
St. Philip's – Milford

Church Profile



**Rooted in Christ, Nourished by Prayer,
Maturing in Faith**

44 St. Philip's Street
Milford, ON
K0K 2P0
stphilipschurch.ca

Our Mission Statement

We aim to be a Christian Centre for the worship of God, bringing members closer to Christ, proclaiming the Word and making his love known to all. We serve our community in the power of the Spirit: welcoming everyone, helping those in need and supporting the endeavours of others.

Table of Contents

The Congregation.....	1
Worship and.....	1
Liturgy.....	1
Lay Readers.....	2
Special Services.....	2
Music Program.....	2
Pastoral Ministry.....	3
Organization and Communication.....	3
Leadership.....	3
Communication.....	3
Groups.....	4
Our Hopes for the Future.....	5
History of the Church and the Congregation.....	5
Milford and the County.....	7
Appendix.....	9

The Congregation



Worship and Liturgy



St. Philip's Church in Milford is now the only operating Anglican church within the Parish of Marysburgh. Our sister parish - St John's in Waupoos - was closed and deconsecrated in August of 2024. At the present time, most of our congregation are people of retirement age who attend most weekly services. Our Sunday services are attended by 15 to 20 worshippers.

Dedication to the church and enthusiastic involvement in all church activities is one of two major hallmarks of St. Philip's congregation. The second is "family feeling": members of the congregation are also personal friends.

People do not just join a church, they join a family where everyone is interested in, and concerned about, the well-being of others. This is not just the opinion of the current members; it is commented on by visiting clergy and others who become exposed to St. Philip's culture. The family atmosphere leads us to embrace visitors and newly joined members, and to work together on a variety of projects. Further, these characteristics result in the concern for and care of, the church building, and the grounds left to our care by worshippers in previous generations.

Our members continue to have a deep commitment to St. Philip's and express a strong desire to maintain an active presence in the wider community, and we look forward to working with our new Incumbent to make that happen. We understand that Christians are called to share Christ's good news, and we recognize that evangelism is something we need to work on. We are open to trying different ways of sharing the Gospel which may be more attractive to today's seekers.

St. Philip's currently holds its services at 9 a.m. Our Incumbent serves with us on the second, third and fourth Sundays of each month and stays for Coffee Hour on the second Sunday. The Reverend Canon Fran Langlois is a licensed honorary assistant to the three Anglican Parishes in Prince Edward County. Fran officiates a Morning Prayer service at St. Philip's, alternating monthly, and serves as Deacon at St. Mary Magdalene, Picton other Sundays. Any fifth Sunday is at the discretion of the Incumbent. Our Lay Readers, other members of the congregation and guests from the community have preached at various times at St. Philip's.

Holy Eucharist is celebrated using the Book of Alternate Services.

Lay Readers

Lay Readers have been an important and valued ministry at St. Philip's for more than 35 years.

We currently have two licensed Lay Readers who serve each week, assisting the priest at the table, reading the Gospel from time to time and leading the Prayers of the People.

Our Lay Readers assist at the monthly Ministry to Seniors' in Prince Edward County.

Special Services

- ❖ At Christmas we have a Family Service at 5 p.m.
- ❖ On Christmas Day we have services in the morning, and we often alternate with St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Wellington
- ❖ Mid-week services are held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.
- ❖ Joint services and potluck meals have been held with St. Andrew's as well as South Bay United Church.
- ❖ In recent years, we also celebrated ACW Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, evening Taizé and Evensong, outdoor services, in-home services, and others (e.g., blessing of new homes).

Music Program

Music has always played a very important role in worship services at St Philip's. Two regular organists share the duties at the organ each Sunday and two devoted male singers lead the singing from the front choir pew. Hymn selections are made from McCausland's Lectionary by the Incumbent for the St Andrews' organist. These hymn choices are shared with the lead organist at St Philip's for her consideration. Special requests from the congregation are also welcomed.

The "Common Praise" hymnal is the primary source of hymns with occasional selections from "Songs for a Gospel People". Our music is traditional in most respects. Familiar responses and chants are sung at the direction of the Incumbent.

A choir made up of St Philip's members as well as other visiting singers is assembled for our annual Advent Lessons and Carols service. With weekly practices to prepare, we present hymns and anthems in harmony. The choir robes for special services.

A Yamaha Clavinova electric organ has been a dependable source of music for several years and has a wide variety of optional settings.



Pastoral Ministry

We have a pastoral care team, but our congregation needs and expects pastoral visits from the Incumbent. We also have an active card ministry and try to keep in touch by phone and email.

Also, when needed, we deliver hot meals to ill parishioners at home.

Organization and Communication

Leadership



One of the greatest assets at St. Philip's is the strong commitment people have to the ongoing life of our church. Positions are filled as necessary with dedication and perseverance. When a need is identified volunteers and donations appear. Prayer plays a vital part in our church life.

Two Wardens and a Deputy Warden work hard to keep St. Philip's running smoothly. We have a treasurer, and a bookkeeper, who keep our finances in order and provide regular updates to our members. This group, along with the Incumbent and one of the Lay Readers, form the Leadership Team that meet monthly to review and plan the business and ministry details of the church. Consideration is also given to developments in the parish and the Diocese.

Our envelope secretary keeps track of donations; issues tax receipts and sends thank you cards for special donations. In 2021, we introduced Pre-Approved Giving (PAG) and Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) as additional ways to make donations for regular giving as well as for special purposes. For many years we have been debt-free and have paid our annual obligations to the Diocese fully and on time.

We have an annual vestry meeting, three or four congregational meetings a year as well as ad-hoc meetings. All are well attended and usually follow a brunch.

Communication

The weekly bulletin "*Growing on the Vine*" is sent by email to members and friends to inform them of services and events. The few who do not have email are kept up to date with important information by telephone or through hand delivery.

Our Newsletter is produced twice a year to share our news with a broader group of friends of St. Philip's and to keep a record of the life of our church. We keep in touch with former members and clergy via the newsletter and through other means. Our recently redesigned [website](http://stphilipchurch.ca) (stphilipchurch.ca) is updated regularly and broadens our reach to the larger community.

The church has a reliable Internet connection for meetings and for other needs.

Groups

Anglican Church Women. Our ACW members meet monthly, or as needed, and plan events to raise funds and provide fellowship to the community. This year we have held a St. Patrick's Day supper party with games, a Yard and Rummage Sale and a Community BBQ, which was well attended. In addition, ACW can be relied upon to provide a helping hand at birthdays, funerals and other special events.

Funds raised support local and international charities, for example Community Care for Seniors, Hospice Prince Edward, and the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Altar Guild. We have three active members who are dedicated to this ministry. They keep supplies stocked and prepare the altar for each service.

Outreach. We meet several times a year to plan upcoming events which include a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in support of DOORS, Saturday morning talks and occasional potluck supper / movie nights. We participate along with Emmanuel Baptist Church (Bloomfield) in the migrant workers' backpack program, and we host a dinner for the workers in September. On the first Sunday of Advent, we celebrate White Gift Sunday to support the Salvation Army's community Christmas gift baskets. The group maintains an Easter and Christmas card ministry and provides an annual cash award for the valedictorian at Athol-South Marysburgh Public School. St. Philip's continues to support Alongside Hope and the Picton United Church food bank. In 2026 a Little Library was created and installed outside the Church. It is stocked with Bibles in different versions as well as other books. Our annual Lenten collection is directed toward [Henry Budd College](http://henrybuddcollege.org) (henrybuddcollege.org). We also support the ACW's festival of trees entry and the Ministry to Seniors in Prince Edward County's Christmas service.



Prayer Group. Our Prayer Group prays daily from a shared list. Requests for needs and thanksgivings are received, and we pray for our church and for the world. When a significant need is identified, a prayer square is handmade, prayed over by the congregation during a service, and presented to the person in need.

Prayer Circle. Once a month a prayer meeting is held at St. Philip's or online. Members of the congregation are welcome to join this prayer time which includes a psalm, Gospel reading and prayers for St. Philip's congregation members, the wider community, world events, and the environment. Participants are invited to contribute to the prayers. It is a very meaningful time of fellowship

Our Hopes for the Future



Our fervent hope is that St. Philip's will continue to be a vibrant, caring place of worship and service in our community for many years to come. May we always be a place that shows our love for God and for one another.

To that end, we want to actively nourish and sustain the camaraderie and family feeling in the congregation. It is a gift we do not take for granted.

Despite our smaller, older congregation, we hope to continue to be 'the little church that could' by using our resources – human and financial – wisely. Our recent Potluck Community BBQ was a successful example of this more manageable approach.

We also want to do a better job spreading the word about our events as a reflection of the Gospel in action. Of course, we sincerely hope that our events will attract new people to St. Philip's, but regardless, we intend to keep going and "fight the good fight."

In sum, we want to be a beacon for what God is doing in our church, our neighbourhood and our world.



History of the Church and the Congregation

St. Philip's Church was originally built in 1830. It burned to the ground in 1920 after being struck by lightning, was rebuilt without delay, and consecrated in 1925 after repaying the construction costs. Each of the beautiful stained glass church windows featuring biblical motifs and many of the interior furnishings were donated as memorial gifts over the years.





Major renovation and upgrade projects include:

- ❖ The hall and a small kitchen were added in the 1950s, expanded in the 1980's, upgraded in 2008 and again in 2013 to include a commercial dishwasher, all completed by parishioners to better support the frequent social events.
- ❖ Water for all uses is brought in by trucks, stored in a cistern below the kitchen floor and rendered potable through filtering and ultra-violet treatment systems.
- ❖ A Memorial Garden and a paved parking lot were added in 2001.
- ❖ Roofing on the church and the hall were replaced with steel.
- ❖ A wheelchair-accessible washroom connected to a septic bed was built in 2012.
- ❖ A private office for the Incumbent and extra storage space were added in 2013.
- ❖ An electric heating system, with independently controlled areas, serves all indoor spaces.
- ❖ An internet connection allowing wireless connections from any part of the facilities was added in 2018 with projectors and screens available in the church and hall.

All costs of building projects since the 1980s were covered by donations and made possible through the labour of St. Philip's members. The functioning and maintenance of all the facilities are described in a manual¹ that is maintained up to date as equipment changes are made; its main purpose is to ensure smooth operation as new people become responsible for the operations over time.



A successful fundraising campaign enabled the following projects to be completed on schedule and within budget:

- ❖ Repairing the subfloors in the vestibule and the nave.
- ❖ Replacing the floor covering in the Vestry.
- ❖ Rebuilding the gallery of former St Philip's Incumbents from the 19th century forward.



¹ Cihlar, J. 2016. St. Philip's Anglican Church Operations Manual. Unpublished. 40p.

Milford and the County

The village of Milford is in southeastern Prince Edward County, in the Township of South Marysburgh. Milford is a small village with many attractions and services: one garage, a post office, a library, a town hall, a bakery, and two sandwich spots and one with a small selection of convenience items. Mount Tabor Theatre is a renovated former Methodist Church located on the Fairgrounds where entertainment can be enjoyed by all age groups. Three theatre groups, including the "Marysburgh Mummers", use Mount Tabor for their performances. The Milford millpond is a summer swimming hole and a winter skating rink and is surrounded by many new homes. The Black River links the mill pond to Lake Ontario.



South Marysburgh Township is home to several wineries, a Marine Museum, several Conservation Reserves, and large tracts of land protected by the Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust. The South Shore is a designated Important Birding Area with a Bird Observatory well-known across Canada. Several campgrounds and many vacation rentals are available for summer holidays. Vegetable and flower stands and many miles of picturesque shoreline provide opportunities for enjoyable summer drives around South Marysburgh.

The closest commercial centre is the town of Picton, ten minutes from Milford village with a population of approximately 4000. Major grocery stores, pharmacies, electronic and hardware stores as well as boutique shopping outlets are available in Picton. There are many family and fine dining restaurants, parks, and playgrounds.

Several public and one high school offer a broad range of academic and trade courses, including French Immersion beginning in grade four. An acute care hospital with 24-hour Emergency service and a Dialysis centre serve the community; a new hospital building under construction next door is scheduled to open in mid-2028 and will provide all the same services. "The Prince Edward Family Health Team and a residential hospice all provide excellent health care for the young and the elderly. Several nursing homes, group homes and retirement residences provide housing and care to those in need. As in many neighbouring communities, Prince Edward County is facing affordable housing and food security concerns, and efforts are being made by our Municipal Council to address these issues.

Prince Edward County is an island-like community located in Southeastern Ontario. It is well known for its demographic of mainly senior citizens and for its very busy tourist season. It is an area of great appeal to those who enjoy the outdoors with many walking, cycling and snow mobile trails. Artisans of all crafts are attracted to "the County". Theatre is alive and well and is served centrally through the [Regent Theatre](http://theregenttheatre.org) (theregenttheatre.org), a venue for live and movie productions. Festivals of all sorts are held almost every weekend, and two Golf Courses, two arenas, fitness centers and gyms provide opportunities for healthy activities.

More information can be found on the County's [website](http://thecounty.ca) (thecounty.ca).

Prior to 1830, spiritual needs of the community were served by priests located outside the Parish through local meetings in private residences. The church buildings in the area grew from a small log house in the late 1700s to St. Philip's in Milford (1830) and St. John's in Waupoos (1877). The Parish of Marysburgh was formally established in 1850 by Bishop Strachan of the Diocese of Toronto.

The membership, size and composition of St. Philip's congregation have been greatly influenced by the developments in the area since the initial settlement. For most of its history, St. Philip's Church served the farm community of Milford and the surrounding areas. The church was also the centre of social life, with events that brought people together during and outside services on many occasions throughout the year; a compilation of the photographic record from the church's archive shows numerous examples from the 1970 - 2010 period.

Since the late 1900s, the congregation has gradually changed. We are no longer mostly farmers but a mix of retirees, business owners, professionals, and others. Many "baby boomers" from other areas are choosing to spend their retirement years in the County, impressed by the idyllic environment.

The St. Philip's family atmosphere and cooperative spirit stem from previous generations when the local farming community relied on one another. Help in times of need was essential for the survival of their families and their possessions. The church was also the focus and centre of social and cultural community life, in addition to the faith aspects. This spirit still underlies who we are, and it is the reason we have been called by one of our Bishops "The Little Church That Could".

Appendix

