

The Parish of Bearbrook, Vars and Navan

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Trinity, Bearbrook

St Andrew's, Vars



St Mary's, Navan



A Financial Stewardship Initiative of

The Parish of Bearbrook, Vars and Navan

and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In our three congregations we have a sacred trust, begun by our forbearers in the faith, built locally by faithful pioneering souls, and inherited by us. Each of our three points, at their very beginnings, was built to offer and symbolize the strength and solace of faith as people lived their lives, bore their children, celebrated important events, and took comfort in times of loss. As recipients of this heritage our responsibility is to honour it and share it in our turn.



The Diocesan Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Campaign is about reaching beyond ourselves, as our forbearers did, to provide something for present and future generations of faith. Through the GIFT Campaign, the Diocese will provide resources for our common life together, to help strengthen us in faith, both as a diocese and a parish, and share the heritage we have inherited with the future.

In developing this campaign, each of our congregations has undergone a process of discussion about how to move into the future. Mindful that as an Anglican parish, our congregations have a charge not just for those gathered inside the church walls every Sunday, but for the larger communities around us. Prayerful reflection has led us to projects that will advance our collective dream of greater outreach to and engagement with the villages of which we're so much a part. For each of our congregations, there is a clear focus on a ministry of open doors, of inviting our neighbours in to share in the life of the parish as we share in the life of the community

By joining the GIFT Campaign, our parish has committed to a fund raising goal of \$103,000, realistically based on our size and ability to give. Fifty percent of the money we raise in reaching this goal will remain in the parish to support our ministry through the projects we have chosen as congregations. The remaining 50 percent will further the greater mission of the church in the Diocese, in Canada and abroad. While we hope GIFT will raise money, it is actually about following the dream of Faith and believing in the future.

Please read this booklet, and join us in supporting this bold adventure.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Wilker-Blakley +". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Reverend Canon John Wilker-Blakley

Our History

The churches in Bearbrook, Vars and Navan, which joined to form our parish in 1987, have been at the heart of our communities for over 150 years.

Trinity, Bearbrook

The first church building is thought to have been built in the late 1850's. The original building was a simple wooden structure that also served families from the nearby communities of Navan, Vars and Canaan. In those early days, Bearbrook was the base of a travelling ministry that stretched as far as Osgoode. The first service in the present building, a baptism, took place on January 13, 1900. Many improvements have been added over the years, including the Bell Tower in 1924 and the church basement in 1992. In 1966, the congregation of St. Paul's Canaan, which had been established as far back as 1864, reunited with Trinity, Bearbrook.



St. Andrew's, Vars

In 1889 several Anglican families purchased a parcel of land from a local Presbyterian farmer for the construction of a new church. Consecrated on May 28, 1890, by the first Bishop of Ottawa, St. Andrew's is the only church of that name in the Diocese of Ottawa, the name having been a condition of sale. Originally built with very simple furnishings, many improvements have been added over the years, including, in 1929, a reed organ. The existing bell tower was built to replace the original tower after the weight of the church bell caused the latter to sag.

St. Mary's, Navan

The first church in Navan was built in 1867 by families who had previously traveled to Bearbrook. Still part of the Parish of Bearbrook until 1888, in that year St. Mary's became a separate parish with the congregations in Blackburn and Cumberland. The present church was opened on December 27, 1898 on the same site, with a confirmation service also presided over by the first Bishop of Ottawa. St. Mary's Church Hall was built in 1950. Since 1969, the Hall has been the home of the Navan Community Sunday School, open to all children in the community.



Our Life as a Parish Today

Even today, after more than 150 years, our three congregations remain central to the lives of the communities around us. Bearbrook, Vars and Navan in the 21st Century are very different places from the settlements of the 19th Century, but our place as Anglicans and as a community of faith – a parish – remains.

In the 19th Century our villages were remote, not just from the rapidly growing city of Ottawa, but from each other. Indeed, the distances from Navan and Vars to Bearbrook were driving factors behind the planting of churches in those villages. Today, it not only takes minutes to drive from one church to the next, but the city itself is rapidly encroaching on our rural environment. Yet those who live in our villages, whether descendants of those who founded them, or more recent arrivals, retain a desire for the fellowship of community. And at the **heart of that community** are our churches.

As Anglicans, our village life presents a unique opportunity to turn outward, open our arms and embrace that desire for fellowship. Our churches are physical landmarks, part of what marks the geographical identities of each village. **Our Christian calling is to ministry**, and our 21st Century missions are the open doors we offer to those around us, for worship certainly, but also for fellowship, learning, growth, celebration and consolation.

So there is a clear mission role for our churches in the communities of Bearbrook, Vars and Navan and our congregations our focused on making them open, welcoming and safe in the knowledge that when the community gathers together, God is with us. Our objectives are varied, depending on the congregation, but all are fixed on the role of the churches as **centres of outreach**, whether as physical spaces to gather or from which to extend our mission out into the community.



For **Trinity Bearbrook**, this means improving the **accessibility of the church and restoring the basement** so that it can be used more fully for community events such as parish functions, celebrations, meetings and education. This will

include the installation of a ramp and stair lift to ensure all of the church's facilities are fully accessible. Taking advantage of government accessibility grants will further leverage the fundraising support of the Diocesan GIFT Campaign.

At **Vars**, a rapidly expanding community with a significant youth population, the congregation is looking to hire a **youth worker** over two summers, tapping into the Diocesan portion of the GIFT Campaign for a grant to match its own commitment.



St. Mary's is confronted with the reality that its church and hall spaces are insufficient to meet the demands of community events. The kitchen lacks some of the necessary features required for use by local organizations.

St. Mary's is focusing its campaign initially on improvements and upgrades to the existing infrastructure that will allow the church to open its doors to many more in the community and welcome them within our mission. This includes **renovating the kitchen and installing an audio-video link** between the hall and St. Mary's and the neighbouring Navan-Vars United Church.



The physical structure of the church continues to demand significant resources, with restoration of the north wall an urgent priority. The hall can only be used by one group at a time. It is apparent that much more can and should be done to enhance our mission capacity. St. Mary's will use the opportunity of the GIFT campaign for a **stretch goal to complete our outstanding vision**.

The church will use its large south-facing roof to give back to the community and environment by **installing solar panels**. Over the long term, solar panels will provide a net contribution to the church.

St. Mary's has also decided to construct a **physical link between the hall and the church**. This will improve access between the two, and increase meeting space.

GIFT will enable us to meet the challenges of tomorrow with the necessary financial resources. Your gift will support our ministry needs today and in the future.

Our 5 Year GIFT Plan

Trinity, Bearbrook	\$20,000
Basement refurbishing	\$3,000
Stair lift	\$5,000
Foyer refurbishment	\$1,500
External ramp to foyer	\$500
50% to GIFT Campaign	\$10,000
St. Andrew's Vars	\$14,000
Youth Worker	\$7,000
50% to GIFT Campaign	\$7,000
St. Mary's Navan	\$69,000
Kitchen renovation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial dishwasher Stainless steel sink / counter Serving unit/sideboard 	\$20,000
Audio-video link	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microphones/amplifiers Speakers church/hall Video camera Links between buildings 	\$14,500
50% to GIFT Campaign	\$34,500
Parish Total	\$103,000

Stretch Plan*

St. Mary's Navan	\$545,000
Solar Panels	\$60,000
Church Wall Repairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North, South, and West walls 	\$210,000
Church-hall link	\$275,000
Navan Total	\$614,000

*100% of moneys raised beyond Navan's GIFT target of \$69,000 will stay in the parish.

Together in Faith

Each of us is called to respond faithfully to the needs of our church and of our community. Your participation in the campaign, by making a sacrificial, meaningful and proportionate gift, over a five year pledge period is gratefully appreciated.

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13:16



Wondering what to give?

We understand the financial demands facing us today. The following proportionate gift guideline may help you to make your pledge decision.

Household Income	5 Year Pledge			Annually	Quarterly	Monthly	Weekly
	Amount Pledged	Tax Savings	After Tax Amount	Pledge Payment	Quarterly Equivalent	Monthly Equivalent	Weekly Equivalent
\$ 25,000	\$ 500	\$ 230	\$ 270	\$ 100	\$ 25	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92
\$ 25,000 to \$ 35,000	1,500	690	810	300	\$ 75	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.77
\$ 35,000 to \$ 50,000	2,500	1,150	1,350	500	\$ 125	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62
\$ 50,000 to \$ 75,000	5,000	2,300	2,700	1,000	\$ 250	\$ 83.33	\$ 19.23
\$ 75,000 to \$ 100,000	10,000	4,640	5,360	2,000	\$ 500	\$ 166.67	\$ 38.46
\$ 100,000 to \$ 150,000	15,000	6,960	8,040	3,000	\$ 750	\$ 250.00	\$ 57.69
\$ 150,000 to \$ 250,000	25,000	11,600	13,400	5,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 416.67	\$ 96.15
\$ 250,000 +	50,000	23,200	26,800	10,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 833.33	\$ 192.31

All gifts are eligible for tax credits. The indicated savings are guidelines only and may vary depending on individual circumstances. This guideline is based on the maximum credit available after the first \$200 of donations. Please consult a professional tax advisor for more information.

For more information, please call 613-216-2200 or email bvninfo@rogers.com

Thank you for your generosity!

Who We Are

Vision:

Respecting the diversity which people offer to our Christian faith both now and in generations to come we:

**Worship through the Anglican Spiritual Tradition;
Practice openness to the future through trust in God;
Compassionately care for our community.**

Mission Statement:

Our desire to live vitally and to shape our parish's life has led us to develop a mission statement which helps us to make choices for our life as a parish:

To live the Word in deed, welcoming all people.

Challenge Statements:

