

St. Stephen's Church, Hornby

Parish Profile 2025



Parochial Committee

Julie Zarins – Rector's Warden and Committee Chair Lady

Henry Allie – Peoples' Warden

Louise Brisbois – Lay Delegate to Synod



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Welcome! If you are reading this introduction and sense the possibility of a call from God to serve alongside the people of St. Stephen's, Hornby, you are most warmly welcome.

St. Stephen's is a rural, historic, wood-framed church and a churchyard (cemetery) dating from the pioneer settlement days of Upper Canada. It is a parish that holds a special place within the Diocese of Niagara and the ecclesiastical province of Ontario, serving as an anchor of God's mission of love in Hornby.

With a clear focus on both the present and the future, St. Stephen's is seeking a rector who will embrace, lead it through, and enact both the parish's Mission Action Plan and situate it within our wider diocesan vision - as we seek to discern where God calls us to life and compels us to love in the local and wider community, ignited by the irresistible love of Jesus, and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

The diverse parish family of St. Stephen's is welcoming, friendly, energetic, and passionate about the ministry to which they've been called: "to make Jesus known." They have sought to faithfully be the face and hands of Christ for their neighbourhood within Hornby.

As you are drawn deeper into this document - a snapshot of their ministry in this community- I pray that you may feel the urging of the Holy Spirit to join this wonderful and faithful parish in its journey.

God's richest blessing in your discernment.

Bishop of Niagara

The Right Reverend Dr. Susan J. A. Bell
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ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

14946 STEELES AVENUE, HORNBY, ONTARIO L0P 1E0

On behalf of St. Stephen's Parochial Committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to those of you who are looking through our parochial report.

We hope that on reading through the report you will be able to gain helpful insights as to the nature of St. Stephen's church and its congregation. If you are considering whether God is calling you as the next rector of St. Stephen's, we hope it may help you to discern whether your own sense of ministry resonates with what St. Stephen's has to offer.

We pray for the Lord to watch over and guide a new minister to St. Stephen's and we look forward to this next chapter for our church community with hopeful expectation.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Hill-Zarins, Rector's Warden

On behalf of the Parochial Committee.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

14946 STEELES AVENUE, HORNBY, ONTARIO L0P 1E0

June 25, 2025

The Parochial Committee of St. Stephen's, Hornby, has prepared this profile of the parish to assist in the process of appointing its next rector. If you're a clergyperson considering this position, I'd like you to know how much I've enjoyed being the Priest-in-Charge here for the past sixteen months!

First of all, I've enjoyed being part of this church community. It's made up of faithful, hospitable, caring, committed, talented, interesting people, from many diverse backgrounds, who work together well, share responsibility, and take initiative. And the lay leadership here is exceptionally conscientious and visionary.

As well, I've enjoyed leading this group in the worship of God. Our worship is truly a liturgy in the root sense of "a work of the people," with a fine choir, a music director who's a delightful and gifted colleague, a large number of folks who reliably take turns in the many roles of liturgical ministry, and an engaged, spiritually attuned congregation.

I've enjoyed the serene beauty of this church campus, with its quiet, well-kept churchyard, and its historic (though fully accessible!) church building, full of memories dating back to the era of the pioneer settlers.

I've enjoyed being part of the congregation's prayerful and fruitful process of discerning the congregation's mission, which will continue under the next rector. There's no residential neighbourhood here, and, according to the town's Official Plan, there never will be. The congregation commutes from far and wide. But a significant commercial, light industrial, and professional development will begin across the street from us in the next two or three years, and we're seeking God's direction as to how to bring the gospel into that. Nevertheless, we're already a missionary people. In addition to caring for one another and embracing a discipline for our own growth in Christ, we engage with the outreach ministry of the diocese, support the Anglican Church's "Alongside Hope" programs, contribute to food banks in Georgetown and elsewhere, recognize our partnership in Upper Canada Treaty 19, and assume our roles as ministers and agents of Jesus in our various locations.

I have every reason to believe that, if the Lord is calling you to serve St. Stephen's, and you respond to that call, you will be richly blessed.



Alan L. Hayes,
Priest-in-Charge

I: Our Hopes and Dreams

Parish surveys and consultations, in a prayerful context, helped us to formulate an action plan.

We have consulted with Dr. Emily Hill, the parish development missionary for the diocese of Niagara, about how we should envision our mission to the community, given that we are not located in a residential neighbourhood.

She has suggested that the next rector could lead us in a discussion of how our members could understand themselves as having a common mission to our “dispersed community,” i.e., the areas where our members live.

St. Stephen's, Hornby, Mission Action Plan 2.0

Approved by Parish Council, April 27, 2025

Adult Formation		Transforming parish culture		Fulness of life in the neighbourhood	
Proposal	Notes	Proposal	Notes	Proposal	Notes
Weekly bible study and prayer group	Format to be determined (on-line or in person? Following lectionary or "Forward Day by Day"? Emphasis on discussion or expert input?	Promote congregational communications	Support the current and future agenda of our Communications Committee: email blasts, Steeles Avenue sign, phone tree, advertising events and programs, community media, getting-to-know-you events for members, etc.	Rent or lend basement for appropriate purposes	E.g., music groups, service groups, historical society, para-church groups, immigrant church groups, location for film productions, etc.
Guest speakers, guest preachers on Sunday mornings	Could include diocesan <i>staff</i> , First Nations speakers, town speakers, newsmakers, Christian writers, interfaith speakers, etc.	Fellowship through work projects	As at present: building cleanups, cemetery cleanups, bazaars, auctions	Develop an idea and culture of a St. Stephen's "dispersed community"	Consider our "neighbourhood" to be where our members live. Members are ambassadors wherever they find themselves. Emily Hill has offered to help our thinking.
Sharing our faith journeys	It could happen in Sunday morning services, after services, in small groups, in house churches, etc.	Men's and ladies' breakfasts	Recommit to current practice of once a month	Research and promote our history	Our historical connection to Halton Hills informs our mission. We'll participate in Doors Open Halton Hills and invite historical tourism.
Short-course faith study	Could include "Church 101 ," "Anglicanism 101 ;" book studies, etc.	Activity packages for children	Children's bibles, crafts, Internet resources, etc.	Choir and music outreach	Choir could join with other church choirs for special services (recent example: Michael Clarke's funeral); visit nursing homes, seniors' residences, civic events; invite local musicians to perform at St. Stephen's. Christmas caroling etc.
				Christmas bazaar and Similar events	Pie sales, auctions, etc.. as they are now

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming church community,

nurturing faith across generations

through

Worship, Fellowship and Compassionate Service,

by

Reaching Up, Reaching Out and Reaching In

St. Stephen's Church, Hornby Is Unique!

II: Our Location and Membership

St. Stephen's is situated in a rural setting on a heavily travelled main road, Steeles Avenue East, between Trafalgar Road and Ninth Line in Halton Region. Our area was historically a farming community, but it is now about to be transformed into what the Town of Halton Hills calls a "prestige employment area", including advanced manufacturing, food and beverage processing, clean technology and renewable energy, research and development, office, major hospitality and tourism, and related employment uses. Although the Town is planning to double its population in the next twenty years, new residences will not be permitted in our area.

Because we are not located in a residential neighbourhood, we are a destination church. We draw our congregation from surrounding municipalities, Mississauga, Brampton, Halton Hills, Milton, Burlington, Etobicoke.

Who Are We?

Members of our congregation represent a variety of national backgrounds, including Indigenous North American, West Indian, British and Irish, European, West African and South Asian.



Our congregation is diverse but there is a family atmosphere here. Coming to church at St. Stephen's is like coming home. We genuinely enjoy seeing each other.

Everyone plays a part in this family. Any contribution to our St. Stephen's community is appreciated.

Whatever the project or event, many people pitch in to ensure its success.

Membership and Attendance

All statistics are based on data from the 2024 Vestry Report – approved February 23, 2025

	2024	2025
Number of members on Parish Roster	80	
Number of members eligible to vote at Vestry	70	
Average number of Sunday Attendees	32	
Number of attendees at Easter	45	47
Number of attendees Christmas Eve	29	
Number of attendees Christmas Day	7	
Memorial Day	32	77
Number of attendees Second Sunday in September	20	
Number of identifiable givers	67	

III: Worship

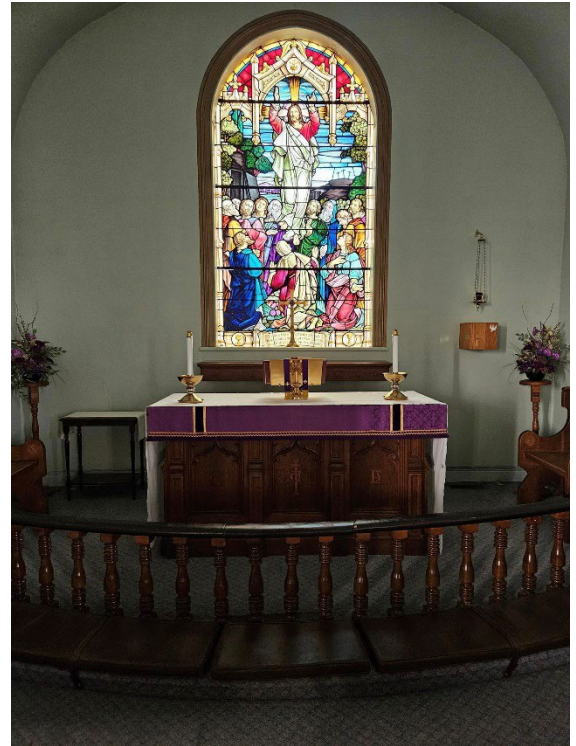
Holy Eucharist

Most Sundays we celebrate choral Eucharist taken from the Canadian Anglican *Book of Alternative Services*.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion.

Services are at 11 a.m.

Additional services are held on Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.



Morning Prayer

Once a month, usually the third Sunday, we have a service of Morning Prayer.

Church Services generally last about 65 minutes.

Our Music and Choir

Music is an integral part of our worship services.



St. Stephen's is truly blessed with a talented organist, Liv Schachter, who directs the music program and choir.

Our singers are experienced and enthusiastic. They look forward to performing new anthems or arrangements that will enhance our worship services.

Choir practices are held on Wednesday evening via Zoom.

There is a rehearsal before the church service on Sunday morning, and sometimes after Sunday morning coffee hour as well.

Lay participation in worship

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild ensures that the altar is set up in accordance with the Ecclesiastical calendar. They ensure the correct amounts of Bread and Wine are available for consecration. After the service the communion vessels and altar are cleaned and readied for the next service.

Greeters, Lay Readers and Intercessors

There are several people who are part of a team that is rotated monthly. Greeters welcome the congregation on Sundays. Lay readers read the Old Testament and Epistle Lesson. Intercessors lead the congregation in the Prayers of the People.

Others

Other lay volunteers decorate the church for Sunday morning worship, look after technological issues, attend to the PowerPoint slides, assist the priest at the Eucharist or administer the chalice, and provide coffee and refreshments for a social hour after the Sunday morning service.

Special Services and Events at St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's community comes together to support various events throughout the year. Some are special church services, others are fund-raisers, and some are just get-togethers for fellowship.

(Usually food is involved.)

The Memorial Day Service - 2ND Sunday in June.

For this important annual service, we invite families to join us for a remembrance of the souls that have found rest in our hallowed grounds. This is a time to congregate and to reunite with friends and worshipers, present and past. It is a key fund-raiser for the Cemetery Board.



Music for Memorial Day 2025

Parish Life at St. Stephen's

Significant Occasions for the St. Stephen's family in the past year.



Our dear faithful Edwina Cuthbert was inducted into the Order of Niagara

at a diocesan service on November 17.

This honour recognizes her devoted service to the parish over many years.

It was a wonderful occasion.

We Celebrated the Confirmation of Four

Three have been at St. Stephen's all their lives: Nickey Carter's three daughters, Nyah, Nalini, and Cece.

One came to us, by God's grace in 2024: Omoruyi Iyare

On October 27, at our diocesan cathedral, they renounced evil, affirmed their faith, and made their confirmation vows, and the bishop laid her hands on their head and prayed for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit in their lives.



Potluck Luncheons

These are popular social events, held a few times a year.

What better way to get to know and enjoy other people in the congregation than to “break bread” together!

People look forward to coming and adding their special dish to the table.



Pasta Dinner and Dessert Auction

This is one of the most popular social events for St. Stephen's. It has always been a very profitable fund-raiser. All components for this event are donated; food, wine, desserts and raffle prizes. While the main course is covered by the ticket, dessert must be purchased through a fun auction.



This event is enjoyed by all attendees!

Profits support capital projects, which may vary year to year.

Plaid Tidings (Christmas Bazaar)

Plaid Tidings is the largest fundraising event of the year for Saint Stephen's.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This is a relatively new event.

It was organized as a time for fellowship and is well attended. We have been fortunate to make a small profit each year. Since it takes place in the dead of winter, the profits were donated to our local food bank.

Lenten Luncheon

This is a luncheon held after one of the worship services in Lent. It is a simple meal offering a variety of vegetarian soups and bread followed by squares. The charge is a free-will offering.

All proceeds are donated to



Ladies Breakfasts – held monthly (except July and August)

Men's Breakfasts – held monthly (except July and August)

Coffee Hours – weekly after Sunday services

IV: Organizational Structure

As usual among Anglican churches, the rector has jurisdiction, under the bishop, over “spiritualia,” and the Corporation (comprising the rector and churchwardens) has jurisdiction, under the diocese of Niagara, over “temporalia.”

We have a Treasurer who keeps account of finances, in cooperation with the Corporation. Our current Treasurer is Peter Zarins

We have a parish Vestry, whose membership and duties are established in the diocesan canons. Among other things, the Vestry elects the lay officers, including the Lay Delegate to Synod and the Alternate Lay Delegate. (Our Lay Delegate is Louise Brisbois.)

We have a parish council which advises the rector and Corporation. It generally meets four times a year on a Sunday morning after worship, and a light lunch is provided. We invite the entire congregation to attend and participate in discussions.

We have a Cemetery Committee which manages the operations of the cemetery. One of its members, Rick Nolin, functions as its administrator, along with Henry Allie, our people’s warden and property chair.

We have a Memorial Committee, which oversees a memorial trust account, including contributions, disbursements, and reporting. Judie Allie chairs.

These officers and committees report annually to Vestry. Please refer to the 2024 Vestry Report, which accompanies this Parish Profile.

V: Programs and Organizations

Communications Committee

We work hard to maintain regular and open communications with members of the congregation, in addition to announcements and a social time on Sunday morning.

- Website <https://churchonsteeles.weebly.com>.
- Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/churchonsteeles>
- An “email blast” roughly four times a month with news and comment.
- We have a large electronic sign overlooking Steeles Avenue.
- Our Mission Action Plan is leading us towards phone trees and small-group in-person events.

Christian Education

Unfortunately, we have no children who attend regularly, and we have not mounted a Sunday school in recent years.

We mounted a confirmation course for four confirmands in 2024.

We have had the occasional book study and series of Bible lectures. A limitation on in-person meetings is that people who live far from the church, as most do, are reluctant to make the journey mid-week, especially at night. A limitation on Zoom meetings is that not everyone is prepared to learn or adapt to the “Zoom” technology.

Prayer Lists

A lay volunteer keeps track of the prayer requests of the congregation. A current list is distributed to members at least once a month. These names are included in the Prayers of the People every Sunday morning.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Several members of the congregation knit brightly coloured prayer shawls, which are blessed at a Sunday morning service, and then given by pastoral visitors to those in need of healing or spiritual comfort. The shawls represent God's love and are signs of the caring concern of the St. Stephen's congregation.

VI: Finances

St. Stephen's is financially healthy. Our 2024 annual operating expenses (including payment of our diocesan assessment) of about \$160,000 were met by the free-will offerings of our congregation, rental income, fund-raising activities, and other miscellaneous income. Through the generosity of generations of parishioners, our Cemetery Fund has a balance of about \$95,000, and our Memorial Fund has a balance of about \$12,000. Full details are given in the 2024 Vestry Report attached with this document, especially the audited financials on pages 31 to 37.

For the future, the continuation of our positive financial situation will depend, under God, on maintaining and, we hope, growing the numbers of our loyal supporters.

VII: Property

Our church building was constructed in pioneer days. We are fortunate to have a knowledgeable Property Committee which oversees the maintenance of our buildings and grounds. These knowledgeable and dedicated people are familiar with rural property and do an excellent job of making sure that small issues are corrected, and that larger issues are properly processed through the Corporation and Vestry. Therefore, even though our building is over 180 years old, it has been meticulously maintained.

- The building has been renovated to make it accessible with the installation of an elevator and accessible washrooms. A newly designed entry and staircase to the parish hall were also part of this renovation. Security was upgraded this year.
- We have a rectory, jointly owned with St. John's Anglican Church, Stewarttown. We rent it out and will provide the new rector with a housing allowance.
- The decennial audit: The diocese of Niagara requires a third-party building inspection every ten years. Our most recent inspection was completed this year, 2025. The report of the inspectors is forwarded directly to the diocese. The inspectors told us verbally that we have no major issues to address.

Please see the Property Report in our 2024 Vestry Book. Pages 25 to 30

St. Stephen's Church Cemetery



God's Glory shines over St. Stephen's

Our churchyard was established in the 1830s. It is operated in full compliance with Ontario law. The remains of many of Hornby's Victorian- era pioneers are here. It is interesting to walk amongst the graves to learn about the history of the settlers and early parishioners. From time to time, we host a Spirit Walk that gives you a true sense of the community history and family ties of those resting here.

Priorities for future clergy?

This Parochial Committee asked the parish to complete a survey, developed by the diocese, to help us define their expectations of future clergy. There were 30 tasks presented. Members were asked to indicate the importance of each.

Number	Roles
1	Casts a vision and new ideas for pursuing God's mission; promotes awareness of and engagement with Niagara's Vision for Ministry, the Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion, and/or the promises of our baptismal covenant
2	Teaches and works directly with adults to nurture disciples through adult religious education classes or special seminars (e.g., Lenten studies)
3	Provides leadership for community partnerships and serves on community boards
4	Ministers to the sick, dying and bereaved
5	Leads public worship
6	Works with Parish Council and committees
7	Maintains a disciplined program of prayer and person devotion
8	Oversees church office activities, bulletins, correspondence, records, etc.
9	Tries to maintain harmony and resolve conflict among parish members over programs, finances, Vestries, bazaars, etc.
10	Preaches sermons
11	Visits residents in the neighbourhood, making disciples
12	Oversees parish communications: website, newsletters, social media, etc.
13	Counsels people about their personal problems; makes referrals to suitable medical, mental health & social service professionals
14	Develops (in consultation) and pursues a focused continuing education learning plan
15	Teaches and works directly with children, nurturing disciples through Church School visits, preaching children's sermons, etc.
16	Fosters social justice advocacy and community engagement in direct partnership with those seeking justice and with social justice, service & community organizations/agencies
17	Teaches and works directly with young people nurturing disciples through classes or youth groups
18	Administers sacraments of baptism, communion, marriage; conduct funerals
19	Cultivates a home and personal life with some friends and interests outside church circles
20	Leads stewardship and capital campaigns
21	Mentors or talks with individuals about their discipleship, spiritual development, religious life, and beliefs
22	Participates in diocesan and national church activities, programs, and conferences
23	Promotes awareness of and enthusiasm for parish, diocesan, national church, ecumenical/inter-faith programs in the parish
24	Helps to plan parish budget and to manage parish finances
25	Fosters sense of community at parish gatherings
26	Serves as an example of high moral and ethical character
27	Plans overall parish strategies and programs and maps out objectives
28	Recruits, trains, and assists lay leaders; interest people in using their gifts and exercising their baptismal ministries
29	Visits regularly in the homes of parishioners
30	Counsels and prepares people for major changes in life, such as marriage

Survey Results

Top five priorities of St. Stephen's in order of preference.

Priority	Question Number	Roles
1	4	Ministers to the sick, dying and bereaved
2	18	Administers sacraments of baptism, communion, marriage; conduct funerals
3	10	Preaches sermons
4	6	Works with Parish Council and committees
5	13	Counsels people about their personal problems; makes referrals to suitable medical, mental health & social service professionals

Acknowledgements

MANY THANKS TO OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE, ALAN HAYES.

Alan has worked diligently to keep us focused on our mission. He organized Zoom meetings and acted as secretary. He provided accurate summaries of every meeting held in the development of our Mission Statement and realistic goals for St. Stephen's. Without his guidance, we would still be floundering. We are so appreciative of his advice and expertise.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members of this Parochial Committee have been part of St. Stephen's congregation for many years. All three of us have served on a variety of committees. We knew that the development of a Parish Profile would be a new challenge for us. This committee spent considerable time developing surveys and interviewing parishioners of the St. Stephen's community to develop an accurate profile of our future needs and opportunities for mission.

OUR RESOURCES

We leaned on readily available financial information. The 2024 Vestry Report submitted and approved by Parish Council, February 23, 2025, provided accurate data taken directly from St. Stephen's accounting software.

The Parochial Committee was part of the St. Stephen's Church, Mission Action Plan "2.0" Committee. The purpose was to discern God's leading, to explore the priorities of our congregation, and to develop a mission statement, based on these findings. This Mission Statement was approved by Parish Council April 27, 2025.

St. Stephen's website: <http://churchonsteeles.weebly.com>

Financial Statements, Property Report and Statistics

Please refer to the 2024 Vestry Report attached with this document

Property report – Pages 25 to 30

Audited Financials – Pages 31 to 37

Parish Statistics – Page 38