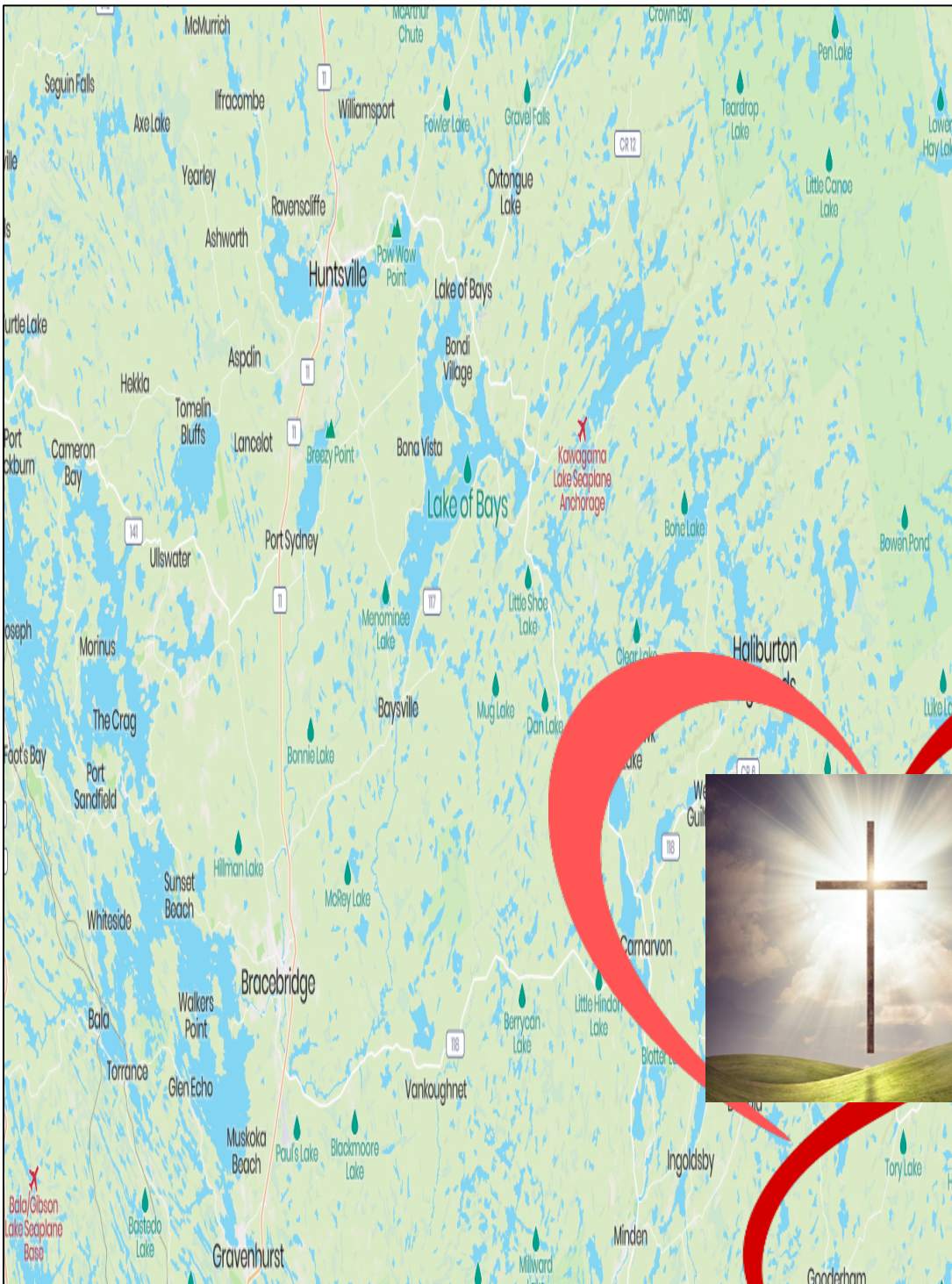


# **Welcome to**

## **The Anglican Churches of Lake of Bays and**

### **Saint Thomas' Bracebridge**



# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	p.3
<b>Our Towns</b>	p.4
Bracebridge	p.4
Lake of Bays	p.6
Baysville	p.7
Dorset and Port Cunningham	p.8
<b>Our Churches</b>	
St. Thomas' Bracebridge (year-round)	p.9
St. Thomas' Mission and Ministry	p.10
St. Stephen's Chapel, Vankoughnet (seasonal)	p.13
St. Ambrose, Baysville (year-round)	p.14
St. Ambrose' Mission and Ministry	p.15
St. James, Port Cunningham (seasonal)	p.16
<b>Website and Facebook Connections</b>	p.13
<b>Our Cemeteries</b>	p.17
<b>The Person Who Will Be Our New Priest</b>	p.18
<b>Finance/Stewardship</b>	p.20
St. Thomas	p.20
Lake of Bays	p.22



## **Introduction**

Is God Calling you to be with us to meet the challenges and opportunities of shepherding our diverse flock? Following a recent reconfiguration of parishes in the Deanery of Muskoka and the hiatus of Covid - 19, we are eager to discern the vision and mission for our congregations. We are asking God for guidance in our choice of a priest to lead us. You might be that person.

Linked by some of the most picturesque waterways in the world, from Port Cunnington on Lake of Bays, through Baysville at the mouth of the Muskoka River to Bracebridge, our parish is defined not only by water but by Spirit. Our congregations are waiting expectantly for God to call a new incumbent to this parish.

Don't be overwhelmed! The map on our cover page may look the size of a small European nation, but the two year-round congregations in this parish are a mere twenty minutes from one another on good roads, which are never crowded with traffic. The responsibilities for additional summer services and occasional festive celebrations in the extended parish throughout the year are ably assisted by an ordained deacon and three lay readers.

You are invited to prayerfully consider these exciting opportunities for personal growth and family life, as well as the new challenges in contemporary Christian ministry which could be yours. Read on.

### **Concurrence Committee**

John Mitchell, Chairperson  
Steve Newroth - Connie Knighton - Peter May  
Karen Szykoluk – Jacquie Howell

# Our Towns

**Here in the heart of Muskoka, all are welcome.**

**Bracebridge** is a picturesque town in the centre of Muskoka, a district world renowned for natural beauty and year round recreation. The community provides an attractive combination of economic opportunity and urban services. Two hours north of Toronto, Bracebridge is accessed by provincial Highway 11, a 4 lane highway connected to the 400 series of highways at Barrie (90 kms south).



Bracebridge Bay and Falls on the Muskoka River

A daily bus service connects Bracebridge to the GTA. The Muskoka Airport is open 7 days a week, 365 days a year for private aircraft. The airport is also serviced by Porter Air.

**Fun Facts:** There are several major waterfalls in town. The Trans Canada hiking trail meanders around Bracebridge Bay and connects to both Wilson's Falls and High Falls. Lovely beaches are a five minute drive in any direction.



Downtown Bracebridge



- We have an excellent hospital and both public and separate elementary and secondary schools.
- The District of Muskoka Offices are located here.
- The Muskoka Aquatic Club makes its home in a modern Sportplex attached to the Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School.
- Community theatre is popular. An annual musical theatre production is sponsored by the Rotary Club. Shakespeare is performed out-of-doors in Williams Park in summer.
- The Renee Caisse Theatre and The Gravenhurst Opera House are great venues for cultural events year-round.
- Ground has been broken for a new arena and library complex, under construction near our main shopping outlets.
- An active artistic community thrives as artists, potters, glass makers and photographers make Bracebridge home.
- Art and music lessons are available for all ages.
- Memorial Park, in the centre of town, is the venue for free musical entertainment on summery Thursday evenings and hosts a farmer's market, Saturdays, during the high season.
- A major snowmobile trail crosses the frozen Muskoka River in winter. Snowmobiles and fat bikes are available to rent.
- 16,000 residents live here year round, but seasonal residents and tourists increase the population by 30,000 in summer. We have had very few cases of Covid -19 in Muskoka, for which we are grateful.

**Fun Facts:** Located exactly half way to the North Pole Bracebridge is the summer home of Santa Claus. Santa's Village is a family friendly theme park. The Lady Muskoka Cruises depart regularly for sightseeing down the Muskoka River, past Santa's Village and into Lake Muskoka.



**Lake of Bays:** The township of Lake of Bays sits on the border of Algonquin Provincial Park, 193 kms north of Toronto. Lake of Bays is a vibrant year round global tourist destination, known for its rich history, love of arts, beautiful landscapes, and amazing views. This four-season community provides a desirable quality of life, with economic opportunities and exceptional facilities and services. It is a great home for people of all ages, including many active seniors.

The lake itself is part of the Muskoka watershed fed by rivers coming from the north and flowing south to Bracebridge and Lake Muskoka. The villages of Baysville, Dorset and Dwight and many small hamlets dot the many bays of the lake.

The municipal offices in Dwight support a population of 3,167 year-round residents, with an increase of 30,000 visitors to cottages, motels, resorts and campers, in summer. Hospitality is a key word of both the community and its churches.



Scenes of Baysville



**Baysville**, historically, has a strong community of volunteers who actively support the Baysville Walkabout, a craft fair with 120 vendors, A permanent population of 500 supports an arena, library and volunteer fire crew. They decorate the village seasonally, and welcome everyone who passes through the village. A walkway along the river and past the boat docks is a great place to meet and greet.

**Fun Fact:**

The village of Baysville is the “Best Village by a Dam Site.”



**Dorset** is a small community located on the boundary between the Lake of Bays Municipality in The District of Muskoka and Haliburton County. Dorset maintains its original fire tower which provides a magnificent view of Lake of Bays, spring, summer and fall.



View over Muskoka from Dorset Fire Tower

**Fun Fact:** Robinson's General Store is well known in the region as a true general store in the old time tradition. It's worth a visit year round for everything from nuts and bolts to groceries.

**Port Cunnington** is a small hamlet with a very active three season community. The community centre is a hub for fellowship, particularly during the high season.



Sunrise on Lake of Bays, Port Cunnington Lodge



## Our Churches

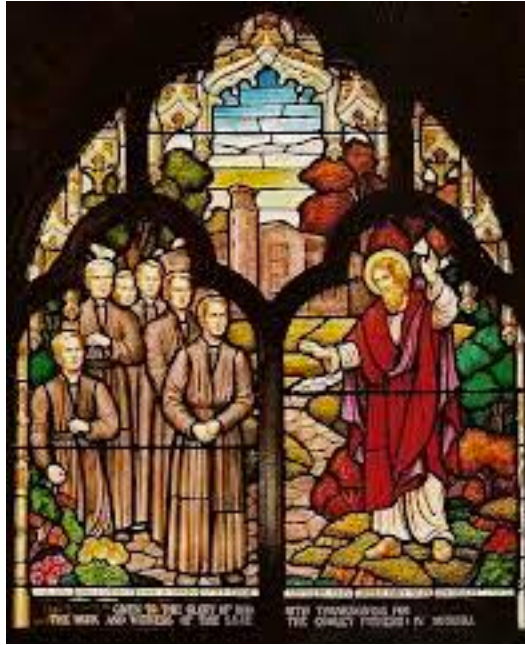
**Saint Thomas' Bracebridge (year-round) and chapel of St. Stephen, Vankoughnet (seasonal)**



St. Thomas Anglican Church, Bracebridge

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Bracebridge, a landmark in the heart of the town, is crafted in the tradition of the brick English country church. It frequently welcomes newcomers and visitors. The functionality of the old building was improved with a large, architecturally harmonized, three-storey addition which houses a multi-purpose hall, kitchen, meeting rooms, and offices, all accessible by stairs and elevator.

The building facilitates a rich worship experience, with the focus on the Eucharist, and also, extensive community service. A parish council and its officers, two wardens, two part-time office administrators and three lay readers assist the incumbent. Weekly services run smoothly with the help of sides-persons, altar guild, eucharistic assistants, volunteer readers, organist and contemporary musical team. Outreach ministries of the church and community groups use Browning Hall and upstairs meeting rooms.



The St. Thomas Window

### **Saint Thomas' Mission and Ministry**

- The focus of congregational life is worship and praise of God: three weekly services were held before Covid -19 restrictions. Eucharist or Morning Prayer, BAS or BCP are customary, but we hope to adapt worship to speak to this present generation.
- Our ACW provides leadership in organizing weekly coffee hours, and frequent celebration events. It contributes financially to many ministries and raises funds through Sympathy Teas, a caring ministry to the community at large.



St. Thomas Church, Browning Hall with ACW to the fore

- Teams of volunteers cater for Messy Church, and contribute their expertise in the kitchen for fellowship dinners and fund raisers.
- In recent years, several small group Bible Studies have been central to spiritual life at St. Thomas. These will continue when Covid -19 restrictions are lifted. One is led by the incumbent, others are peer led in church, and one is a lay led at-home study.
- The church was a founding member of the Manna Food Bank and continues to support this ministry with donations of food and volunteers.
- Messy Church is facilitated by lay leaders with input from the incumbent. It provides fun, food and Christian education to churched and unchurched families. This ministry continues during Covid -19, with Facebook connections, and a short online video program. Our goal is to include Messy Church families in the broader and deeper spiritual life of the church, and to engage parents in adult Christian Education, leading to discipleship in the faith, and church growth.



Easter Celebrations at Messy Church



Old Testament Studies



Crafting is a fun.



Puppets Molly and Scooter learn to be Thankful

- The incumbent at St. Thomas Anglican participates in the Bracebridge Ministerial. The congregation supports ecumenical dialogue, and Ministerial initiatives, which include The World Day of Prayer, Holy Week services, and the popular Clergy Chili Cook-Off.
- Amongst community groups using our facilities are a chapter of AA, The Brown-baggers (an art group), and The Brain Injury Support Group.



## **St. Stephen's Chapel, Vankoughnet**



This beautiful little chapel in the village of Vankoughnet, lies off Hwy 118, about 20 minutes drive from Bracebridge. It's a lovely place for a small wedding spring, summer or fall. Summer services are generally led by lay readers, with the incumbent visiting once. The villagers and summer cottagers value the presence of St. Stephen's in their community.

### **Website:**

<http://stthomasanglicanchurch.ca/>

### **Facebook:**

See also: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/889449974862336/>  
"Messy Church @ St. Thomas"

## **Lake of Bays**

**St. Ambrose, Baysville (year-round), St. James, Port Cunnington (seasonal) and St. Mary Magdalene, Dorset**

Our churches are located around the Lake of Bays. Each Church has a permanent resident Warden and a seasonal resident warden. There are many willing workers, but as a 'mature' congregation many feel unable accept responsibility for leadership.

“All are welcome – No exceptions”

**St Ambrose**

**- Baysville**



St. Ambrose Anglican Church & Village Schoolhouse

St. Ambrose is 24 km from Bracebridge. Sunday worship is either Eucharist or The Word. While the winter congregation is small, we joyfully welcome seasonal residents and tourists in summer. These wonderful folks come from many denominations and enrich our worship experience together.

Our first church was built in 1898, and the current church was consecrated in 1922. In 2008, the old school house was moved closer to the church, renovated and joined to the church with a corridor containing washrooms, kitchen, office and storage space. As the year-round Church, it is the hub of this half of the parish.

## **St. Ambrose' Mission and Ministry**

- We are blessed to have Rev. Margaret Morrison as our duly appointed Deacon. She lives in the village, and conducts the service of The Word and Bible Studies.
- Rev. Morrison leads a monthly church service for people with developmental disabilities which is held in the sanctuary of St. Thomas, Bracebridge. She participates in Messy Church at St. Thomas, and supports the incumbent with pastoral care.
- Anglican Church Women serve fellowship teas and dinners, and participate in Deanery and Diocesan programs as able.
- Community relationships are a priority given that local people both support and use the services of our Winter Pantry.
- This year our Winter Pantry extended its ministry into late spring to help families impacted by the pandemic. Our mandate is 'Nourishment' through spiritual opportunities, food and nutrition-relationships, and building.



- Community dinners are held in Dorset for Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day and Grandparents' Day (Sept), and in Baysville Christmas and Winter.
- Our church participates in the Baysville Walkabout, a community festival, and an Antique Boat and Car show.

### **St. James Angli- Port Cunnington**



**can Church -**

St. James Church is 51 km from Baysville. This quaint seasonal church is a source of pride for parishioners and seasonal residents alike. A small core of permanent residents and a large group of cottagers, resort guests and visitors from all over the GTA and US northern states are very supportive of the church. These folk represent many denominations, and attend for lively spiritual nourishment and fun and fellowship.

Services in summer are conducted by lay readers from St. Thomas and by the deacon. Occasional dockside services are enjoyed. The incumbent visits a few times a year. A traditional Christmas Eve Service is well attended, with a wide cross-section of ages, often with standing room only. This service enriches village life and shared spiritual memories.

### **St. Mary Magdalene, Dorset**

This church building has been officially closed and is waiting deconsecration.

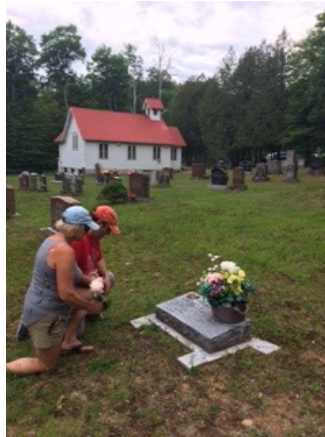
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Anglican-Churches-of-Lake-of-Bays-and-Bracebridge-394911137206498/>



## Our Cemeteries

All the cemeteries are owned by the Diocese and administered and maintained by the Parish.

St. James Cemetery is church and is an active perpetual fund.



located beside the cemetery with a small

St. James' Cemetery, Port Cunnington



The gates of St. Thomas Cemetery, Bracebridge

St. Thomas Cemetery is fully funded and administered by a Cemetery Board. It is located across from the Municipal and Roman Catholic burial sites. Several columbaria offer spaces for those families who chose the contemporary option of cremation.

The cemetery for St. Ambrose is located on Dickie Street, along the riverfront, beside the Catholic cemetery and opposite the Union Cemetery. It is an active cemetery with a perpetual fund.

## **The Person Who Will Be Our New Priest**

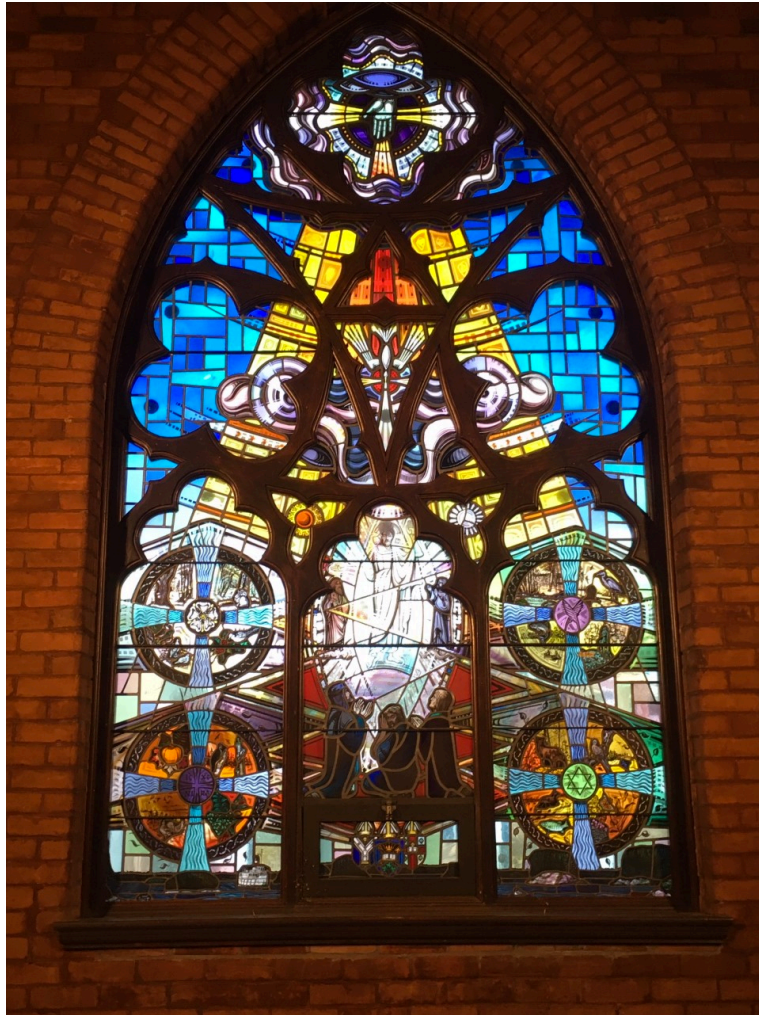
### **Introduction:**

Our new Priest will be aware of the disruptive impact of the our recent deanery reorganization, and the trauma caused by Covid-19 on the life and finances of our parish. Both these events have created a unique challenge for a newcomer.

The five statements below describe the desired qualities/abilities of the Priest we would like to attract to our parish. They were developed through a process in which each member of the Concurrence Committee and a few members of the parish submitted their top three priestly qualities. These were then listed and analyzed and it was discovered that they fell roughly into the five following categories: Universal (meaning qualities equally desirable to non-religious occupations); Preaching; Liturgy; Spirituality; and Approaches to Congregation.

1. **Universal Qualities:** Our preferred Priest will be a mature leader who reflects the stability and self-confidence that enables her/him to trust, to maintain lay leadership and to skillfully delegate. This person will need to be energetic, organized, tech-savvy and have a basic appreciation of good administration. Moreover, he/she will need to demonstrate an awareness of our changing times, specifically its impact on the Church, and have the courage to lead us forward into the unknown.
2. **Preaching:** We are seeking a compelling communicator who preaches 'sermons that can be remembered' and relates scripture to the issues we encounter in everyday life.
3. **Liturgy:** Our Priest, while knowing and valuing Anglican liturgy, will also be comfortable with and creative in using or developing alternative liturgies consistent with the needs of contemporary society.

4. **Spirituality:** A deep personal prayer life and knowledge of scripture will give our priest an infectious love of Jesus. She/he will have a deep desire for creative evangelism which helps others develop a personal relationship with Jesus and the Bible. A valued extra would be the ability to lead a spiritual retreat.
5. **Approaches to Congregation:** Our new Shepherd will nourish, support, encourage, teach and challenge the congregation to grow in the laws of tenderness and love. He/she will recognize the diversity in congregations and communities; be respectful of summer attendees who are not Anglicans; will welcome inclusively all people regardless of age, sex, economic status, race, ethnic origin or sexual orientation, and will be at home when visiting parishioners in both town and rural areas.



Transfiguration Window, St. Thomas

## Finances and Stewardship

In the crisis of the global pandemic and the temporary closure of churches to safeguard public health, it is impossible to give an accurate picture of what our financial situation will be when we achieve a new normal. The following brief summary reflects our history of giving, and our intentions with respect to salary and benefit for our incumbent.

### St. Thomas

- After the recent sudden sickness and death of our treasurer, we are regrouping to fill the shoes of this trusted cornerstone. Our temporary solution is working satisfactorily.
- Members of our parish give generously of their time, treasures, and talents.



- Financial load bearing is presently done by a 70/30 split, with St. Thomas carrying the larger component of that commitment.
- Our priest's salary, housing allowance and transportation package will conform to the diocesan benefit package.
- Fundraising for special projects is greeted with great enthusiasm to meet the goal.
- A good-sized investment in our building fund has been set aside for new projects.
- The cemetery board manages a perpetual care fund, as well as income through the sale of columbaria and plots.
- Fund-scrip is a well supported fundraiser in the parish which last year netted over \$4,400 in profits.
- We welcome a priest who talks comfortably about giving, and who can work with us confidently in fundraising.
- A full copy of our 2019 accounts is available at the time of interview. A brief sense of our financial health follows;

**St. Thomas' Anglican Church  
Accrual Basis as of 31 December 2019**

**Income**

**All sources**, including offerings, fundraising and rentals 190,203.30

**Expenses**

Diocesan	44,887.00
Ministry	8,884.14
Operating	13,040.66
Salaries	75,856.06
Property and Utilities	<u>32,158.84</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>14,355.82</b>

## **Current Assets/Chequing/Savings**

<b>Total Chequing/Savings</b>	338.97
<b>Plus additional Current Assets</b>	
(FundScrip Cards Inventory and earnings, HST Receivable, Other)	6,529.53

## **Fixed Assets**

### **Total Fixed Assets**

(Parish land and buildings, furnishings, computer, minus accumulated amortization on computer and furnishings)	2,485,555.17
--	--------------

## **Long Term Assets: Endowments, Funds, Investments**

<b>Total Computer-share Fund</b>	22,619.71
<b>Total Long Term Assets Building Fund</b>	<u>118,655.18</u>

<b>Total Assets and Liabilities</b>	2,610,739.88
-------------------------------------	--------------

## **Lake of Bays**

Lake of Bays Parish has been in a state of transition for the last three years. Originally, administration was transferred to the offices of St. James' Gravenhurst, and again in 2019 to St. Thomas', Bracebridge. This presented several challenges as locally, we were not as informed as we felt necessary. The financial reports were prepared by the combined administration and presented in the Vestry book. It was decided that the administration for 2020, would be recorded by our Lake of Bays Treasurer who lives in the community, and is aware of the church and community needs.

Below is a snap shot of our 2019 finances:

### **REVENUE**

Donations	\$	3,000.00
Fund Raising		319.59
Offering		<u>47,963.27</u>

**TOTAL** 51,726.86

**EXPENSES**

Apportionment	\$ 13,983.96	
Stipend	43,167.26	(50% 2019, 30% 2020)
Personnel	13,458.29	(organist/sexton/treasurer/office)
Insurance	8,522.30	(4 churches)
Church Maintenance	14,568.04	(lawn/snow/HLP/H2O/sewer)
Conference/meeting	2,617.92	
Office	600.30	
Misc	<u>424.59</u>	(Altar, EOP, Dues, Benefits)
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$103,076.66	
<b>LOSS</b>	-51,349.80	

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**St. Ambrose:**

Cemetery: Perpetual Fund held by Public Trustee  
Cash: \$ 5,710.37 separate account  
Winter Pantry: separate account  
Joy Fund Trust - Upfold Trust - St. James/St. John Endowment

**LAKE OF BAYS NEEDS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND**

Prior to the pandemic, we realized that our finances were beyond our means due to the loss of parishioners and finances, the closing of two of our churches, and a decrease in community involvement. We have budgeted for 30% contribution to stipend and benefits. We will pay our own apportionment, and reduced arrangements will need to be assessed for shared office.

**With Faith, Hope and Love we will find many new opportunities**

We wish to have a pastoral, caring leader who cares for our elderly parishioners and encourages the young. It is important that our leader can connect with our neighbours and other churches so that we can stand strong in the faith within our Lake of Bays community.

Our priest's knowledge of people, and communicative and administrative skills will support our local volunteers with accurate and timely information, direction and expectation of duties.

### **Our Prayer**

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work will be no miracle, but you, yourself, shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of your life which has come through the Grace of God.

The Rt. Rev. Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts, 1893

