

Vestry February 2026

This past month has been an interesting one.

January /February is always the time when I start to lay out the plan for the year, both for my work and the schedule for the church. There is also the start of planning for new members on committees and planning for the AGM. Part of this includes a number of extra meetings with people and committees to ensure we are all on the same page and to discern the path for the upcoming year. Regular meetings with Esther, Scott, and corp continue, as well as additional meetings with Finance committee. These I have been less diligent about and will say more on that later.

I have been continuing work on the bulletins, as we still have some hiccups to work out. I have created a back up binder for the lay readers 'in case the priest doesn't show' which outlines a service and possible homilies to be used in an emergency. This came to my attention several months ago when a priest arrived 30 mins late and caused some anxiety, not to mention it's good to have a back up just in case. There has also been the regular emails, messages and phoning taking place.

The worship services have continued well and we have begun planning with Worship Committee, Scott and the Lay Readers for services up to and including Easter. There have been some changes to personnel as the Jackson family have left the parish and Audrey K has retired from Lay Reading. We also have gained a server, a Deacon and new readers. Thus I have arranged a training day for the lay readers, servers and clergy to ensure we are all on the same liturgical page and know what our respective roles are.

The parish hosted the funeral of Lindsay Seller this past month and the family has been very grateful. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped it go so smoothly. We have got a few funerals in the planning stages as well.

This year Easter is early so we are feeling a bit tight for planning the Lenten and Easter season along side AGM this year, but so far so good. Easter Vigil is being hosted by St. Aiden's this year for the Deanery and that is causing some challenges due to Theological and Ethical differences and we hope to find a Via Media which will allow us to worship with integrity.

Bible study continues with a good dozen or more people weekly as we continue through the Epistles of John. Also there are plans in the works for a Lenten evening learning and walking a Labyrinth as well as for a town hall series by Rev Rod in the fall.

Pastorally things have been busy this past month. As Audrey steps into retirement she has stepped away from care home services. This means that for February I will be taking 6 carehome services, but also training people to replace me and by the beginning of March I will be back to leading only 1 care home service. Birthday

greeting are being sent out as per usual and I have been making some hospital visits as well. This past month since vestry I have had 11 pastoral visits and have been working to plan out a renewal of the pastoral care plan for the parish. Audrey K, Deacon Val and I have been laying out a new division of responsibilities for pastoral care in the parish. Deacon Val, Roselyn, and I will be taking carehome services. Deacon Val will be taking up more of the home visits and Audrey K will continue to organize the phoning committee, we will renew the prayer group and affirm our weekly intercessors.

There has been a lot of visioning and planning for this upcoming year. The Wardens are both retiring and the nominating committee and I have been looking for new people to lead the parish on corp, vestry and synod. The work towards a better and more intuitive sound system/ online tech continues especially regarding the hall. Many people would like to use sound/projector tech in the hall and it is far from easy to get going or sound good, this is something I continue to work on improving. I have been told by many that I need to let go of some commitments and encourage/delegate more to others, thereby ensuring my long term health and effective ministry. I am listening. Along with the pastoral changes, I have been planning some new ideas for the new year and intend to better utilize vestry to share out the leadership and visionary roles. I am also going to drop some responsibilities in the new year and re organize my weekly schedule to find better balance.

That is the majority for now and of course let me know if you have any questions.

Rev. Liz

Pastoral Care report to Vestry February 2026

Prayer Shawls – one Prayer Shawl delivered this month.

Prayer List is updated at the end of each month.

Tele a Pal –All lists updated as there have been some changes to the Parish List.

Heritage Lodge Service – Roslyn led a service of morning prayer at Heritage Lodge the first Saturday of the month.

Golden West, Sturgeon Creek 1 & 2, Kiwanis Metropolitan & Kiwanis St. James – Rev. Liz led the services at all of these care homes.

Pastoral Care Meeting – Rev. Liz, Archdeacon Val and Audrey met this month.

Discussion as how to move forward – Deacon Val will lead the services at Golden West and Sturgeon Creek 1 & 2. She will call those on our Pastoral Care list monthly. Deacon Val will robe for weekly services when scheduled.

Audrey will continue to look after the Prayer Box and Prayer list, the Tele Pals and the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Audrey is also in contact with several of those on the Pastoral Care list. She will remain licensed and if there is a request for communion she will be able to administer communion.

Any contact and changes will be shared so our lists remain up to date and pertinent information will be passed onto Rev. Liz.

Audrey will be responsible for the report to Vestry and the AGM.

Mission and Ministry Report to Vestry

The Mission and Ministry Committee report February 2026. Next Meeting March 3, 2026

No official February meeting was held, all reports will be submitted for the March meeting. In place we had a guest speaker, Rev Tanis Kolsnyk. We had an enlightening, and informative talk with Rev Tanis. Out of this presentation lots of seeds have been planted in the form of ideas on how St Andrews can initiate and continue to support all the causes in a gentle manner. Rev Tanis Kolsnyk said “we see you”. I’m sure in future the Mission and Ministry will have further discussion.

Loving Hands Ministry has delivered 2 bags of hats and mitts to Agape Table.

We have tidied up most of the Mission and Ministry items in the nursery, other items will be distributed shortly. Some of the items in the nursery belong to Rummage and the BBQ’s are being stored in there.

The Stamp Ministry has officially been named “Stamps Save Lives”.

Mission and Ministry thanks everyone for their ongoing support to all our campaigns

Shelley Gorets

Notes from Finance Meeting, February 11, 2026

Present: Susan Chadwick (Chair), Laura Ryback, Doreen Pattie. Via Zoom: Laura Frederick, Eric Frederick, Tim Newton, Ken Wardle.

Regrets: the Reverend Liz Richens

Land Acknowledgement was stated

The meeting was opened with prayer – Laura R

