



# Alumni Profile

## Rianne Rops

BA Hons '17 Catholic Studies

### Current Career

Organization: St. Mary's Church

Title: Outreach Coordinator

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### Career Overview

I graduated from King's in 2017 with an Honours Specialization in Catholic Studies, and am completing a Master of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. I draw upon both disciplines working as the Outreach Coordinator at St. Mary's Church, building bridges between the parish and marginalized populations in downtown Kitchener. I work closely with Hold the Line Waterloo Region, a non-profit that celebrates the region's protection of drinking water and farmlands from the pressures of urban sprawl.

### How did King's prepare you for your current role?

The faculty were awesome, so helpful with mentorship, references, etc. In second year, I got involved in the Newman Club and Campus Ministry, which provided a sense of community, but also a lot of leadership opportunities, including executive roles which look good on a resume. Your life doesn't have to be this smooth trajectory. I went into social work but ended up working in a church doing social work. My job is to utilize the assets at St. Mary's Parish, the people and the building and our connections to better serve the vulnerable population in downtown Kitchener.

### What advice would you give a current student looking to enter your field?

Pay attention to your curiosities and invest yourself in things you are genuinely curious about. If that leads you to a position in your field, that's great, but don't be afraid to apply to positions that you are unqualified for. I applied for a job while still in school and before I achieved my MSW. The job will become full-time as soon as I graduate. Apply to jobs even if you don't feel ready; you will figure it out if you get it.