Parish of the Holy Spirit
Paroisse du Saint-Esprit

Aylmer, Chelsea, Wakefield, Danford Lake, Radford, and Shawville

October 2026





Christ Church Aylmer



Good Shepherd, Wakefield



St. Mary Magdalene, Chelsea



Holy Trinity, Radford



Holy Trinity, Danford Lake



St. Paul's, Shawville

Who We Are

We are a newly amalgamated parish in the Outaouais sector of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. In 2024–2025, each congregation held meetings and special vestries and voted to proceed with amalgamation. The three former parishes were:

- Christ Church Aylmer;
- the Parish of Chelsea, Lascelles and Wakefield, with congregations in Chelsea and Wakefield; and
- the Parish of West Quebec, with congregations in Radford, Shawville and Danford Lake.

Our active congregations serve suburban, small-town, village and rural communities, many of which welcome cottagers in summer.

Christ Church Aylmer occupies a full city block in the heart of Aylmer, with a treed lawn used for church and community activities. Nearby development is bringing new residents, including many seniors and some Anglophones. We welcome newcomers and a few children and strive to be a community of worship, welcome and friendship shaped by Jesus's example.

Built in 1842, the church has stained-glass windows and seats about 200. The worship space accommodates wheelchairs and walkers but has no washrooms. A separate hall generates rental income; it has washrooms but is not mobility-accessible. The upper level includes a large room, kitchen, washroom and storage; the lower level has two washrooms, an office and a large meeting area formerly used for Sunday school. The hall and office have internet access and an on-site photocopier. A large former rectory is occupied by the music director in exchange for services.

We worship Sundays at 10:00 a.m. using the BAS. Our congregation is mainly older adults, with a few families and children, and we have a strong music program.

St. Mary Magdalene in Chelsea is 20 minutes from our cathedral in Ottawa. The congregation dates from 1875, and the current church was built in 1957 on a two-acre property. We worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in a 75-seat space. The church and adjoining hall are fully accessible, offer Wi-Fi throughout and include an office for the incumbent.

The hall, built in 2001, has a large kitchen and capacity for 72. We share it with Grace United Church, whose service follows ours, allowing both congregations to gather between services. Rentals provide significant income, and Wi-Fi supports rentals and church events on Zoom.

Chelsea is growing, with new housing near the church, though parish growth has not yet followed. The Francophone community is increasing, and many Anglophones are bilingual. Old Chelsea's shops, restaurants and proximity to Gatineau Park make it attractive to residents and visitors. Local amenities include health services, a pharmacy and a grocery store.

Good Shepherd Wakefield is about 40 minutes from downtown Ottawa. Built in 1920, the church seats 100; its 60-person basement is used for community events, but the building is not accessible. With the United Church, we operate a food pantry and, from May to November, a community fridge. We worship at 11:15 a.m., allowing the incumbent travel time from Chelsea.

Wakefield has a diverse population, including many retirees. It offers a hospital, health services, schools, banks, grocery stores, two retirement homes and a hospice. Near Gatineau Park, the village draws outdoor enthusiasts and has a vibrant arts, music, theatre and dining scene.

St. Paul's Shawville serves a town of 1,600 about 50 minutes from Aylmer. Built in the late 1800s, the church has ample seating and is accessible except for the lower rooms and washroom. The property includes a large parking lot and a fully accessible hall, The HUB, renovated in 2024 with a municipal grant. Rentals generate income, while partnerships with non-profits bring resources to Shawville and the surrounding community as part of our contextual ministry.

We worship at 11:00 a.m. using the BAS, projected on screens. Licensed Lay Readers lead Morning Prayer every second Sunday. We have a choir, an organist who also plays keyboard, and no children currently attending.

Our two-storey, four-bedroom rectory is 400 metres from the church in Shawville. Since 2018, it has received a new roof, windows, electric furnace, heat pump, basement supports and four appliances. Because the church office is leased long-term, the parish office is in the rectory. Shawville also has primary and secondary schools, a hospital and other amenities.

Holy Trinity Radford stands among farm fields less than 10 kilometres from St. Paul's Shawville. The small church and separate hall are not accessible, and the site has no washrooms. Our older congregation has no children. Radford closes from September through May; when it reopens in June, Shawville joins us for summer services.

We worship at 9:30 a.m., alternating Morning Prayer and Eucharist from the BAS. With no musicians, we use YouTube and a Bluetooth speaker for music.

Holy Trinity Danford Lake serves a rural village of about 300, with a larger summer population of cottagers. Surrounded by lakes and Crown land, it is about 55 minutes from Shawville and 50 minutes from Wakefield. We are an active presence in the community. Although the hall was transferred to the municipality in 2025, we retain access for church activities. The church is not accessible but has a composting toilet.

We worship at 11:00 a.m., alternating Eucharist and Morning Prayer from the BAS, projected on a television. With no musicians, we use YouTube and a Bluetooth speaker for music.

Chapels: We also offer occasional services in several chapels.





Where We Are Now and What Matters to Us

- We hope amalgamation will reduce each congregation's workload and strengthen financial stability. Ascension House has committed to supporting an Anglican presence in West Quebec during the parish's first five years.
- We value inclusive language and Safe Church practices that affirm all people as made in God's image, including female and gender-neutral language for God and full inclusion of the LGBTQ2SI+ community.
- We prioritize access to worship and other parish activities, although not all buildings are currently accessible.
- Our dedicated volunteers sustain our congregations, but an aging and shrinking volunteer base makes clear priorities essential.
- We seek healthy, growing congregations grounded in Anglican liturgy.
- Music is integral to worship; we balance traditional and contemporary forms to keep it meaningful and relevant.
- We want worship to engage people across generations.
- We are committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, support All My Relations, mark the National Indigenous Day of Prayer and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and seek year-round responses.
- We participate in contextual ministry.
- We seek clergy committed to ministry in Quebec and value stability within the clergy team.
- Each former parish distributes an electronic newsletter.
- We welcome newcomers and cottagers while caring for parishioners.
- We support one another within and across our congregations.

Safe Church Practices across the Parish

Across the parish, we use the Diocese of Ottawa's Safe Church resources, including Screening in Faith. Implementation, communication, record-keeping and screening practices vary according to local programs and populations. In some congregations it is a designated lay person managing the Police Vulnerable Sector Checks; elsewhere, the incumbent or associate incumbent leads this work. Through its relationship with the United Church, St. Mary Magdalene has also implemented the Safe People policy for LGBTQ2S+ people through the Affirming Ministries Program. The new Parish Central Committee will work toward more consistent parish-wide policies, records and practices.

Qualities we are seeking in an Associate Incumbent:

- Works collaboratively in team ministry.
- Listens and communicates well with clergy, lay leaders and congregations.
- The ability to speak French is an asset.
- Ideally lives within the parish, though this is not required. A housing allowance is provided unless the choice is to live in the Shawville rectory.
- Preaches engagingly and can balance differing musical expectations across congregations.
- Practices generous hospitality.
- Offers attentive pastoral care, including visits to people who are less able to leave home.
- Maintains an Anglican presence in the wider community and is comfortable with ecumenical ministry and exchanges.
- Connects with children and youth and fosters welcome and belonging.
- Uses technology confidently.
- Provides accessible Christian education.
- Strengthens relationships within and among congregations.
- Is passionate about the Gospel and mission-oriented.
- Learns from parishioners and communities and understands Outaouais culture.
- Is comfortable with both rural and suburban ministry.

Rectory Pictures







