



# The Church of St Mary Magdalene

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

477 Manning Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2V8  
Office: 416-531-7955  
Fax: 416-531-6123  
office@stmarymagdalene.ca

## PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

# UPDATE #4

**28 June 2009**

### Parish Profile

After four months, 16 meetings, a questionnaire completed by 135 parishioners, 9 focus groups with over 100 participants, and at least 6 drafts with much editing, the **final draft** of the Parish Profile has been sent to Bishop Poole for his review. The Profile is a comprehensive document which gives the reader an excellent sense of this place we call SMM. It recounts broadly our history, examines closely our current status, and looks to the future with optimism, culminating in an overview of the qualities we as a community seek in our next Incumbent. The PSC is scheduled to meet with Bishop Poole on 2 July and we should be in a position shortly after that meeting to post the Profile on our website for parishioners and the general public to view.

### Appointment of in Interim Priest-in-Charge

As I outlined in my last update to you on 17 May 2009, we do not anticipate having a new Incumbent in place before the New Year. This, quite naturally, gives rise to the need to appoint an Interim Priest, which, in consultation with the Wardens, Bishop Poole has done. The Wardens are pleased to announce that Father **John Whittall** has been appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge, effective 1 August. Though Father Harold's incumbency continues until mid-September, he will be away in early August and then will have his holidays. Father Whittall is no stranger to SMM. He was Honorary Assistant here for the 8 years that he was Dean of Men at Trinity College (1980-88) and he was Interim Priest-in-Charge for the 6 months prior to Father Harold's arrival as Priest-in-Charge in 1983. Father Whittall was Rector at St. Wilfred's in Etobicoke for 21 years before his recent retirement. Born in Montreal, Father Whittall has also had parishes in Montreal and Hamilton. I know you will join with

the Wardens in welcoming Father Whittall when he arrives in August.

### Next Steps

Now that the Parish Profile is completed, the PSC will be looking at the following issues:

- Deciding where the position will be advertised
- Developing interview questions and interview format.
- Establishing interview schedule.
- Arranging discreet visitations to candidates' home parishes.
- In consultation with the Wardens and Bishop, determining the status of the Rectory with respect the search process (i.e. will residency be an expectation?)
- Determining decision making protocols.

Once the advertising has been set in place, the PSC will enjoy a brief hiatus before tackling the other issues on our list. The process in developing the Profile has been not only exhaustive, but exhausting and members of the PSC will be enjoying some well deserved down time for a few weeks.

### Father Harold's Farewell

In consultations between the Rector and Wardens, it would seem the most appropriate time for Father Harold's farewell celebration will be September. The date is not yet finalized, but a committee led by Kathryn Smith is looking at possible venues and dates. As soon as the date and venue have been decided, an announcement will be made to give parishioners lots of lead time for planning.

### Providing Names & Short Listing

Some parishioners have provided the names of prospective candidates to the PSC. Those names have been forwarded to Bishop Poole for his review and discernment.

With the completion of the Profile and its imminent posting, Bishop Poole will formally start to receive applications from interested candidates. He may also seek out candidates. We will be finalizing details with



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the Bishop at our meeting on 2 July, but one would reasonably expect the Bishop will receive applications over the next several weeks, leaving him sufficient time to develop a final short list of candidates for the PSC to interview in September.

## Transition

As Father Harold outlined so well in his sermon 2 weeks ago (copies of which are still available at the back of the Church and online on the *News* section of the SMM website), we will be facing a significant transition as a community in the coming months. One of the programs the Diocese provides to parishes is called **Fresh Start**. It is designed to help both the parish and the new Incumbent make an effective and healthy transition into a new shared life together. A coach appointed by the Diocese works with a small **Fresh Start Transition Team** to help coordinate the transition process. Watch for more details in subsequent updates.

Allow me to express my sincere thanks to the many parishioners who have offered members of the PSC their heartfelt support and encouragement for the diligent efforts being made by the PSC. I would also like to thank members of the PSC at this important moment in our work for all the dedication they have put forward to attend seemingly endless meetings and reading never ending drafts of the Profile – not to mention suffering through streams of emails from the Chair – all much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rob Castle  
PSC Chairperson

## PSC MEMBERS

Rob Castle	Heather McGregor
Brian Clarke	Eileen Morrison
Elizabeth Cowling	Lorna Scott
Vicki Hathaway	

## PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

*Almighty God who knowest the needs of thy church in every place: Look graciously at this time upon the people of this parish, and give them a faithful pastor who shall feed thy flock according to thy will and make ready a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

BCP, p. 45

*Almighty God, giver of all good gifts. Look on your church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Priest for this parish, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

BAS, p. 676