

ST BARNABAS Apostle & Martyr

Parish Profile

Parish of St Barnabas A&M, Ottawa, Canada



Photo D. Crawley

September 2024

Introduction

To: Potential candidates for the incumbency of St. Barnabas

We are pleased to present the following profile of the Parish of St. Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr. This overview covers various aspects of the Parish, such as our identity, our community and mission, our facilities and finances. The last section looks to the future and includes our desiderata for the new incumbent. We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

The Parish's web site is www.stbarnabasottawa.com

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1.The Parish

1.1 Introduction

St Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr, is an Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Ottawa. Founded in 1889, it is now in its 136th year of continued worship and service. The 6 Points of Ritual were introduced in 1895, and we have been continuously worshipping in the Anglo-Catholic tradition ever since. The original building was supplanted by the present building in 1931, but the original church served as a hall until the present Parish Hall was built in the early 1990's.

This identity is captured in the Parish Vision and Mission statements from 2008:

Vision statement:

St. Barnabas is a vibrant community called to be Christ's presence in worship and ministry.

Mission statement:

To provide faithful Anglo-Catholic worship and education

To equip the people of God for ministry in the world

To be a visible and tangible presence of Christ in the wider community

1.2 What we believe

The Parish held a strategic planning exercise in 2019-2020, which among other things concluded that a strong consensus exists amongst parishioners as to who we are and what we represent in the Anglican Church and in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. Extensive consultations conducted with parishioners showed that although there is a diversity of views within the Parish on a number of issues, there is a clear consensus on our identity as an Anglo-Catholic parish whose faith and liturgy are in historical continuity with the ancient church, and on the desire to continue to offer a traditional liturgy with a high standard of music. The following consensus statements resulted from the planning process:

As Anglo-Catholics, we uphold the historical continuity of the faith and liturgy of our Parish with that of the ancient church. As Catholics we stand in the mainstream of Christian faith throughout the ages. We are also a remarkably diverse group of Christians who, despite substantial differences in views on many issues, come together for worship and fellowship. We are an Anglo-Catholic parish whose priority is worship, and we are sustained by a traditional liturgy.

St Barnabas embodies the beauty and richness of traditional liturgy and music. It imparts an awareness of the Real Presence of Christ in the Sacrament, and a devotion to Our Lady and the saints. Within the walls of our cherished church, there is a strong sense of holiness, peace and of communion with Christ. We offer liturgy and music that is deeply reverential, beautiful, and traditional.

The parishioners of St. Barnabas are devoted to their faith and curious to learn more about it. They seek to better understand its basic tenets and grow spiritually. There is strong support within the Parish for educational events centered on the faith and liturgy.

1.3 Worship and Ministry

1.3.1 Liturgy



Photos W. Hallett

The Parish offers two Masses on Sundays: Low Mass at 8:30 am, and High Mass at 10:30. There are three weekday Masses: Tuesdays 10:00, Thursdays 12:15, and Fridays 7:30 am. The Tuesday and Friday Masses are followed by breakfast and fellowship. The Parish also offers Choral Evensong (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament) once a month (except in the summer), usually with a guest preacher from the Diocese and beyond, and Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent. Private confessions are heard on individual request.

St Barnabas has a very traditional Anglo-Catholic liturgy. Low Masses follow the Book of Common Prayer, including the BCP lectionary; High Mass on Sunday uses the words of the BCP with some additions (such as the Propers texts, Asperges at the beginning, etc.), but follows the common lectionary used by many other churches. Incense is always used at High Mass, which usually begins with Asperges. The celebrant and assistants face *ad orientem* (towards liturgical east) during the canon of the Mass. Traditional vestments are worn, including maniples, and the celebrant is well supported by servers. The *Angelus* (or the *Regina Coeli* in the Easter season) is said or sung after High Mass on Sundays. There is *very* strong support for this form of liturgy; no demands for “modernization” have been expressed by parishioners.

The Parish is fortunate to have several retired priests who act on a volunteer basis as assistants, taking some weekday Masses and assisting and preaching at High Mass.

The Sunday High Mass is streamed on YouTube each week. More details are given in Section 1.5.

1.3.2 Christian Education

The Parish has recently re-instituted a Sunday School, using the Good Shepherd program, for which the instructor has had specific training. Considerable effort has been expended to produce a proper setting for this program in the Parish Hall. The program has brought new families into the Parish, and we currently have 8 children enrolled.

A Quiet Day retreat is offered each year in Lent, led by a priest from outside the Parish. Lectures and Bible studies (some on-line) are offered from time to time, most often during Lent. Efforts are currently being made to put educational materials on the Parish web site. The Parish has had a cell of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham, but this has not recently been active.

1.3.3 Music

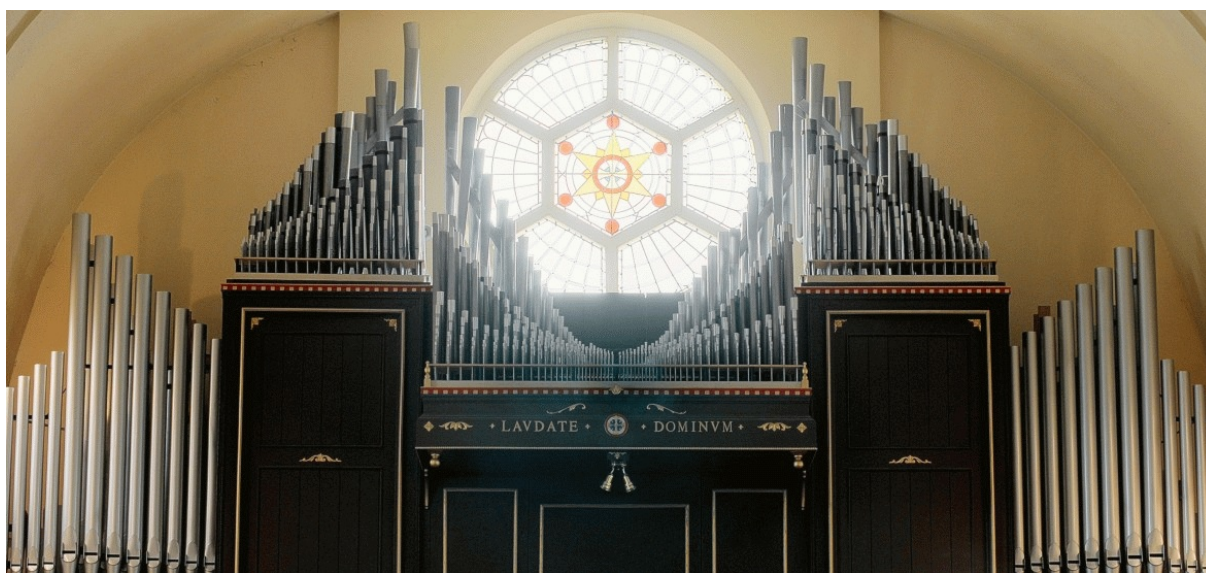


Photo D. Crawley

The parishioners of St Barnabas consider music to be an essential part of our liturgy and expect that the current musical tradition will be continued. The Parish is blessed with a well-maintained organ of recital quality and a practice piano. We employ an excellent professional organist/choirmaster and maintain very high musical standards: the current incumbent (Wesley Warren) has been in office since 1987 and has built the choir to such a level of performance that it won the CBC national competition in 2010. The choir, which is entirely composed of volunteers, sings a choral Mass setting every Sunday, and can interpret anything from plainsong through Renaissance polyphony to 20th century composers. There is a choral foundation fund which supports choral scholarships among other things.

Certain musical elements distinguish the Anglo-Catholic musical tradition, for example the use of plainsong (Gregorian chant) for psalms, for the propers of the mass (introit, gradual, etc.), for the mass setting (*Missa de angelis*), and for other purposes (Asperges, music proper to Holy Week and festivals). This ancient form of music is little heard in churches today, but it is an important element of traditional worship. In addition, there is *a capella* (i.e. unaccompanied) singing of many motets, in particular the repertoire of the Renaissance and early Baroque periods; the singing of much of the ordinary of the mass, either congregationally (e.g. Merbecke, Healey Willan) or by the choir; the use of some plainsong hymns, of many hymns translated from the Latin and Greek hymns of the ancient church (e.g. from J. M. Neale), and of the old French hymn tunes; and lastly, the use of organ improvisation to cover pauses in the liturgical action.

“Traditional” church music incorporating any of these elements is becoming rare in our time, and we believe that St Barnabas has a vital role in ensuring the survival of this rich musical and liturgical heritage.

1.4 Community and Mission

St. Barnabas is located in downtown Ottawa, in a mixed neighbourhood: single family homes, apartments, a few rooming houses, shops and services. The area is changing, with new apartment blocks (some very close to the Church – potential parishioners!) replacing older housing. There is some evidence of the current homelessness and drugs crises on nearby Bank Street.

Parishioners at St. Barnabas come from a variety of backgrounds and they enrich the Parish with their personal and professional experiences. Thus there are many ways in which they can contribute to Parish activities and to our community. This is a great asset for St. Barnabas. Some of our parishioners do come from the “geographical parish”, the central core of the city of Ottawa, but because of the type of liturgy and worship it offers, it is a “destination parish”, and some of our regular parishioners come long distances each Sunday to participate.

The Parish is blessed to have special friends, that is former parishioners or people who discovered the Parish through the online streaming of its masses and weekly services during the pandemic. Some of these send financial offerings to the church despite the fact that they don’t live in the National Capital Region.

Because of our downtown location, most of our outreach activities are combined with other neighbourhood churches in order to better respond to the needs of the community. The Parish’s community engagements include participating in the Centre Town Churches Social Action Committee (which helps the drop-in Centre 507), the Centre Town Emergency Food Centre, Multifaith Housing initiatives; providing funds to furnish rooms at both Cornerstone Shelters; sponsoring school fees for Tamil children in South India via the JMJ Fund of Ottawa; and collecting items for the various shelter programs in the community. We also host a monthly Community Tea for members of the local community (low income residents, seniors or New

Canadians).

Our participation in diocesan ministries also involves attending training or information sessions, and contributing to social activities (similar to those named above) and other *ad hoc* projects.

Pastoral care remains the purview of the Incumbent, who follows up on elderly, incapacitated or shut-in parishioners. It is particularly important that Communion in the form of the reserved Host be a part of many pastoral visits.

1.5 Administration and Communications

St. Barnabas has an active Parish Council, composed of up to 6 members elected at the annual Vestry meeting, plus *ex-officio* members (wardens, treasurer, synod delegate, etc.). It meets once a month, except during the summer, to discuss all matters pertaining to the general administration of the Parish, including finances, maintenance issues, special services and projects, etc. There are two wardens (the Diocese no longer distinguishes between Rector's and People's wardens) and two deputy wardens, together with the treasurer and the envelope secretary. The administrative work of the Parish is done by these people and the incumbent, assisted by other volunteers. The Parish does not currently have a paid administrator position: the recent strategic plan recommended creating one, but the funds for such a position are not currently available.



Photo W. Hallett

Electronic outreach is a new sector of activity for the Parish, first developed during the pandemic in response to the closing of churches, and was recognized during the strategic planning exercise as a crucial part of our worship and educational ministries. Given our parishioners' strong commitment to the liturgy, it was deemed essential to continue offering Sunday Mass during the covid restrictions even though all other weekly services were interrupted for a time. We currently stream High Mass every Sunday on YouTube, and this has become an essential part of our outreach. During the pandemic, daily offices (morning and evening prayer) were also streamed, but this is no longer done. We recently struck a Communications Committee as a sub-committee of Parish Council to manage streaming, the web site, and other communications and marketing activities for the Parish, all of it done by volunteers. An e-bulletin is sent out each week to parishioners, a paper order-of-service is given out on Sundays, and a periodic newsletter entitled *Laudamus* is sent out in both paper and electronic form.

A number of devoted volunteers work to ensure that the building remains clean and in good condition. There is a very active servers guild, and the altar guild has recently been re-

invigorated with new volunteers. There is an ongoing need to renew the volunteer base and to identify potential resources.

2. Facilities

The property of St Barnabas' Church comprises the church building and the adjoining Parish Hall, located at the corner of Kent St and James St in downtown Ottawa. It lies within a heritage conservation district as designated by the City of Ottawa, although the church itself is not designated as a heritage building. The Parish does not own a rectory. Kent St is a main north-south thoroughfare, but James is a quiet residential street.

2.1 Church Building

The current church was erected in 1931, and was designed in an Italianate style by Colin Drewitt, who also designed railway stations for the Canadian Pacific, among them the imposing Park Avenue station in Montreal. It is roughly 120 ft long and 45 ft wide inside and seats about 250. There is a small Lady Chapel to the right of the nave, and a baptistery off the back of the church. A narthex at the back is separated from the nave by a partition wall, and includes a small washroom. Above the narthex is a gallery which houses the organ and seating for the choir. The bell tower (one bell) includes a small office for the organist.



Photos W. Hallett

The building is of cinder block construction with brick facing. Heating is natural gas, forced air, and there is also an air-conditioning system. The Parish has been very active in keeping up with maintenance, and the building is in excellent condition. The roof was last re-shingled in 2011 and is covered in long-life metal shingles. The Parish has just had re-pointing and other repairs done on the tower, completing earlier re-pointing repairs. A full renewal of the lighting system was recently completed, and a good deal of the electrical system is new, but there is still some old wiring in conduits in the building, protected by a ground fault interrupter breaker at the mains. The church roof was insulated in 2014, resulting in a reduction in energy costs of around 30% for the church and Parish hall together. There are no foreseeable outstanding issues with the physical plant, except that the vinyl floor tiles should be replaced at some point. The basement under the church is an unfinished crawl space with limited headroom.



Photo D. Crawley

As befits an Anglo-Catholic church, St Barnabas has very complete facilities for celebrating the liturgy. There are three altars. The High Altar is backed by a reredos which is a large triptych (by Michael O'Brien) of Christ with Moses and John the Baptist. St Barnabas has always celebrated the Mass with the priest facing liturgical east, so there is no space between the altar and the reredos wall. A large rood beam separates the chancel and nave. There is a second altar in the Lady Chapel, used for weekday masses, plus an All Souls altar (rescued from a parish that was closed) at the back of the nave. A large sacristy adjoins the chancel. St Barnabas has an extensive collection of vestments, with complete High Mass sets in all liturgical colours, including a Marian set; also a good supply of altar linens, candlesticks, thuribles, etc.

The church has a very good two-manual organ with 29 stops, located in the gallery at the back of the church, the best possible location acoustically.

2.2 Parish Hall

The Parish Hall dates from the 1990's and occupies roughly the footprint of the original 1889 church, being contiguous with the present church and connected to it. It has a large hall, capable of seating around 150 people, a complete kitchen, a library/meeting room, a Parish office, a rector's office, and washrooms. The furnishings include a supply of folding tables and a large number of chairs of recent purchase. In past we have had a couple of regular renters using

the hall during the week, but this has been disrupted by covid. The Parish has a volunteer acting as a rental coordinator. It has recently given temporary accommodation to two diocesan ministries (St Luke's Table and The Well) when these were forced out of their permanent quarters by emergencies,

Above the library and offices is a large unfinished attic which could be developed to provide considerable additional space if required. It remains unfinished because the Parish does not currently need the space. The Parish is open to the possibility of using it to house an external organization or ministry which could assist in putting up the necessary funds to finish it. An opportunity of this sort was explored some years ago, but did not come to fruition.

Below part of the Parish Hall is a full height basement which is used for storage, but does not have any amenities.

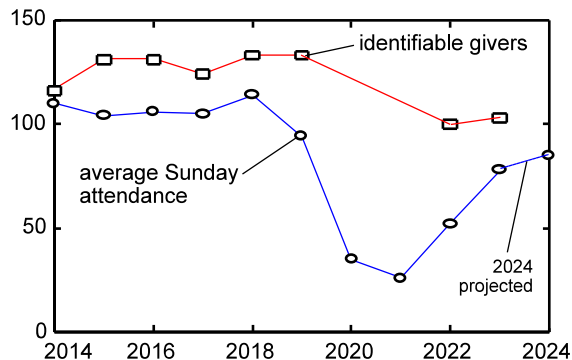
2.3 Grounds

The space surrounding the church is beautified by a lawn and flower beds. The neighbours greatly appreciate the grounds, which are maintained by several volunteers. There is a parking lot with space for about 6 vehicles in front of the Parish Hall; a couple of the spaces are rented during the week. As this is a downtown parish, there are occasional problems with discarded needles from drug addicts and the odd person attempting to sleep rough on the grounds, but this is not a major problem at present, as the presence of a busy thoroughfare (Kent St) in front of the church acts as a discouragement.

3. Demographics and Finances

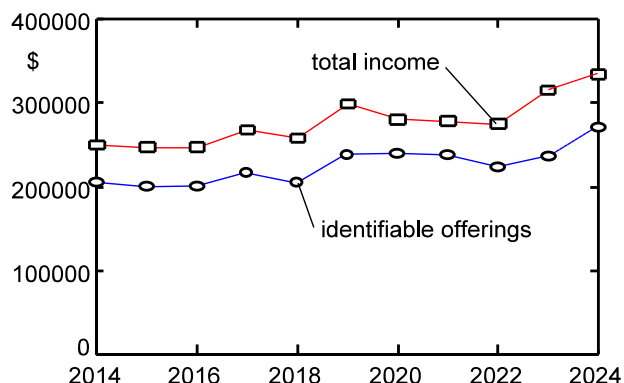
3.1 Demographics

The adjacent graph shows average Sunday attendance and the number of identifiable givers over the last 10 years. The pandemic has resulted in a net drop in average Sunday attendance from the pre-pandemic figure of 94 in 2019 to 78 in 2023. However, we have seen a number of newcomers (quite a few of them young people) join the Parish recently, and based on recent attendance we can expect the average Sunday attendance to rise to about 85 in 2024. Sunday attendance numbers during the pandemic reflect the effects of lockdowns; these statistics do not include those who were participating on-line. There are currently 104 identifiable givers in the Parish, as compared with 130 before the pandemic. Figures presented in the Strategic Plan document show that membership in the Parish grew by roughly 1% per year during the period 2009 - 2019. This is a very modest rate of growth, but it is nonetheless different from the overall pattern of membership in the Anglican Church of Canada, which declined by 2.5% in the same period (*q.v.* Eliot, Neil, Statistics Report for the House of Bishops, 2018.).



3.2 Summary of Finances

A condensed form of the detailed financial report for the year past and the budget for 2024 as approved at the Annual Vestry meeting held in February 2024 is given in Table 3.1 at the end of this section, and the graph adjacent records the total income and identifiable offerings over the last 10 years. More information on finances and demographics for the period 2009 - 2019 is given in the Strategic Plan from 2020, available as a separate document. What is given here is a summary of the current state.



The Parish is in good financial shape despite the recent pandemic, and finished 2023 with a very small deficit (\$674). (The previous year ended with a surplus.) Remarkably, despite the drop in attendance during the pandemic, givings remained steady, a testament to the faithfulness of our parishioners. In round numbers, the annual budget of the Parish for 2024 totals \$334 000, with the main budget items being worship (43% - includes clergy salary and benefits), Proportional Parish Share (*i.e.* diocesan apportionment, 14.5%), music (19%) and property expenses (14%). Very little of this budget is discretionary: salary costs are set by the Diocese and (in the case of the organist) by the pay scale of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Proportional Parish Share is likewise set by the Diocese, and property costs are set by utility rates and fees for services such as furnace maintenance and snowplowing. (Note that clergy salaries in the Diocese of Ottawa are based on an equalization system which makes the cost of priestly services for an individual parish independent of the seniority or salary level of the incumbent, so that the budget for priestly services does not directly reflect the salary of the incumbent.)

The bulk of the income is from identifiable offerings (81%), with the remainder coming mostly from open offerings (3.5%), investments (12.5%), and rentals (3%). The Parish has roughly \$1 700 000 in investment funds held in the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Diocese, which are entirely managed by diocesan staff. Included in this amount is an extremely large bequest from late 2023, as a result of which the Parish's investment income is expected to grow from about \$27 000 in 2023 to about \$42 000 in 2024.

Table 3.1 - Condensed Financial Statement for 2023 and Budget for 2024

| Item | 2023 Actual | 2024 Budget |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income: | | |
| Open offerings | 11 324 | 11 484 |
| Identifiable offerings | 235 254 | 270 839 |
| Rentals and parking | 32 050 | 10 056 |
| Fundraisers (Bazaar) | 6 667 | --- |
| Investment income | 29 696 | 42 000 |
| Total Income | 314 992 | 334 379 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Property (utilities, maintenance, insurance) | 41 249 | 46 088 |
| Administration (supplies, phones, photocopies, internet, sales tax) | 18 890 | 21 268 |
| Worship (clergy, liturgical supplies) | 137 324 | 144 174 |
| Music | 61 277 | 64 468 |
| Community ministries, Outreach | 4 716 | 4 944 |
| Christian education (Sunday School) | 2 263 | 4 900 |
| Proportional Parish Share (to Diocese) | 49 948 | 48 537 |
| Total Expenses | 315 666 | 334 379 |
| Deficit | 674 | --- |

As noted in the section on Facilities, no major capital expenses are foreseen in the near future.

4. The Future

The information presented in the most recent vestry reports and in the Strategic Planning document make it clear that St Barnabas is a thriving and viable parish which is economically sustainable and showing signs of growth after the pandemic. The Anglo-Catholic perspective which it offers, including its traditional liturgy, teaching and high quality music, is unique in the Diocese of Ottawa and continues to draw new parishioners, a number of them young people. Redevelopment of parts of the neighbouring downtown area will increase the population of the geographical parish as well.

The next incumbent will need to be first and foremost an Anglo-Catholic, with a background in Catholic theology and liturgy and a full commitment to this direction within the Anglican Church, not merely an interest in the superficial aspects of the liturgy and music. Our future incumbent should believe in the Real Presence of Christ and the sacrificial character of the Mass, and should also be familiar with the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer. Familiarity with the musical heritage of the Church is desirable in order to work effectively with the organist

and choir. The next incumbent should be able to minister to a very diverse group of people: children, families, students, and also the urban poor who often have contact with St Barnabas' Church.

As noted before, there is very strong support in the Parish for the current style of traditional liturgy and music, including the Prayer Book basis of much of it. This is not just a matter of personal taste: the Parish believes that it has a duty to pass this rich heritage on to future generations, and would wish the next incumbent to continue in this vein.