Bonnechere rivers.

On June 1st, something new came into being: the Parish of the Valley. It includes twelve congregations: St. Anthony's, Whitney; Epiphany, Barry's Bay; Ascension, Killaloe/St John, Tramore; St John's, Eganville; St Paul's, Cobden; St Patrick's, Stafford; St Stephen's, Micksburg; St Thomas, Rankin; St Augustine's, Beachburg; Holy Trinity, Pembroke; St George's, South Alice; and All Saints, Petawawa. The chapels of Holy Trinity, Madawaska and St Clement's, Clontarf have also been entrusted to the care of the new parish.

We continue to exist as individual congregations, each with its own finances and governance, and with unique histories and important ministries in our local areas. And now we have a new opportunity to work together as one Anglican Body of Christ in the Valley: with new opportunities share strengths and build capacity, working together on areas of shared ministry where we will all have the opportunity to play to our strengths in order to benefit the whole.

Together we will explore how and in what ways we will be the Anglicans of the Valley. To help guide us through these conversations is a team of four clergy, who will be a regular and familiar part of our communities through the leadership in worship, prayer, discipleship, and pastoral care. Each of the clergy will have an area of "primary focus" but they will work as a team to support one another and all of the congregations of the new parish.

Meet your clergy...



The Right Reverend Michael Bird

Archdeacon & Incumbent

Primary Focus: Barry's Bay, Whitney, Stafford, & Whitewater

Bishop Michael was elected as the eleventh Bishop of Niagara and was consecrated on September 30, 2007. He was ordained a deacon and then a priest in 1984 and for twenty-three years he served as a parish priest, Regional Dean and Archdeacon in five parishes in Newfoundland and Southern Ontario.

In accepting his new ministry as bishop, Michael has worked diligently with clergy, lay leaders and members of the church, inviting them all to live out, more and more fully, the diocese's dynamic and faithful vision for ministry.

The Bishop is a strong advocate for justice and inclusion in the life of the church and world.

In addition to his leadership within the diocese, Bishop Michael has been actively involved in our church nationally and worldwide. Most notably, he has been involved in the Consultation of Canadian and African Anglican Bishops in Dialogue since its inception in 2011. This work has taken him to Tanzania, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, England and the United States. He has also made many visits to Niagara's partner diocese in Cuba.

Michael and his family have had a long association with life in the Madawaska Valley. His parents built their cottage on the Madawaska River when he was one year old and Michael and his wife Susan built a log cabin in the same region in 1998. Four years ago, they sold their cottage and built what was originally intended to be their retirement home on Lake Kamanisseg, just outside of Barry's Bay. Michael and Susan have three grown children and were blessed in 2018 with the birth of their first grandchild. They enjoy jazz music, reading, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, boating and travel. While they also share an interest in following a number of sports teams, they have a real passion for the sport of curling.

The Reverend Susan Clifford

Regional Dean & Associate Incumbent

Primary Focus: Eganville, Killaloe, & Tramore

I came to Christ in 1984, when I was 26, and God has kept me close ever since. My early agnostic years were spent growing up in the Old Chelsea/Gatineau Park area of Quebec. As an avid sportswoman, I competed in equestrian events, and ski racing, competing internationally on the World Cup Alpine Ski racing circuit from 1974-1978.

I graduated with a BA from Queens University in 1987. In 1990 I entered a convent in England for two years to test my vocation to the Religious Life, and then moved out and took on the job of a Residential Caretaker on a North London Housing Estate for 10 years. Then the call to ordained ministry led me to 2 years of study in Cambridge, England, followed by a 4 year Curacy in North London.

Then it was time to be the incumbent of my own parish and our dear Lord led me back to my beloved Ottawa Valley and the parish of Eganville. I have been the parish priest for Killaloe/Tramore and Eganville for nine years. I preach about and strive to live out our Christian calling to love and to serve one another, unconditionally, and very much look forward to getting to know more of you in our new Area Parish. I live in the Rectory in Eganville with my dog, Teddy, and love to ski, snowshoe, hike, canoe, and camp.



The Reverend Matthew Brown

Associate Incumbent - Primary Focus: Pembroke

I was born and raised on a hobby farm near the small town of Thurso in rural western Quebec. My summers growing up were spent helping my parents in the farm's many gardens, paddling, kayaking, and — most of all — fishing. My favourite fish to “go for” are Lake Trout and Smallmouth Bass, and I look forward to becoming better acquainted with the valley's many lakes, rivers, and streams in the coming weeks and months.

Growing up I worshiped at St. Thomas' Silver Creek, where my parents and sister continue to attend and serve. I first went to school in Buckingham, Quebec, before attending high-school at Ashbury College in Ottawa. I then took an undergraduate degree at Queen's University in Kingston, and later returned there to complete a Masters degree, which focused on the early history of the Anglican Church here in the Ottawa Valley. Along the way, I discerned that God was calling me to a different kind of ministry within the Church and finally answered a call to attend seminary at Huron University College in London, Ontario. There I completed a second Masters degree in divinity. Huron is also where I met Gillian; and the rest, as they say, is history!

Most recently we have lived in Victoria, B.C., where I had the joy of serving as the Rector of The Two Saints Ministry, a two-point parish situated along the beautiful shores of Vancouver Island. We are both now looking forward to returning to our central Canadian roots as we take up our new ministry here in the Parish of the Valley. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone more throughout the summer, so please feel free to call or email me, or just drop by the Pembroke church office and say hello. I am always up for a walk, a talk, or a good cup of tea or coffee. God bless!



The Reverend Gillian Hoyer

Associate Incumbent - Primary Focus: Petawawa & Alice

I was born and lived until my early teens just south of here, in Belleville. My family is a camping and exploring family and I grew up paddling the lakes and rivers and hiking the trails in and around Algonquin Park, the Kawarthas, Bon Echo Park, and everywhere in between.

As a teenager, my family moved to different places across the county, exploring different parts of Canada while sharing in ministry with communities on the prairies and in northern BC. As a young adult, I moved to Victoria for university, studying psychology. I took up sailing and eventually worked aboard a tall ship, mentoring young people in life and in faith as we explored the unique cultures and environments of the Canadian West Coast, the South Pacific, and East Asia. When I came home, I pursued a counselling degree and worked as a mental health and addictions caseworker in non-profit homeless shelters and transitional housing.

Eventually, I went to seminary and completed a second Masters degree in divinity. Matthew and I met at seminary and got married in our final year. Most recently, I was the Assistant Curate at the Church of St John the Divine, a large urban parish in downtown Victoria, British Columbia. In addition to serving the local church, I am honoured to work for the church national on the Board of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, represent PWRDF on the Council of General Synod for this triennium, and represent the Anglican Church of Canada on the Board of the Anglican Communion's forum for relief, development, and advocacy: the Anglican Alliance. I am now delighted to be living in Petawawa and serving the Anglicans of the Valley.



Introducing Valley Sundays

The members of your clergy team are excited to get to know you, and visit all of the different churches that make up the new Parish of the Valley. To help with this, beginning in September, the third or fourth Sunday of every month will be set-aside as a “Valley Sunday,” and the members of the clergy team will rotate between our different church communities to lead worship on those days. Lay leaders will be assisting in leading worship at some of our churches on Valley Sundays, in keeping with our existing patterns of community worship .

Sunday, September 16th

Bishop Michael at South Alice & Petawawa
Rev. Susan at Whitney & Barry's Bay
Rev. Matthew at Killaloe & Eganville
Rev. Gillian at Pembroke
Lay Leaders at Cobden

Sunday, October 28th

Bishop Michael at Pembroke
Rev. Susan at South Alice & Petawawa
Rev. Matthew at Micksburg & Cobden
Rev. Gillian at Killaloe & Eganville
Lay Leaders at Whitney & Barry's Bay

Sunday, November 18th

Bishop Michael at Killaloe & Eganville
Rev. Susan at Pembroke
Rev. Matthew at South Alice & Petawawa
Rev. Gillian at Whitney & Barry's Bay
Lay Leaders at Cobden

Sunday, December 16th

Bishop Michael at South Alice & Petawawa
Rev. Susan at Rankin & Beachburg
Rev. Matthew at Killaloe & Eganville
Rev. Gillian at Pembroke
Rev. Darlene at Whitney & Barry's Bay

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