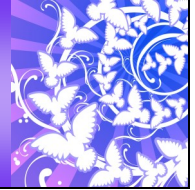


Lay Readers'  
Association  
of the  
Diocese of  
NS and PEI

# Diakonia

Spring 2019



## Warden's Message

*A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is maker of them all. Proverbs 22:1-2*

Greetings,

Our identities and reputations are paramount. We're all entitled to start out with a good name. The importance of human dignity was highlighted at the 2018 fall conference when Lay Readers were blessed to hear a presentation by the Regional Leader of L'Arche Atlantic Canada, Jenn Power, and her friend Barbie. Inclusion is about someone's right to be here; belonging means you would be missed if you were not. Creating a safe and soul-enriching home for those who are at the fringes is a question of belonging. So, too, is ministry.

Lay Readers have enjoyed a good name. This is because there are people within our respective parishes willing to take on extra

responsibilities, especially in liturgy and leadership. Last year's annual meeting was held at St. James Church, Kentville. At that time the membership voted to ratify a resolution to change the name to Licensed Lay Minister to reflect the breadth and scope of what we do. You add the vitality of parish life. You belong. You would be missed if you were not here. By the time of this next annual meeting, to be held at Camp Bretondean on the Mira River, Diocesan Synod will have

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*Change of Address/E-mail? Please Let Us Know!*

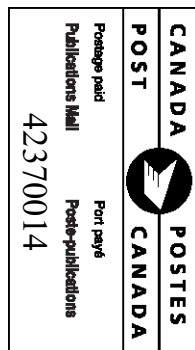
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PC: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your changes to: The Editor, C/o I Beck's Way, Dartmouth, NS B2V 2C3



met and voted on a further resolution to update Canon 27 on the name change. When passed, it will make Licensed Lay Minister the official title.

The Board of Standards is active in modifying both our Handbook and our By-Laws and Constitution. It will take time for paraphernalia, letterhead, and the training syllabus to catch up. The name Lay Reader, will likely roll off the tongue as readily as Licensed Lay Minister. Be patient. Adjustment will be slow and steady.

A significant player in all this has been the Association President for the past three years, David Harrison. I have relied on his steadfast and capable leadership. He has steered the Association through this historic transition. We owe him much thanks for his quiet resolve, his technical prowess as Webmaster, and wise counsel.

We welcome Marilyn Massie-Clarke as she assumes the presidency of the Association. Godspeed! Appreciation is also extended to the hospitality of Our Lady of Hope Centre in Prince Edward Island which has become our regular home away from home for our conferences. Kudos to Victoria Henrikson for her tireless efforts as both Association Secretary and Editor of the newsletter, *Diakonia*. Wayne Hamlin has been our honest and meticulous bookkeeper as Treasurer. We have been blessed this past year by a full slate of Area Representatives.

May God continue to richly bless each of you in your ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Archdeacon Thomas W. Henderson  
Warden, Diocesan Licensed Lay Readers

### President's Message

This is my final report as President of the Lay Readers' Association. Marilyn Massie-Clarke, our Vice President will take

### Afternoon Session

#### ***Topic: A "Walk Through" the BAS Morning Prayer***

Please keep an eye out for more information on the Lay Reader website  
[www.nspeilayreaders.ca](http://www.nspeilayreaders.ca)

***If you are staying at Camp Bretondean on May 31 you will need to bring a sleeping bag or blankets & sheets/pillow/towel/facecloth and personal toiletries.***

- ◆ Check-in will be at 7 pm on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> with a light lunch (entertainment provided)

#### ***Campbreton Dean consists of the following:***

- ◆ 3 heated cabins with 10 bunkbeds per cabin (20 beds/cabin—10 lower & 10 upper bunks)
- ◆ Showers and bathrooms are provide in each cabin
- ◆ Ramps to the cabins, chapel, kitchen and dining room
- ◆ Continental breakfast (Saturday morning)
- ◆ Dining room with kitchen
- ◆ There is no Wi-Fi
- ◆ Cell phone reception is available

#### ***For further information please contact:***

Georgie Granchelli, Area Representative – Cape Breton  
902-562-7909 or E-mail [georgieg902@gmail.com](mailto:georgieg902@gmail.com)

"God places us in the world as fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world."

-- Desmond Tutu



## DIOCESAN LAY READERS' ASSOCIATION

### 2019 Spring AGM Registration Form

**Date:** Saturday June 1, 2019  
**Start Time:** 9am (Eucharist followed by Registration and AGM)  
**End Time:** 3pm

#### Registration/Accommodation Information:

\$15 Registration fee. Accommodation on May 31<sup>st</sup> is free.

\*\*Accommodations are available for an additional charge so that you can arrive the night before (May 31<sup>st</sup>). If you are not planning to stay at Camp Bretondean you are responsible for making your own accommodations.

**Location:** Camp Bretondean, 965 Hillside Road  
 Albert Bridge, NS B1K 3L6

**Camp Bretondean phone #: 902-562-3555**



**NOTE: Pre registration is required**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ PC: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parish: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation at Camp Bretondean requested Yes ☐ No ☐

Please make your cheque payable to: **Diocesan Lay Readers' Association**

Mail your registration form & cheque to: NSPEI Lay Readers' Association  
 c/o Wayne Hamlin  
 28 Overlook Dr.  
 Kentville, NS B2N 2P4

over following our Annual Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as President, the Association and its Executive have accomplished a lot, not the least of which is the progress towards the change of our name. It is hoped that the name change will be approved at the upcoming Diocesan Synod, after which our Association will become known as the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Licensed Lay Ministers' Association. In anticipation of the change, the Lay Readers' Board of Standards (of which I am a member) has spent many hours revising our Bylaws and Constitution to reflect both the anticipated name change and to update them to reflect current practice.

At our November 2018 Executive a motion was passed that we develop a resting station at Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre Walking Trail in PEI. A statue has been purchased, that and a bench should be installed this spring. A number of us plan to be present when they are installed.

For the first time in many years we have an Area Representative from each Region of the Diocese. Many thanks to all of you, for volunteering your time and energy to this role! As Area Representatives you are welcome to attend all Executive meetings; this is a practice that we put in place this year (previously Area Representatives only attended alternate meetings of the Executive).



The Lay Readers' Association will again be sharing a display table with Education for Ministry during this Synod. If you are interested in either of these stop by and have a chat. I will be at Synod as a delegate representing the Association. May I suggest that you speak with your Synod delegates to let them know your feelings on the name change.

This year the AGM will be held on June 1 at Camp Bretondean, 965 Hillside Rd, Albert Bridge, NS B1K 3L6. Accommodations are available so that you can arrive the night before (May 31). As usual, the morning will start with the Eucharist, followed by Registration, our Annual General meeting and lunch. The

afternoon session will be a “walk-through” of the BAS Morning Prayer Service. When we did this last year with the BCP Morning Prayer Service, it turned out to be a very educational session for many of us. Please keep an eye out for more information on the AGM on our Lay Readers’ Website [www.nspeilayreaders.ca](http://www.nspeilayreaders.ca)

Should our name change (Licensed Lay Ministers) be approved at the upcoming Diocesan Synod, we will devote some time during our business meeting to this.

As Web Editor, I would like to apologize for some dead links that were spotted by one of you; those ones have been fixed. If anyone finds other errors, please let me know. Things happen - links become dead because websites have changed or something happens to our website.

As stated previously, this is my final report as President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the past three years. I would especially like to thank Archdeacon Tom Henderson, our Warden; Marilyn Massie-Clarke, our Vice President, Wayne Hamlin, our Treasurer and Victoria Henrikson our Secretary and Diakonia Editor for their support and advice.

David Harrison, President

### Getting Ready for Licensed Lay Minister’s Upcoming Vote at Synod

Discussion has been taking place between the Bishop of our Diocese and the Lay Readers’ Association Executive and the Board of Standards over the past couple of years concerning the role and possible name change for Lay Readers. This was brought before those gathered at the Association’s AGM in 2017 and a motion was put forward (see below) giving the Board of Standards permission to pursue the name change.

With the 2017 motion in hand, discussion then took place at the 2018 AGM and a motion was voted on to forward the request to Synod to change the name from Lay Reader to Licensed Lay

### *Lay Readers’ Prayer*

Loving and eternal God, who through your Son, Jesus Christ, calls your people and sends them forth to witness and serve in your name, bless each member of the Lay Readers' Association of this Diocese. Give us grace that we, walking in the footsteps of your Son, and being filled and strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may serve you and your Church as faithful stewards in the ministry to which we are called and, by our example, enable others to know and love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*



**“In the world of the Nonviolent Communication movement, we challenge ourselves to live like a giraffe: big hearted and standing tall enough to look out over the chaos with our big hearts, rather than get embroiled in it. May your big giraffe heart be filled with compassion and understanding and may we each look upon each other with the mercy God offers us.”**

*[This was extracted from an article written by Sarah Williamson, a Deacon of the Uniting Church of Australia, serving in Belair and Christ Church congregations, South Australia. Sarah is passionate about social justice and has been training for a number of years in the movement of Nonviolent Communication. It was printed in the Seasons of the Spirit 2018-19 resources for February 24, 2019, Proper 7]*



## Lay Readers' Ribbons, Medallions and Pins



Medallions can be purchased for \$10.00 each and ribbons (**blue** or **purple**) for \$5.00 each.

The Association also has a Lay Readers' pin which is available for purchase at \$5.00 each.



Orders for these items can be placed through Dennis Eisan using any of the following methods:

- a) Canada Post    Dennis Eisan  
1309 Main Street  
Dartmouth, NS B2Z 1B2
- b) Telephone    (902) 435-6217
- c) E-mail    dennislinda@ns.sympatico.ca

A small shipping fee will be added to the cost to cover postage, for example, \$2.00 for mailing one medallion and ribbon.

### ***Conference Information to Place in Your Calendar***

**2019 Fall Conference - September 13—15**  
**Our Lady of Hope Retreat Centre**  
**Prince Edward Island**

**Speaker: Kevin Mason**  
**Retired Social Worker**  
**Topic: "Grief" - dealing with grief & losses**  
**in our and others lives**

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**2020 Fall Conference - October 9—11**

Minister. The motion was ratified.

The following are the motions which were made at both the 2017 and 2018 Association Annual General Meetings.

From the AGM at Christ Church, Dartmouth, in June 2017:

*Moved by Alphonse Lafrense and seconded by Joan Halsey that permission be given to the Board of Standards to pursue a name change from Lay Reader to Licensed Lay Minister within the Diocese.* Motion Carried.

From the AGM at St. James Church, Kentville, in June 2018:

*It was moved by Pauline Liengme and seconded by Robert MacMillan that a Motion be submitted to the Synod of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to change the name of "Lay Reader" to "Licensed Lay Minister".* Motion Carried

In preparation to have the Motion from the Association's 2018 Annual General Meeting placed on the Agenda for Synod, the Warden of the Lay Readers, Archdeacon Tom Henderson, prepared the following "rationale" which was forwarded to the Canons and Constitution Committee explaining the request.

### **Rationale to change Canon 27 on Lay Readers to rename the office of "Lay Reader" to "Licensed Lay Minister"**

*The Diocesan Lay Reader's Executive and Board of Standards introduced, with episcopal support, a resolution and discussion to change the name of 'Lay Reader' to 'Licensed Lay Minister' to the wider membership at its 2017 Annual Meeting, Christ Church, Dartmouth. This was in keeping with the current trend in the Church of England to refer to its body of lay readers as lay ministers and the recent adoption of a name change in the Diocese of Kootenay. Other places that have adopted this change are the Anglican Church of Australia, the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, and the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. Particularly*

*the name change reflects the widening role of Lay Readers to do much more than read in church, to take on leadership in administration, mission, homiletics, teaching, and other gifts of ministry. The future role is likely to expand further as the church seeks ways to uphold parish life and reach beyond our doors to the world. These are ministries that already engage the laity, but the office of licensed lay minister would consolidate a set range of activities into a recognizable position, one defined by a standardized syllabus of training, a code of conduct and duties, all under the licensed authority of the rector and bishop. A change of name to 'Licensed Lay Minister' would be a more accurate description of the role played by the current title of Lay Reader which, in regards to the work being carried out, is confusing and misleading. The resolution was passed at the 2017 Annual General Meeting and was adopted officially, under the Association's Constitution and By-laws, after a second vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Kentville.*

Canon 27 on Lay Readers is a short Canon consisting of four paragraphs. The following resolution calls for the title "Licensed Lay Minister" to replace "Lay Reader" where it appears in the Canon. This is to conform the Canon to the name change voted on by members of the Lay Readers' Association.

One further update and modification to the Canon: to replace in article 4 the reference to the now defunct Ministries Committee to make the Canon reflect changes to the reporting structure.

Once Synod has met at the end of May, all Lay Readers in the Diocese will be informed of their decision on the Association's request.

## How should Lay Readers approach Eucharistic Ministry?

Among the duties listed in the Lay Readers Handbook (Section F: 10) is "to assist in the distribution of the Elements at the Communion Service and to shut-ins when authorized by the Bishop." Lay Readers are authorized to exercise Eucharistic ministry in the course of their liturgical participation. This is

## Archdeaconry Representatives as of June 2018

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as of June 2018*

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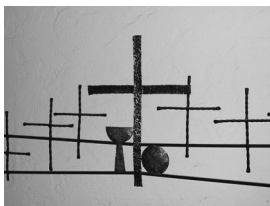
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**WEBMASTER** — David Harrison  
*(see contact information above)*

Lay Readers' Association website address:  
[www.nspeilayreaders.ca](http://www.nspeilayreaders.ca)



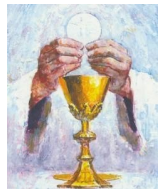
normally carried out in a church building in the presence of the clergy during a Communion. Rule of Thumb: follow your clergy's instruction.

When called on to "assist in the distribution of the Elements to shut-ins when authorized by the Bishop", however, one is to adhere to Bishop's Policy 1.1.04 on 'Lay Distribution of the Eucharist to Shut-Ins or those in Nursing Homes.' The key phrase is "when authorized by the Bishop."

You will need a separate license from the Bishop's Office to do this. Lay distribution to shut-ins is not an automatic feature or function of your Lay Readers license.

As outlined in Policy 1.1.04, "Lay distributors should be carefully chosen and trained." The policy goes on to say, "they should be commissioned to perform this ministry and receive the Bishop's license at a public worship service". "This license shall be for a term of three years and may be renewed by the Bishop on the written request of the Rector and Parish Council. They should have some ability to work with people and be willing to be part of a ministry team. They should be acknowledged by their congregation as being suitable for this ministry and be approved by Parish Council."

Elsewhere the Policy defines the boundaries for distribution. "On each occasion when lay distributors take the Sacrament to a shut-in, they must have received the rector's authorization to do so. It is preferable that this be done on the same day, directly from the parish celebration of the Eucharist. This helps to reinforce the link with the parish, symbolizing the reaching out of the gathered church to its scattered members."



*Please note, communion from the reserved sacrament inside a church building in the absence of a priest or a bishop is prohibited in this Diocese. Lay people and Deacons are not authorized to preside over a part of the communion service and then to distribute the elements from the reserved sacrament.*

# AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

## Chebucto Region



At the 2018 Annual General Meeting, I was pleased to have accepted the position as Chebucto Area Representative for the Diocesan Lay Readers' Association. Being new to the position, I am still learning the ropes and the tasks which the position requires. Much of this work will be acquainting myself with the Region and my fellow Lay Readers in each of its parishes. In the Fall of 2018, I received a database with contact information, and so have begun to establish correspondence with people in the Region. As the year goes on, I look forward to getting to know the people and parishes and continue to further our communication. If you have any questions or would just like to contact me or have any interesting Lay Reader news or events you would like reported, please feel free to email me, I look forward to hearing from you.

Matthew Miller  
Area Representative

## Valley Region

### Parish of Annapolis

There is very little to report on the Parish of Annapolis. The Rector, Rev'd. Nita, has informed me that she started to train four people to be Lay Readers, but three have dropped out. There is one Licensed Lay Reader still serving in the Parish.

### Parish of Bridgetown

There have been many changes in the Parish of Bridgetown in 2018. In addition to Parish duties, the Rector, The Rev'd Joel Hardy, completed an eighteen month Bachelor of Education degree at Acadia University. When The Rev'd. Joel embarked on this academic journey it was his intention to supplement the

been meeting for breakfast. Rev'd. Stacey LeMoine, Rector of Sydney Mines, will be providing a program for the group on funerals.

One Lay Reader is actively involved with the Health crises in this area, and is also responsible for setting up a caring closet at a local school which provides items for children in need.

Georgina Granchelli  
Area Representative

## Northumbria Region

This year in the Northumbria Region finds us much in the same place as last year. Lay Readers and Lay Readers-in-Training are working with a full plate and doing whatever is needed in order to assist Clergy and their local parishes.

We are still carrying out such duties as: leading Morning Prayer ; delivering sermons; assisting with Eucharistic services serving wine; praying the Prayers of the People; singing in the choir; playing piano and organ; serving as members of parish councils and Regional Council and ACW; taking Eucharist to shut-ins, retirement homes and extended care homes and leading bible studies.

I have not received any specific concerns around our Region and I have included my email here in case there are any that I have not received. [dlou04@gmail.com](mailto:dlou04@gmail.com)

Lay Reader training continues in this area with an upcoming session on March 23, 2019 focusing on serving and Prayers of the People.

The Northumbria Region sends prayers of well-being and love to all other Regions and a hope that together working in Christ we will show the love of God to all we meet.

Blessings, Deborah Beck  
Area Representative



## Collieries Parish

Rev'd. Ruby Carter, Priest-in-Charge says: Our folks on a regular Sunday assist the Priests in the role of both Lay Readers and Servers. They usually do one or more of the readings/psalm and the Prayers of the People. One of the Lay Readers always does the announcements at the end of the service. They help administer the cup (Eucharistic Ministers), assist at baptisms in the role of servers and at weddings as needed; assist at funerals and at the Nursing Homes and Hospital services; assist and/or lead Home Communion with Reserved Sacraments; lead Morning Prayer Services and preach. Most attend any training offered; and like all busy people, carry out other ministries in the Parish/Church. All of them are an asset and it would be very difficult to carry on here in this very, very busy Parish without them.

## St. John the Baptist, North Sydney

Lay Readers at St. John the Baptist in North Sydney are putting in a busy schedule. They are pleased to have two Lay Readers back with them after a leave due to medical treatment and pray for continued health for them. The Parish has a four team rotating schedule for Sunday Worship; they have a schedule of Home Communion with one Lay Reader leading and three helping. One Lay Reader does a scheduled communion at the Northside Community Guest Home every month. Three of their Lay Readers are leading the Parish in a discernment process. They hope to complete it by the end of Lent.



Currently, a Lay Reader is organizing and running the Lenten Lunches which are held every Wednesday during Lent and features a guest speaker. Donations from these lunches go to PWRDF and local charities. Prior to lunch a Lenten study will be led by one of the Lay Readers; Also, these will be presented at both services during Lent, based on the book, "Surprise the World! The Five Habits of Highly MISSIONAL People"

Two Lay Readers organized the World Day of Prayer for the Northside, held at our parish with Worship, Soup and Fellowship.



Recently, the North Sydney and Sydney Mines Lay Readers have

half-time income with us with substitute teaching. However, Joel was fortunate to secure full-time employment at Annapolis West Education Centre for the academic year of 2018-2019, thus having to resign his position. The Lay Readers thank God for blessing them with Joel, Hannah and the boys for the seven years they spent in the Parish and wish him well in his teaching career.

In the early part of 2018, the two Lay Readers were active with the pastoral visitation team visiting seniors and shut-ins in their nursing homes and homes. They set up the readers, servers, and Prayers of the People lists, and whenever possible, they, along with postulant, Rachel Brighton, tried to support The Rev'd. Joel's ministry at St. James, Bridgetown and at St. Mary's, Belleisle. At this time the Parish is excited to welcome three new Lay Readers to the Parish of Bridgetown.



When Joel's tenure ended at the end of September, we welcomed the Rev'd. Deborah Lonergan-Freake, who has taken over most of the Sunday duties, supplemented by the Rev'd. Ross Hammond (one Sunday a month). We were fortunate to have Rev'd. Deb in-service a small group who has volunteered to accompany the home Eucharistic ministers to do home communions, one-on-one, to individuals who are unable to come out to church.

At this time we would like to acknowledge the contributions of our friend and colleague, Connie Hannam, who's more than 16 years' service as a Lay Reader with the Diocese, has been exemplary. Connie was feeling that she would like to cut back some of her duties as a Lay Reader. Connie's love of all God's creatures and her spirituality make her a role model to her fellow Lay Readers and we thank her for all her contributions.

We thank God for the gift of Lay Readers and support we have in the Parish of Bridgetown.

## Parish of Aylesford/Berwick

There is really nothing different to report from the last time, we have the same three Lay Readers,. We do the usual Lay Reader's

stuff, reading the first lesson and Prayers of the People in church on Sunday, help at Grand View Manor (nursing home) with the monthly service. Lay Readers also take the service when the Rector is away. One Lay Reader is in charge of the training and scheduling of servers ensuring someone is in church every Sunday. A Lay Reader is in charge of the property committee for our Council and is the joint Parish Treasurer for Christ Church, Berwick and St. Mary's, Aylesford. Another Lay Reader is



Warden, member of ACW, Altar Guild and member of the Ukulele Club. They do lots over and above being a Lay Reader which is the same with every church.

### **Parish of St. James, Brooklyn**

Jesus said - "*Go and Make disciples*" Matthew 28: 20.

Most people think that our Team Ministry is just the people that lead the services on Sunday mornings. However, when we sit back and think, it is much more than that. Our Team ministry consists of all the ministries in our parish which make the parish function. To list them all is very refreshing. However to avoid leaving someone out we won't do that. Some have titles and some do things quietly. We have been very fortunate to have people who have the time and talents to make this happen. One of the ministry's that should be mentioned is our music ministry. Alison, Norman and Garry are valued music providers for our services. They work well with clergy and laity who do the services. Because of health reasons, we will be missing Garry for his contributions to our services and so sorry to see him go. The Parish has three licensed Lay Readers and one Lay Reader-in-Training. There are two others that do services. There are two churches in our Parish - St. John the Baptist which has Morning Service and Evensong but closes after the December 23<sup>rd</sup> service and opens again after Easter Sunday and St. James has Morning services. The Lay Readers support both churches.

We have had the support of Archdeacon Tom Henderson as our Priest-in-Charge as well as The Rev'd. Jennifer Gosse and The Rev'd. Lisa Vaughan when celebrating Holy Eucharist. Communion in hospital and nursing homes, as well as in homes,

If any other parishes in the Region would like to submit information for the 2020 South Shore Region report, please contact me and I would be most happy to include it.

Roger L. Demone  
Area Representative

### **Cape Breton**

Our Cape Breton Region covers a large area from Neil's Harbour to Port Morien. Our Lay Readers are very active with leading worship and programs within their respective parishes. Some parishes are experiencing decreasing numbers due to aging and illness. Prayers and encouragement to discern is ongoing. The work of our Parish Priests is increasing and Lay Readers are needed to share responsibilities.



On an exciting positive note, a Planning Committee for the Diocesan Lay Readers' Association upcoming Annual General Meeting has been initiated. We held our first meeting in January. It was a very encouraging meeting and will meet again on March 17, 2019. Those present agreed that we should be holding meetings at least three times a year. We will begin in the fall. A list of active members is instrumental to reach all members.

### **Parish of the Resurrection**

We have ten Licensed Lay Readers in our Parish (Church of Christ the King and St. Bartholomew, Louisbourg) - four are off due to illness and one who is sunning in Florida until May. Lay Readers share duties each Sunday and Wednesday mornings. They assist the priest as Lay Reader and Server/cross bearer; as well read the first lesson and/or psalm and second Reading, prepare and read the Prayers of the People, assist with Holy Eucharist and lead Morning Prayer. Some preach; others do not. Working in teams of two, they take Home Communion to shut-ins as requested and assist their Rector with services at three nursing homes each month. In addition some are members of Parish Council, Spiritual Development and ACW. We feel very blessed to be part of this ministry.

## South Shore

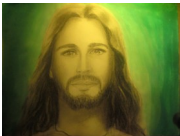
### St. John's, Lunenburg

St. John's is blessed with eight (8) licenced Lay Readers. The Lay Reader's Prayer strengthens each one of the Lay Readers at St. John's. They have in various and special ways dedicated themselves to the glory of God in service to the Parish and Diocese. As Lay Readers, they are regarded as leaders in the Parish. Canon 17 reminds us that we are part of a "team ministry" and that we should take our position seriously; this we all do at St. John's. Parishioners look up to us as being a model, a good servant, as well as honourable and prayerful followers of Christ.

The Lay Readers' role is constantly changing; the role is committed to an understanding of Christian Stewardship - working closely with the Lay Readers' Association of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI. The Board of Standards has been working towards a name change from Lay Reader to "Licensed Lay Minister."

All we do, we do for the Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do it in humility, following the example of our Lord, "who gave up the apparel of sonship and donned the apron of a servant." He put aside his Godhead and became a human being to come and make His dwelling among all people; as Philippians reminds us of the nature and character of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus who, though He was in the form of God, did not equate equality with God as something to be exploited but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death - even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is over every other name. That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father."



"Thank you" to all the Lay Readers at St. John's for your continued ministry. I can personally say that the Lay Readers at St. John's are truly faithful to their ministry; they give 100% of their time, talent and commitment to the Lay Readers' Ministry.

is being carried out by one of the Lay Readers.

As in any congregation, there is always work to be done and we hope that we will always have fresh hands and minds to make that happen.



### Parish of Wilmot

There is a strong team of Lay Readers in the Parish of Wilmot, comprised of 10 members. Our numbers have diminished, however, as two of our members have stepped back from this ministry/moved away this past year.



There are three regular services in the Parish each week: two services of Holy Eucharist (BAS) at All Saints Church, Kingston and Holy Trinity Church, Middleton and a semi-regular BCP service of Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Middleton, as well.

The duties performed by the Lay Readers include acting as service MC, reading one or more lessons, leading the Psalm, reading (and sometimes writing) Prayers of the People, administering the chalice and making announcements at the end of service.

Some members also participate in a seasonal Worship Committee and assist with monthly services at the Heart of the Valley Nursing Home and at the Veterans' Wing of Soldiers' Memorial Hospital – both in Middleton.

Besides assisting with special seasonal services and leading one Morning Prayer service, All Saints Church Lay Readers plan and preach at morning services during the season of Lent. Plans are in the works to train several non-lay readers to act as chalice bearers (with the hope that they will feel drawn to further participating in lay ministry!)



## Parish of Digby-Weymouth

### *Trinity, Digby*

The two Lay Readers alternated assisting the Priest for each service of Holy Eucharist, with the exception of Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve, when both attended as Eucharistic Ministers.



The Sunday practice for our Lay Readers may include Crucifer, leading the Psalm, reading from the Lectionary, processing with the Gospel Book, Prayers of the People, Eucharistic Minister, and Server. One of the Lay Readers prepares rosters for Readers, Greeters & Counters.

Throughout 2018 and during an extended absence of the Rector, the Lay Readers were called upon to officiate and preach at ten Morning Prayer Services and one Choral Evensong for Remembrance Sunday. We were blessed to have members of the congregation preach at two Morning Prayer Services. It was wonderful support and their homilies were well received by the congregation.



In June one Lay Reader from Trinity and two from Weymouth Falls attended the Annual General Meeting of the Diocesan Lay Readers' Association, held in Kentville, N.S. All were grateful for this opportunity to vote on the recommended change of title from Lay Reader to Licensed Lay Minister, which will be given final consideration at the Diocesan Synod in 2019. It was good to "network" with and meet other Lay Readers from around the Diocese.

On Remembrance Sunday, a Lay Reader officiated at Choral Evensong and, with the assistance of a member of the congregation, read aloud the names of Canadian Forces service members from this parish who served in the First and Second World Wars. The names are on charts displayed in the church and include those who returned home safely, returned home wounded or gassed, and those who died fighting for their country.



In December 2018, the Lay Readers provided home communion (consecrated wafers) to three shut-ins, two seniors in their homes with the assistance of an ACW member, and one in Tideview Terrace nursing home.



### *St. Peter & St. Thomas, Weymouth and St. Matthew's, Weymouth Falls*

During 2018, the four Lay Readers conducted Morning Prayer services in St. Peter's and Morning Prayer service at Trinity in Digby. Lay Readers had a number of responsibilities, including Prayers of the People, assisting with Eucharist and delivering Homilies.

When filling in for a Morning Prayer service in Digby and Weymouth, a Lay Reader both led the service and delivered the homily.

In the summer of 2018, at a reunion service in Weymouth Falls, two Lay Readers assisted The Rev'd. Laura McCue when a consecration ceremony was held at the cemetery that had recently been expanded to include a number of unbaptized babies who were buried years ago on the fringes of the cemetery. A headstone engraved with "Angels Remembered" had been installed, graciously provided by Jayne's Funeral Home. About 85 people attended and prayed for all the babies buried there. [*Excerpt taken from the Diocesan Times, September 2018*]



All of the Lay Readers in the Parish of Digby-Weymouth are grateful for God sending The Rev'd. Jean Austin (Supply Priest) to our Parish in the Autumn of 2018. This past year has been one of challenge and satisfaction for Trinity's Lay Readers and we are thankful for God's blessing on our ministry.

Thank you to all those who reported from parishes with in the Valley Region.

Ted MacDonald  
Area Representative