

Diocese welcomes new chancellor

Laity honoured for faithful service



Cage put over Jesus statue

# The Anglican

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FEBRUARY 2023



Archdeacon John Anderson



Archdeacon Theadore Hunt



Archdeacon Steven Mackison



Archdeacon Cheryl Palmer



Canon Administrator Laura Walton

## Archdeacons, canon administrator appointed

### New positions help bishops, regional deans with administrative tasks

BY STUART MANN

FOUR new archdeacons and a canon administrator have been appointed to assist the diocese's bishops, regional deans and parishes with the administrative functions of

episcopal ministry.

Archdeacon John Anderson, incumbent of St. James, Orillia, Archdeacon Theadore Hunt, incumbent of St. Stephen, Downsview, Archdeacon Steven Mackison, incumbent of Church of the

Redeemer, Bloor St., Archdeacon Cheryl Palmer, incumbent of Christ Church, Deer Park and Canon Administrator Laura Walton, ODT, a member of Holy Trinity, Clearview, were appointed by Bishop Andrew Asbil in December. Their colla-

tion service was held at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 15. It was held in-person and live streamed on the diocese's YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/user/tordio135](http://www.youtube.com/user/tordio135).

The archdeacons and canon administrator have been assigned to five newly created archdeaconries. The archdeaconries, which are made up of contiguous deaneries, are called North, South, East, West and Central. (See map of archdeaconries that accompanies this article.)

Archdeacon Anderson has been assigned to East, which comprises the deaneries of Durham-Northumberland, Oshawa and Peterborough. Archdeacon Hunt has been assigned to Central, which comprises the deaneries of Eglinton, Scarborough, York-Central and York Mills. Archdeacon Mackison has been assigned to West, which comprises the deaneries of Etobicoke-Humber, Mississauga, North Peel and Tecumseth. Archdeacon Palmer has been assigned to South, which comprises the deaneries of Parkdale-Toronto West, St. James and Toronto East. Canon Walton has been assigned to North, which comprises the deaneries of Holland, Huronia, Nottawasaga and Victoria-Haliburton.

Bishop Asbil will have episcopal oversight of Central, while Bishop Riscylla Shaw will have episcopal oversight of East and North and Bishop Kevin Robertson will have episcopal oversight of South and West. The bishops will continue to be supported by their office and administrative assistants, and the regional deans will remain in place.

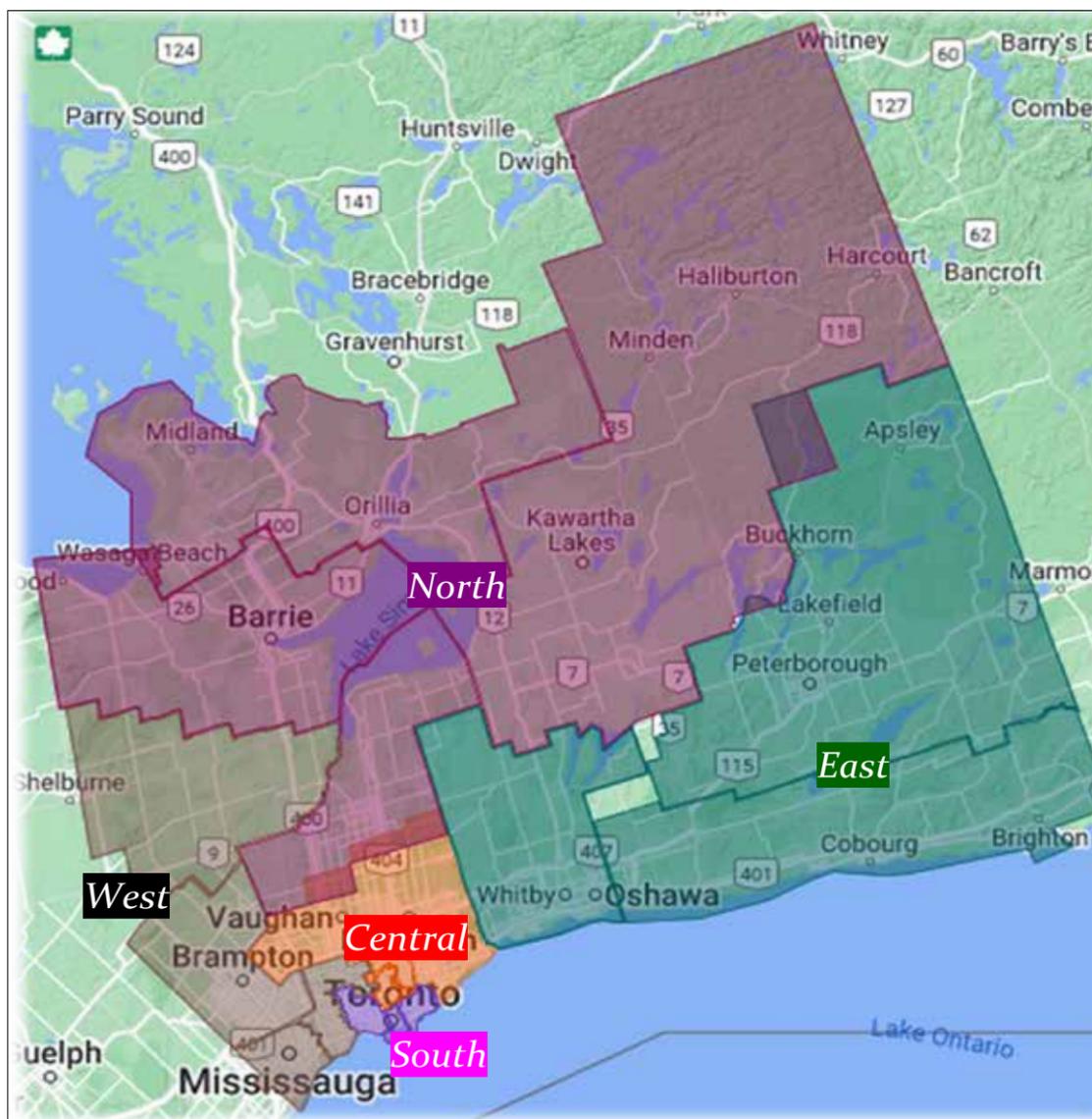
The archdeacons and canon administrator will serve one day per week or 20 per cent of their time in addition to their current ministry positions. Their term

is for four years. They will support the bishops in administrative functions to free up the bishops to provide more pastoral ministry and teaching. Much of their work will be administrative tasks, including overseeing the work of area councils, holding deanery events and coordinating the work of regional deans and clergy. There may also be opportunities for archdeacons to represent the bishops at events like celebrations of new ministry in parishes.

The new archdeacons and canon administrator say they are delighted with their appointments.

"I am both humbled and delighted at the opportunity to serve the diocese and the Church in this new way," says Archdeacon Hunt. "I look forward to meeting and getting to know so many others of my brothers and sisters across this great diocese. I recognize that to serve well in this role means that others will be set free to praise and to serve God in this Church and in one another; and so, with God's help, that is very simply what I hope to do." Ordained in the Diocese of the Bahamas, Archdeacon Hunt is a member of Synod Council, a Fresh Start facilitator, and a member of the Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries.

"I am grateful to be chosen to serve the diocese as one of the five new territorial archdeacons," says Archdeacon Mackison. "I am excited about working with the College of Bishops and the other archdeacons and canon administrator in serving parishes. I look forward to making deeper connections and building stronger relationships through this ministry." Archdeacon Mackison has served as a liturgical officer both in the Diocese of Toronto and his former Diocese



Map shows the diocese's new archdeaconries.

Continued on Page 11

# Church welcomes homeless seniors to neighbourhood

## Gift baskets assembled for new project's residents

BY STUART MANN

WHEN Jamie Perttula learned that the City of Toronto was putting in a modular housing project for homeless seniors not far from the Church of the Resurrection, where he is a member, he knew he had to get involved.

Mr. Perttula wanted to welcome the new residents to the neighbourhood and also address some of the questions and concerns that local citizens were having. "We needed to show support for this project because there was some very vocal opposition," he says.

The 58-unit project would house seniors, both men and women, who are experiencing homelessness. A modular housing project consists of modules or units that are built offsite and then transported to the location, where they are assembled on the already poured foundation.

With the support of the Rev. Julie Burn, Resurrection's incumbent, Mr. Perttula addressed the con-

gregation, asking if anyone else would like to help out. Some people came forward and they began to plan next steps.

Mr. Perttula also spoke to his city councillor, Brad Bradford, to see what else could be done. One of the outcomes was that Ms. Burn was appointed to a community liaison committee, to help local residents and business owners understand the project and address their questions and concerns.

Through conversations with Mr. Bradford, the idea of creating welcome baskets for the new residents also came up. Alan Beattie, a member of Resurrection who was part of the church's volunteer team, reached out to local organizations, to see if they would be interested in helping to fill the baskets. About 10 groups responded, including churches, the Rotary Club and a school class.

Mr. Beattie played a major organizational role and many other people in the congregation con-



### TELLING THE STORY

Members of St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope, act in a scene in *The Christmas Story*, performed at the church Dec. 10-11. From left to right are Terry Riviera as one of the Magi, Karen Boucher as Zacharius, Mike Bell as Herod, Leigh Facey-Crowther as Simeon and Stephen Wright and Mark Johnson as Magi. About 45 people took part in the production, which was the church's 60th live performance of the play. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PORT HOPE

tributed their time and resources, says Mr. Perttula.

Each group was assigned a different item to contribute to the baskets. Items included household cleaning products, toiletries, towels, food, snacks, coffee, tea, crackers, gift cards and more – a value of about \$150 per basket. Even the baskets, which came with a welcome note attached to them, could be used afterwards for other purposes.

Everyone gathered in Resurrection's parish hall one evening to assemble them, and then they were delivered to the housing project.

"For us, this became a visible sign of welcome," says Mr. Perttula. He says the volunteer group is exploring other ways to help out, such as providing rides to medical

appointments, but that has to be discussed with Woodgreen, the non-profit agency that is running the project.

Mr. Perttula says his faith played a big part in his motivation to get involved, and it motivated others in the volunteer group as well. "We're called to extend compassion and mercy and grace to people, to extend the love of God to people, and how do we do that? How do we be a witness to a different way of thinking about some of these issues, to be a light?"

He says churches can play a key role in helping to establish affordable housing in their neighbourhoods. Through their advocacy and feet-on-the-ground work, they can often make a big difference.

"It can be really hard to go to a public meeting and say something,

particularly if you're in a crowd that's negative. Not everyone can do that. But I think that's another way our churches can be involved, by advocating for housing projects that are serving low-income households or those who are homeless.

"And while it's important to speak up against things that are unjust, it's also important to speak up for things. Don't assume that because something's going along, it's going to happen. Positive voices for things can support the local councillor and encourage that person to persevere. They often face criticism and sometimes they need encouragement. And I think that's something the churches can do well. If we think something is good, we need to stand up and say, yes, this is good and this should happen. It's really important."

**Mary G. Griffith B.A., M.B.A., J.D.**

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# New chancellor installed

## Lawyer comes from long line of clergy

BY STUART MANN

AS the daughter of a cleric and a long-time member of Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., where she has held several leadership positions, Marg Creal brings a deep understanding of church life to her new role as chancellor of the diocese.

Ms. Creal became the chancellor on Jan. 1, succeeding Canon Clare Burns. The chancellor is the chief canon lawyer of the diocese and gives advice to the diocesan bishop.

"I'm excited and a little bit nervous," she says. "There are very big shoes to fill and lots of different things to learn. But I've been watching and observing and been part of the mix as a vice-chancellor, so I'm looking forward to it."

Ms. Creal comes from a long line of clergy. Her father, the Rev. Michael Creal, is an active member at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, having recently served as an honorary assistant, and both her uncles and a grandfather were clerics. Being a "PK" (preacher's kid) will help inform her decision-making as chancellor, she says.

"I certainly knew when I was growing up what the pressure was like – and still is – and I've observed the pressures on the spouse of the cleric as well. So I think I have a pretty good understanding of what kinds of sacrifices that families make in the Church."

As a member of Church of the Redeemer for the past 25 years, she has served as churchwarden, co-chair of the governance committee and chair of human resources. During the pandemic, she was vice-chair of the parish's board of management.

Just over two decades ago, Ms. Creal chaired the parish selection committee that brought the Rev. Andrew Asbil to Redeemer as its incumbent. He served there for 15 years before becoming the rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto in 2016 and then Bishop of Toronto in 2019.

Although she hadn't volunteered in the Church at the diocesan level, she didn't hesitate to accept Bishop Asbil's invitation to become the next chancellor upon Canon Burns's retirement from the position. "When you get asked, you say yes unless there's a good reason not to," she says. "When Bishop Andrew asked me, I had no choice. I look forward to working with him again."

She admits the learning curve has been steep but she has been well supported by the diocese's team of vice-chancellors. "I feel good that there are so many vice-chancellors who know lots about different areas. This isn't all about me. It's about the chancellor team." Helping her are vice-chancellors



Chancellor Marg Creal is greeted by Bishop Andrew Asbil at her installation at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Canon Paul Baston, Canon Brian Armstrong, ODT, Mark Hemingway, Gail Smith and John van Gent.

In addition to being a wife, mother and grandmother, Ms. Creal is a lawyer with a background in criminal law. She was an assistant crown attorney in Toronto for many years, "doing everything under the sun." Among her achievements, she did a lot of work in the early days of using science and DNA in prosecutions. She was on the first child abuse legal team in Canada and was one of the people who helped form Ontario's mental health courts, which are designed to deal with accused persons who are experiencing mental health difficulties with understanding and sensitivity. She was co-counsel to Ontario's coroner in the inquest into the death of Ashley Smith, a teenager who died in custody in 2007. She was also counsel to the coroner in an inquest into the death of two young men in Kashechewan, a First Nations community on the James Bay coast.

Since 2015, she has been the chair of the Consent and Capacity Board, a job she loves. "It's a great board with wonderful people, it does important work with vulnerable parties and it's fast moving," she says.

The Consent and Capacity Board is a quasi-judicial administrative tribunal that operates at arm's length from the Ministry of Health under the authority of the Health Care Consent Act. The board convenes hearings and makes decisions under six acts, including the Health Care Consent Act, the Mental Health Act, the Substitute Decision Act, the Personal Health Information Protection Act, the Child Youth and Family Services Act and the Mandatory Blood Test-



ing Act. Hearings are adjudicated by members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in panels of one, three or five. Hearings convene within seven days of an application and decisions are issued within one day of the conclusion of a hearing.

She says her faith has always played a role in her work. "It came into play in many areas – the mental health court, in particular. As the chair of the Consent and Capacity Board, I don't do hearings but I'm certainly involved in decision-making, so my faith comes into play in terms of a deep-

er understanding of what people are going through, a developed sense of empathy and compassion. So yes, I think my faith has really been important in my work. You can't extricate faith from your work. At least I can't."

She says she's looking forward to serving the Church in a new way as chancellor. "It's a nice seg-way for me, having worked at the parish level for so many years, to see things from a different perspective, and so far so good. I've really enjoyed it and I've met such wonderful people."

## New grants help parishes cast, learn

BY STUART MANN

SYNOD Council has approved a new grant program to help parishes as they emerge from the pandemic. The Cast & Learn grants will help parishes try new and creative forms of ministry after almost three years of focusing on survival.

"Every congregation right now is in a rebuild mode, and these grants are designed to support and resource this rebuild," says Janet Marshall, director of the diocese's Congregational Development department. "We've come out of a time when our focus has been entirely on making things work and keeping things together, and now it's time to be creative again."

The grants range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 and will be available over the next two years. The program has a total of \$300,000 in funding.

Ms. Marshall says the time is right for these grants. "We believe that there are a lot of people in our communities who have come much closer to feeling their spiritual hunger and their spiritual need, and that God has given us this moment to be able to respond to that – to hear it, to see it and respond to it. In the same spirit as the diocese's jubilee and the expedited Reach Grants that have helped so many parishes, we're saying we're here for you as you're imagining ways to rebuild and to make new relationships with the community around you."

The grants are for new projects or ministries that will be implemented and tested within a year. They will allow parishes to hire a consultant or a part-time staff person if needed. Examples include starting a new alternative worship service; expanding a children's or youth program; and learning how to be church with people who worship online.

"The important thing is that churches applying for a grant need to be able to say what they want to learn from the new ministry, and why they feel it's right for their context and then be able to test that within a year," says Ms. Marshall. "What do you want to learn next?"

The projects must be designed to reach out to people who are not currently connected to the church (the unchurched, the de-churched or those who have drifted away). They must also increase the engagement of lay people in the parish through leadership and/or participation. Other grants may be available for the project after the Cast & Learn grant has run out.

Parishes are invited submit applications and make a pitch to the diocese's PEMG (Project Enabling and Monitoring Group).

The name of the Cast & Learn grants come from the diocese's strategic visioning process, Cast the Net, which is asking clergy and lay leaders throughout the diocese to imagine how they might "cast our nets to the other side."

For more information on the Cast & Learn grants, visit the diocese's website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)

# Cast the Net seeks laity's views

## Input helps set direction for diocese

BY STUART MANN

**CAST** the Net, the diocese's vision, planning and strategy process, is entering an important new phase.

From mid-January to late February, four lay people from each parish will take part in online consultations that will help the diocese determine its direction for the next several years.

The consultations follow similar sessions with clergy, regional deans, Area Councils, Synod Office staff, Synod Council and Synod in the fall.

Each consultation will bring together about 20 people from several congregations. The sessions will last about 90 minutes and will be facilitated by trained members of the diocesan volunteer corps. Notes will be taken, but comments won't be attributed to specific parishes or individuals. A summary of the consultations will be published.

Letters are being sent to all incumbents and churchwardens in January and February, asking them to nominate four people from their parishes to take part in the sessions.

"All congregations are encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity for lay voices from across the diocese to be heard, as we seek to discern where and how the Holy Spirit is calling us as people of God in this time and place," says Bishop Andrew Asbil.

Cast the Net started last spring and will unfold over this year, with recommendations and calls to action coming to Synod in November. The name comes from John 21, where Jesus tells his disciples to cast their net on the other side of their boat.

"After the disruption of Easter, the disciples' instinct is to return to the familiarity of fishing," says Bishop Asbil. "But everything has changed, and the old way of doing things doesn't work. Our instinct, too, may be to go back to what's comfortable – what we know we're good at. But God is calling us to do things in a new way. What will happen if we cast our nets on the other side of the boat?"



The consultations with laity will begin with a Bible study focusing on the John 21 passage. Afterwards, participants will be asked some questions and take part in a group discussion.

"We hope people will be frank and forthcoming," says Canon Ian Alexander, one of Cast the Net's consultants along with Dr. Anita Gittens, ODT, and the Very Rev. Peter Elliott. "That's been our experience to date. We root these conversations in prayer and in scripture. Not only is that appropriate but it really helps to unlock people's minds and hearts. We've been pleased by how frank and open and even vulnerable people have been."

The findings, together with those from the previous consultations, will be used by Cast the Net's steering committee to shape its recommendations to Synod 2023. The recommendations are expected to include priorities for the diocese for the coming years. The steering committee is co-chaired by the Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, incumbent of All

Saints Church-Community Centre in Toronto, and Dave Toyce, ODT, a member of Trinity, Streetsville. The committee comprises Anglicans, both clergy and lay, from across the diocese.

Dr. Gittens says the lay consultations are of the "utmost importance" so that Cast the Net is a "bottom-up" approach that includes hearing from those in the pews.

Canon Alexander says that every voice matters. "Sometimes I think people feel, 'Oh, they're coming around again to ask for our opinion, but nobody will pay any attention.' But I can tell you from experience that the College of Bishops and the diocese are very attentive to what they're hearing and wanting to know what's being said. They want to take it on board and respond to it. So these comments will shape the ultimate findings that the steering committee will present in terms of a vision and a strategy for the diocese."

Dr. Gittens and Canon Alexander expect the lay consultations will produce a broad diversity of

opinions but also some points of commonality with the sessions that have already been held. Some common themes have already started to emerge from the sessions, they say, including a strong desire for a renewed emphasis on discipleship and evangelism. There has been concern about declining membership due to the recent pandemic but also good news about parishes reaching out beyond their walls in new and creative ways.

Dr. Gittens says there has been a lot of engagement with Cast the Net so far. "I'm really excited and surprised by it, and also by the appreciation that has been expressed around allowing many different voices and groups to be part of the process," she says. "We've heard that time and time again, that people are very appreciative of being involved and of the deep listening that is happening."

For more information, visit Cast the Net's webpage on the diocese's website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).



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### In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has a large population of aboriginal peoples.

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# Aware of God's presence in every step

BY THE REV. LUCIA LLOYD

The community of St. John, Bowmanville wanted to create a labyrinth on the lawn outside our church as a way of using our space to invite our parishioners and everyone in our neighbourhood to experience this opportunity for prayer and meditation.

Labyrinths are designed as paths to walk along as you pray or meditate. Unlike a maze, which requires you to make decisions, a labyrinth provides a path that leads you from the entrance to the centre and then, when you are ready, the same path leads you from the centre to the place you began. During the 13th century, churches provided labyrinths as a form of pilgrimage for people in their own local area, in the midst of their daily life, for those who could not undertake long pilgrimages to distant places.

We got ideas from a variety of sources that sparked our enthusiasm.

In August, when I was on a silent retreat at the Ignatius Jesuit Retreat Centre in Guelph, thanks to the diocese's minisabbatical program for clergy, I noticed a labyrinth there that was made from grass of two different heights. The path through the labyrinth was trimmed to a shorter height than the surrounding grass. I loved the idea of a labyrinth that could be made of all natural materials, and that could be done without spending a lot of money or doing a lot of planning. What popped into my head was, "We could do that!"

We had experimented with a temporary outdoor labyrinth in the summer of 2019 by spray painting a labyrinth on the grass. Cathie McCabe, our rector's warden, had looked online for patterns of labyrinths and found one we liked at Karen's Small Labyrinths You Can Make at Home, which she downloaded. It is the centre of the 13th-century labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. We chose a centre point in our lawn and poked a stick into the ground there. With the help of our people's warden, Williette Gardner, and parishioner Patty Kingsley, we then used a measuring tape and a rope to measure concentric circles and marked



Labyrinth at the Ignatius Jesuit Retreat Centre in Guelph that inspired the labyrinth at St. John, Bowmanville. PHOTO BY THE REV. LUCIA LLOYD

the borders of the path with spray paint. That year, the labyrinth lasted only until the spray paint wore off, but we had seen that the basic concept was doable.

In 2022, we used the same pattern and method of spray painting. We then used a whipper-snipper to trim the path of the labyrinth shorter, while leaving grass on the borders of the path taller. Cathie, Williette and I made the labyrinth in one day in late September. We continued to use the whipper-snipper to keep the path trimmed through the fall. When winter came and the grass wasn't getting taller, the labyrinth continued to last with no maintenance.

Shortly after we'd made our labyrinth, a friend and I took a trip to Ottawa and attended a weekday eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral. We noticed it had a labyrinth with a plaque that gave suggestions for how to walk the labyrinth. They appealed to me, so I included them in the email I sent to the congregation telling them about our new labyrinth.

Since the "we could do that" idea was such a big part of our labyrinth becoming a reality, I wanted to share it with other parishes in the diocese in hopes that they might think "we could do that" too. I asked Charlyne Jourard, a parishioner, if she would make a video we could show

at Synod as a missional moment, and she said yes. I asked everyone on our parish email list if they would share their experiences with the labyrinth in the video, and here are some of the things they said:

- As the labyrinth is on our walk home from school, our kindergarten children have had the opportunity to walk the path of prayer and begin to listen for the voice of God. I, too, with an eye on the children, speak to him with thanksgiving in my heart. I pray the labyrinth provides a place of peace as we speak to the Father. (Vivien Ricard)
- Rushing from one errand to the next, the labyrinth beckoned to me from the church parking lot. Everything slowed down as I set out on the path. Such a welcome slowdown I didn't recognize I needed. I breathed in deeply and felt refreshed almost immediately. The wind and leaves and birds surrounded me with soothing sounds. I thanked God for the peace I felt and for the beauty around me. I hope I can avail myself of this special place all year round. Thank you, Lucia, for this place of peace where one can get in touch with God, Mother Nature and oneself. (Sheila Blainey)

- I read with interest Rev. Lucia's email about building a labyrinth in the yard beside the church. I decided that because I was going to a meeting this would be a good time for me to take the opportunity to walk the labyrinth and I followed the instructions that Rev. Lucia included, which was to say a quiet prayer, and then walk and listen. So I did that, and then I went to my meeting. And it was successful because I felt I had God with me, and Jesus within my head. (Eleanor May)
- What struck me was the need to concentrate on the "journey"; immediately in front of me the path was clearly defined, and yet I couldn't look too far ahead as the path seemed to disappear. There were more twists and turns than I expected but the centre was always visible and constant. It seems to me this is very much like our spiritual journey: you can't see too far ahead, it can change unexpectedly, but God is always there at the centre of everything. (Carol Langley)

I was delighted to see their positive experiences, because walking a labyrinth has been a positive experience at so many points in my own life. Unlike walking, which is focused on getting to somewhere else, when I walk a labyrinth I get a sense that every step along the way is where I belong at that moment, and I can be aware of God's presence in my life at every step. It consistently brings to mind Jesus' teaching: "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." It helps me to realize that in the present moment God has given me everything I need and more. Walking the labyrinth, I notice new blessings all along the way. It has been similar to the process of creating this labyrinth, in which we've noticed blessings from God at every step along the way, and we are hopeful that as we follow the path ahead we will continue to notice more blessings in the future!

*The Rev. Lucia Lloyd is the incumbent of St. John, Bowmanville.*

## Ordinary people wield extraordinary power



BY MURRAY MACADAM

On the surface of it, they were most definitely a motley crew: fishermen struggling to make ends meet in the face of an economic and political system that worked against them. Not exactly the elite of society. Not the educated rabbinical elite one might expect a messiah to choose as leaders for a new movement.

So why did Jesus pick people such as these to become his first disciples? And why did he spend much of his ministry in the company of others from the margins of society?

Biblical scholar Ched Myers told a diocesan outreach conference years ago how fishermen were near the bottom of the economic hierarchy in Jesus' time. Elites looked down on them, even as they depended upon their labour. "The fisher," attests an ancient Egyptian papyrus, "is more miserable than any other profession."

The remnants of a first-century fishing boat, discovered in 1985 at Ginosar on the

Sea of Galilee, symbolizes the hard life of peasant fishermen. The 27 x 7 ft. boat had been rebuilt at least five times from seven different kinds of wood. Indeed, all reusable material had been removed from this boat before it was jettisoned into the sea. This remarkable artifact, possibly from the time of Jesus, indicates the marginal existence of fishermen. Discovery of "the Jesus boat," as it has been called, fascinates me because in 1974 I lived for three months at Kibbutz Ginosar in Galilee, near where the boat was found, and a fishing fleet helped sustain our kibbutz. (A kibbutz is a cooperative community in Israel.)

With rigid state control of their livelihood and the oppressive economics of an export-oriented fishing industry, it is hardly surprising that in Mark's gospel account, fishermen are the first converts to Jesus' message about an alternative social vision and are open to building a movement of resistance. Low-income fishermen had little to lose and much to gain by joining a movement to overturn the status quo. Yet joining the Jesus movement was also risky, as it involved loss of economic security and

a break with one's place in society.

"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people'" (Mark 1:17). This famous phrase has been traditionally interpreted to connote the vocation of "saving souls." But we miss the point if we remove this text from its social context.

Meanwhile in our time, elites hold power of various kinds – economic elites and political elites, as well as elite athletes and the cream of the entertainment world. We focus our attention on these people, aided by media that cater to our insatiable hunger for news about political, economic and entertainment leaders. Meanwhile, efforts by "ordinary people" to refashion our inequitable society and lift up "the least of these" receive short shrift by the media or the rest of society.

As Lent approaches, what might we learn from reflection on the radical roots of our faith? Lent is a time of repentance and personal devotion, but can we expand on this concept? What are we being individually and collectively called to repent from – and turn toward – here and now? How do we follow Jesus' example of encouraging a movement of transformation, renewal and

shared healing?

These are not simply questions to be wrestled with in the quiet solitude of personal devotion. Instead, Lent can also become a time to turn toward each other and affirm the humanity of the people around us.

In an era when the humanity of some is thrown into question, Lent is a call to resistance. It is an insistence that collective renewal will only come when we are all allowed to be human, to express our particular needs and deepest desires, and to witness together how the image of God is uniquely revealed in each of us. This defiant act of resistance will force us to confront the power structures of our society, defying the systems that seek to benefit from the suppression of humanity. It's far from an easy task. However, drawing strength from the example set by the founders of our faith and how they found new strength in themselves, can help us realize the strength we have when we work together. Ordinary people can indeed achieve extraordinary things.

*Murray MacAdam is a member of St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough.*

# Laity receive Order of

## Award honours outstanding service over the years

The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. We give thanks to God for the work and witness of these faithful people who, in the exercise of their baptismal ministry, have demonstrated that "their light shines, their works glorify." In 2022, the recipients came from the following deaneries: Eglinton, Huronia & Tecumseth, Mississauga, and Oshawa. They were presented with their medallion at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1.

### Thanenjayan Varun Balendra, ODT St. Bede

Mr. Balendra was nominated by the bishop for outstanding volunteer work as a Canon 24 administrator and mentor to other diocesan volunteers. A gifted Certified Management Accountant, risk management and systems auditor, he brings good humour, deep knowledge, faith and compassion to parishes struggling with organizational transition. A devoted family man, he is passionate about God's word and service in his own parish of St. Bede.

### Heather Conolly, ODT St. Cuthbert, Leaside

Ms. Conolly was nominated by St. Cuthbert, Leaside for her outstanding contributions to the life of the parish. Her commitment to her fellow parishioners and the broader community is always on display through welcoming newcomers, ensuring St. Cuthbert's is kept in excellent condition, and participating in all aspects of lay leadership. Inclusive and enthusiastic, her ministry reflects the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Olwen Davies, ODT St. Hilary (Cooksville)

Mrs. Davies was nominated by St. Hilary (Cooksville) for over 30 years of functioning in key roles, especially supporting worship services and the chancel guild. She contributes to pastoral care outreach, with an uncanny ability to notice when someone needs a call or supportive word, and reaches out to ensure people receive what they need. During the pandemic, she has been at church every Sunday to help with the recorded and live services, prioritizing the community's accessibility to worship.

### Robert (Bob) de Savoye, ODT St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)

Mr. de Savoye was nominated by St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) in recognition of his 27 years of service realized in a spirit of kindness and hope. Generously sharing his financial acumen with his parish and the diocesan Finance Committee, he loves projects that connect church and community: meals to migrant workers, community gardens, upgraded audio-visual systems for virtual ministry, and



New members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto stand with Bishop Andrew Asbil after their investiture at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1. For more photos, see

an outdoor nativity. With his beloved wife Lazina by his side, he embodies welcome and hospitality.

### Kamalini Dugan, ODT Transfiguration

Mrs. Dugan was nominated by Transfiguration for her tireless dedication to seeing and supporting every person, cleric and visitor that walks through the doors, as well as the gardens outside the doors. She is around every corner, ready to roll up her sleeves to beautify the church, and the one who mobilizes volunteers into action. Head of the refugee committee, member of the advisory board, stewardship chair, lay member of Synod, former churchwarden and weekly volunteer for Meals on Wheels, she is inspiring to us all.

### Beverly (Bev) Giamou, ODT Trinity – St. Paul, Port Credit

Mrs. Giamou was nominated by Trinity – St. Paul, Port Credit for demonstrating her care for the parish and community through involvement in various leadership roles and initiatives. She welcomes and engages people and uses her gifts of administration and financial expertise to share the business of the Church in ways that are

accessible, and to help the parish determine how to sustain and grow its ministry in responsible and meaningful ways.

### Sharon Jones, ODT St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)

Ms. Jones was nominated by the bishop for years of work in Trent-Durham parishes and with the diocese as a parish transition consultant, Canon 25 board member, Mission Action Plan coach, volunteer management specialist, and LGBTQ2S+ advocate and activist. She is a highly regarded Education for Ministry graduate, trainer and mentor. Her daily wake-up call to husband Doug and sons Caleb, Gerard and Colin, and all of us, is: "Rise and shine and give God the glory!"

### Anne Lane, ODT Ascension, Port Perry

Ms. Lane was nominated by Ascension, Port Perry for over 35 years of ministry in her parish, family and community. She is a deeply spiritual and thoughtful person whose call has been to serve those in need. Whether leading musically in worship, offering prayer and anointing, or drawing the attention of the community to the road of reconciliation with our

Indigenous siblings, her heart is a true expression of her love for Christ.

### Anne Larkin, ODT Christ Church, Deer Park

Ms. Larkin was nominated by Christ Church, Deer Park in recognition of her lifetime of compassionate service to the Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank, Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels, and Christ Church, Deer Park's community breakfast program. Through the pandemic, she continued her volunteer work, recognizing the need of so many vulnerable people, all while working full-time as a registered practical nurse in a nursing home. She truly demonstrates to her parish and community what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

### Sandra Lewis, ODT St. Mary and St. Martha

Ms. Lewis was nominated by the bishop for her many years of faithful service and commitment to the building up of gospel ministry. After serving as churchwarden at the former parish of St. David for 16 years, Sandra has served as a churchwarden and member of the board of management for St. Mary and St. Martha

# the Diocese of Toronto



Page 8. Photo by Michael Hudson

since its inception in 2015. She is now sharing her insight as a board member of the newly amalgamated Church of the Holy Wisdom. Sandra's spirit of prayerfulness and devotion to God and God's people is an inspiration to her community.

**Sheryl MacPhail, ODT**  
*Trinity Church, Bradford*

Mrs. MacPhail was nominated by Trinity Church, Bradford for a lifetime of service to the Church. She has taken up every role imaginable in parish lay leadership. Of special note is the founding and continuous leadership of the Secondhand Shop that opened in 2012. The shop is a community service that assists people in need and exemplifies her commitment to serving the Church and wider community.

**June Marion, ODT**

*Penetanguishene and Waubaushene*  
Ms. Marion was nominated by Penetanguishene and Waubaushene to humbly and honestly express the gratitude of the parish and community. A faithful Sunday School teacher who still sends birthday cards to her 70-year-old-plus pupils, she is dialed into the life and needs of those in her parish and community. Always

a phone call away and quick to appear walking down the street to the parish, she has dedicated her life to being the only Bible some people may read.

**Lenna McLaughlin, ODT**  
*St. Peter (Erindale)*

Mrs. McLaughlin was nominated by St. Peter (Erindale) for her five decades of faithful, dedicated service to the parish as churchwarden, sidesperson, participant in organizing the Caribbean dinner and dance, and organizer of many parish events, including seniors' teas. Her faithfulness, encouragement, loving care and wise counsel have been a blessing to many. Embodying what it means to be a church family, not just a Sunday congregation, many parishioners and community members consider her to be their "spiritual mom/granny."

**Trent Morris, ODT**  
*Messiah*

Mr. Morris was nominated by Church of the Messiah for outstanding service exceeding 25 years across multiple ministries, including churchwarden, treasurer, food bank volunteer, chorister, youth leader, lay member of Synod and legal

counsel. His life is a witness to sacrificial generosity and love-in-action, with particular focus on the needs of the down-trodden. As a lawyer, his Christian virtues extend to his professional practice.

**Peter Newell, ODT**  
*All Saints, Sherbourne St.*

Mr. Newell was nominated by the bishop for his engagement and service that has increased since recently retiring from practicing law. Former Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod and active member of numerous parishes, he earned his MDiv while working full time as a Bay Street lawyer. As a former taxi driver, farmer, police officer and ESL teacher, he loves to learn from people and work amongst people of richly diverse backgrounds. He is currently serving at All Saints, Sherbourne while discerning his next vocation to the diaconate.

**Evelyn Pogue, ODT**  
*St. Paul, Uxbridge*

Mrs. Pogue was nominated by St. Paul, Uxbridge for a lifetime of service, including altar guild, Sunday School, greeter, reader, administrator, chorister, treasurer, ACW, and church lunch and dinner

events organizer. For many years, she has been the parish office administrator and is a delight to work with. She handles everything with dedication, and her no-nonsense work ethic keeps St. Paul's on the straight and narrow.

**Raphael (Scottie) Richards, ODT**

*St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale West*  
Mr. Richards was nominated by St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale West for his steadfast support and service to the parish. A member from the beginning when services were held in school gymnasiums, he has served as a chorister, sidesperson, reader, men's group member, worship committee member and 12-year churchwarden. A person of deep faith with calm presence, and a strong connection with the parish community, he is trusted and loved by all.

**Sheila Robson, ODT**  
*All Saints, Whitby*

Ms. Robson was nominated by All Saints, Whitby for modelling leadership grounded in faith and exemplifying the importance of servanthood and initiative. She is a member of numerous ministries, including choir, chancel guild and community garden, as well as respected terms as churchwarden and treasurer. With a tenacious, positive attitude, her understated and progressive approach to Anglicanism is demonstrated by her diocesan work as a parish selection committee coach and recently, Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod.

**Irma Sengbusch, ODT**  
*Holy Spirit of Peace*

Mrs. Sengbusch was nominated by Holy Spirit of Peace for her longstanding, devoted service in the parish as a reader and sidesperson, but chiefly for her outstanding leadership of the chancel guild for more than 25 years. She often speaks of what a tremendous honour it is to do this work, and her reverence and love for God's house is clearly evident in the deep care she demonstrates in fulfilling her duties.

**Donovan (Don) Solomon, ODT**  
*St. James Cathedral*

Mr. Solomon was nominated by the bishop for his servant leadership throughout not only a pandemic but some of the most challenging times in the cathedral's history. He oversaw two major projects at the cemetery: the restoration of Hillside H and the replacement of two retorts in the crematorium – nothing short of extraordinary – all while working full-time. With an abiding faith, he is humble and kind, and we are so grateful for his dedication to our cathedral.

**Gail Sparks, ODT**  
*St. John, Whitby*

Ms. Sparks was nominated by St. John, Whitby for her love of Jesus and unparalleled commitment to God's Church and God's people. She has served in every capacity available to her and meets challenge with grace and devotion. In resulting trials of the pandemic, she was instrumental in working with the bishop and organizing supply clergy, and prepared and printed materials for Sunday worship to ensure the congregation would continue to meet and grow in Christ. Humble and generous, she is a blessing to our Church.



**GREAT DAY**

The new recipients of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto stand in their pews and are applauded by all at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1. Twenty-one Anglicans were inducted into the Order. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Donovan Solomon, ODT, of St. James Cathedral.



June Marion, ODT, of the Parish of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene.



Bishop Asbil presents the Order medallion to Sandra Lewis, ODT, of St. Mary and St. Martha.



Bishop Asbil presents the Order medallion to Kamalini Dugan, ODT, of the Church of the Transfiguration.



The Order of the Diocese of Toronto medallions.



Bishop Asbil presents the Order medallion to Thanenjayan Varun Balendra, ODT, of St. Bede.

# 'Impossible' campaign succeeds in Cobourg

## Parish makes bold choice after pandemic threatens plans

BY SUZANNE LAWSON, ODT

St. Peter, Cobourg had been in a period of discernment since 2017 about what to do about its overall campus, its declining buildings needing repair, and whether it was a sustainable congregation for the future. And then the plaster in the church itself began to fall.

The congregation moved its services into what is often called the Great Hall but really is a gymnasium. The discernment led to a decision to focus first on the reconstruction of the roof, ceiling and bell tower to bring the church structure to a point of safety. Only when the structure was safe could partners be found to share the spaces available for programs that would fulfil God's call to mission and bring in future revenue.

A small group was set up to determine exactly how to do the reconstruction, and how to fund it, too. Another small group looked at a vision for the whole property once the repairs on the church were completed. Both pieces of work were compiled and enhanced in a plan for mission that the church adopted.

And then came the pandemic. At exactly the time when it seemed essential to start a capital campaign, visits to parishioners (the tried-and-true model for such campaigns) were not possible. So, a bold choice was made to go ahead anyway and do the campaign virtually! Phone calls, Zoom meetings and packages dropped at doors by masked team members were the order of the day.

The feasibility study had indicated that parishioners might be able to raise \$750,000 from within the parish and \$100,000 in the community. Today, the parish pledges are close to \$900,000 and the community campaign is at almost \$240,000! The diocese has contributed a significant amount as well. Even though much more money is needed, it is important to explore how this impossible campaign happened.

St. Peter's campaign team would recommend that any parish interested in a capital campaign under such awkward circumstances pay attention to these actions:

- Spend as much time as needed in discernment, even if some think it's wasted time – it is



The interior of St. Peter, Cobourg before the renovations. PHOTO BY HEATHER WINDSOR

invaluable. This makes the written "case" for donors much more persuasive.

- Hire a good fundraising firm to coach the parish team. We used M & M International led by Martha Asselin, and we are deeply grateful.
- Set up a small team to do the calls and train them well.
- Choose a fearless, articulate and hard-working leader for the team. And we got one: Henry Knight, worth his weight in gold.
- Develop the theme and prepare good-looking but not expensive materials. Our team wanted to reflect the fact that the campaign wasn't just about the current roof and ceiling issues, but about growing faith and demonstrating that the future for St. Peter's was to follow God's call to live into God's mission in the community. The team chose "Transforming: Space, Lives and Faith."
- Map out the virtual visits, assign the team members, keep track of the number of visits and keep up the momentum. The fundraising professionals from M & M almost turned into cheerleaders for the callers

so their energy would be kept alive and visits completed.

- Thank all donors quickly with a personalized card.

An important point: no parishioner was ever given a suggested amount they should consider. In fact, the callers were instructed to leave behind the pledge form, and one of the options indicated that the gift of prayers for the campaign was certainly a valued gift if money wasn't possible.

At its heart, this work was successful because it re-connected and continues to connect with parishioners with whom we'd lost touch during the beginning of the pandemic, supporting our community members through a difficult time. A series of online conversations to talk about the plan for mission brought light and hope to what seemed like never-ending isolation, with more than 40 people participating and 80 gathering for the campaign kick-off on Zoom.

The community campaign took quite a different perspective, highlighting the historic value of the church building in the Cobourg streetscape. The theme was all about "Preserving," and it struck a chord. The community campaign team was a winner. A former mayor, Peter

Delanty, took the helm. A strong supporter of Cobourg's architectural history, he spoke loudly and passionately about the place of St. Peter's. As a person of faith, he also was able to speak of the contributions the parish was making to the town's vulnerable population. Somehow it rang extra true because people knew he was a Roman Catholic, not a member of the St. Peter's congregation.

So, the impossible campaign was more than successful and the reconstruction has not only begun, but is progressing. Even the huge winds of the winter storms have not caused major problems to the scaffolding and tarps, a sign to all that the church building is being restored to last yet another 100 years.

Financial success aside, we have built a strong community and invited new people into the mission of this historical building that houses so many important stories and memories of Cobourg. The first huge step is being taken towards a reimagined St. Peter's campus and congregation, eager to continue to serve God and neighbour in new and exciting ways.

*Suzanne Lawson, ODT, is a member of St. Peter, Cobourg.*

# Christmas gift sale connects parish to community

BY SUE CARELESS

WHEN one well-dressed gentleman in Minden selected a particularly ugly tie from his wardrobe to donate to St. Paul's Children's Christmas Gift Sale, he did not expect to ever see it again. But on Christmas morning when he opened the carefully wrapped gift from his grandson, there it was. The young boy had bought it himself for just \$1 earlier in the month.

In 2022, more than 80 children in Minden shopped at the two-day sale held Dec. 2-3 at St. Paul's, and about another 30 children did so at St. James, Kinmount.

At St. Paul's, families are welcomed at the church hall and parents can sit comfortably by the fireplace while their offspring shop. The donated items are new or gently used and cost only \$1. Volunteers not only help the children find the right gifts for their family members

and friends, but also help the young folk wrap and tag their presents.

The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark greets each child lined up at the door and chats a little about Jesus and Christmas. "Some families are surprised that church is not all gloom and doom," she says. Some parents tell her that they will drop in on Sunday. "Of course, not many do, but it is an outreach into the community, and two new young families have joined recently." Other shoppers belong to other churches.

The three-point parish of Minden, Kinmount and Maple Lake is located in the northeastern corner of the diocese, about two-and-a-half hours north of Toronto. Situated in the scenic Haliburton Highlands, the parish serves both summer cottagers and year-round residents.

The sales are advertised not only in church bulletins and on the parish website and Facebook but

also in local stores and community newspapers. The event has proven popular with both the church and unchurched. The sales have been held annually for about seven years; however, the pandemic's lockdowns forced them to close for the past three.

In December, St. Paul's sale alone brought in about \$500. All the money raised goes back into the parish's children's programs to help pay for special trips, as well as the occasional pizza. The parish runs a Messy Church on weekday evenings once a month.

Canon Cavanaugh-Clark, who is well known for her boundless energy and enthusiasm for the gospel, has been serving the three-point parish for 11 years. She has taken courses in innovative missional outreach programs and with the Rev. Martha Waind, her deacon, has begun several outreach ministries besides the Children's Christmas

Gift Sale.

The parish runs a thrift shop called Bountiful Blessings located besides St. Paul's, which is staffed by volunteers. "The parish does not give away money; we share from the abundance God provides. Other than operation costs, and Bishop McCallister School, all monies are shared to provide for needs in the local community," says Canon Cavanaugh-Clark.

A few years ago, the profits were used to support Syrian refugees, and more recently school children at the Bishop McCallister School in Kyogyera, Uganda. Last year the thrift shop assisted in making a new girls' residence at the school secure. (A few days before, the school had been attacked by robbers and three staff members murdered.) This year the thrift shop contributed to the school's new library building.

This past fall, the parish opened a drop-in centre called The Gathering

Place on the main street of Minden for anyone who'd like a coffee or hot chocolate and a quiet place to hang out. Students can use donated computers to help them with their homework. On the afternoon of Dec. 11, a gospel sing-song and worship service was held there.

On Dec. 18 and again on Christmas Eve, some of the children who came to the gift sale attended or performed in the Christmas pageant held annually at St. Paul's – another popular event in the small but vibrant rural parish.

In 2016, St. Paul's celebrated 150 years of continuous ministry in Minden. With its sister congregations, the three-point parish has celebrated more than 400 years combined of proclamation of the gospel in Minden and the surrounding area.

*Sue Careless is a freelance writer.*

# Exhibit explores churchwoman's life

## Early days in Fenelon Falls depicted

**THE** archival committee of St. James, Fenelon Falls recently completed an online exhibit for Digital Museums Canada entitled "Anne Langton: An Anglican Church Woman in Fenelon Falls." The story explores how an Englishwoman in 1835 transformed Fenelon Falls and herself through her faith, hard work and vision. We learn through St. James' archives and Anne Langton's own journals and letters that the church was successfully established despite the very hard conditions of Upper Canada in 1835.

The journals of Anne Langton reveal not only the history and establishment of St. James in Fenelon Falls, but also the culture of the first half of the 19th century. Ms. Langton could be compared to a modern-day social media blogger. Her journals and letters, along with those of her brother John and her own miniature paintings, help to describe the community of Fenelon Falls and the establishment of St. James in the early 1800s.

In addition to the journals, letters and artwork, the exhibit includes interviews with Fenelon Falls resident Barbara Dunn-Prosser, whose mother found the Anne Langton miniature sketches in the 1970s. Ms. Dunn-Prosser describes the legacy of Anne Langton and her importance to the culture of both Fenelon Falls and to St. James.

The exhibit also contains a soaring view of Fenelon Falls obtained by a drone camera, a ghostly walk up the stone stairs to a graveyard at the site of the original church and



**Clockwise from above: a painting of Anne Langton; the chalice and paten used in the original log cabin church in Fenelon Falls; the church's original Sunday School cabinet made from butternut trees of the Langton farm. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. JAMES, FENELON FALLS**

detailed close-up camera work of Anne Langton's original miniature sketches and paintings.

In all, the exhibit comprises 22 videos and 98 images. Each image tells an additional story within the gallery. The exhibit is in English, French and described video, and all videos have closed captioning in both English and French.

Churches contribute significantly to the establishment and history of a community. St. James' archives and artifacts, both religious and secular, have survived for over 185 years. Past congregational members left an invaluable collection of let-

ters, historical research, marriage certificates and so much more that contributed to this project. When combined with historical data from other sources like a museum or personal family journals and letters, a community's culture is revealed.

St. James is honoured to have received an original sketch of the "log church" completed by Anne Langton in 1840. The chalice and paten used in that first log church is still being used at services at St. James. St. James also has the original Sunday School cabinet, which was made from the butternut trees of the Langton farm. That



cabinet has been restored and is still used today.

The parish's archival committee formed partnerships with other community members in Fenelon Falls to complete the project, and its members are grateful to everyone who contributed to this project. The City of Kawartha Lakes archives granted its permission to use and photograph the miniature sketches of Anne Langton, while editor Barbara Williams gave permission for the use of the published journals.

Every church has a story, and every story reveals a community's culture. It is important that as the Church moves forward, we continue to pay respect to our past.

*Submitted by the archival committee of St. James, Fenelon Falls. The exhibit is available on the Digital Museums Canada website at [tinyurl.com/annelangton](http://tinyurl.com/annelangton).*



## Caring hands keep neighbours warm

BY SUSAN HUMPHREYS

**AT** the very east end of Toronto in West Hill, the Caring Hands Ministry at St. Margaret in-the-Pines has been meeting for many years. We are a group of about 12 women who enjoy knitting and crocheting, along with tea, goodies and each other's company.

We make hats, mitts, scarves and prayer shawls. The hats and mitts are distributed to eight local schools and agencies in our parish. This year we gave out 80 sets of hats and mitts. The prayer shawls are given to anyone in the parish who is ill or shut in. We also have shawls for baptisms and confirmations. Over the years we have given away more than 250 shawls, which have gone all over the world to Japan, the Yukon, the Caribbean, the United States and even to a soldier in Afghanistan. We gave a number of prayer shawls to a local long-term

care home for Christmas presents.

We give out the scarves to the neighbourhood. In December we set up a stand at the end of our long driveway on Lawrence Avenue East and handed out 25 scarves, served hot cider and gingerbread cookies, and met many of the people who live nearby. Most were very thankful and said they would try to attend services. One gentleman, an immigrant from Bhutan, commented that he gets great inspiration as he walks by from our large lighted cross by our old chapel. Any scarves not handed out will be given to a Homes First shelter across the road.

We give thanks to God for God's faithfulness at St. Margaret's as God leads us through the pandemic and into God's love for us.

*Susan Humphreys is the coordinator of the Caring Hands Ministry at St. Margaret in-the-Pines.*

## BRIEFLY

### Presentation considers parish archive practices

The diocesan Archives is hosting a virtual presentation by Claire Wilton, Archivist and Privacy Officer, on Feb. 15 from 7-8 p.m. on Zoom. Ms. Wilton will provide information on records retention in parishes, caring for parish registers and the ongoing preservation of these vital records through conservation at the Archives. People from across the Diocese, including clergy, parish administrators, churchwardens or anyone interested in preserving history, are welcome to attend. For registration information, email [archives@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:archives@toronto.anglican.ca).

### Open letter calls on city to take action

Despite the milder winter temperatures, two unsheltered people have died in Toronto since Christmas day. The number of unhoused people

in Toronto is more than 9,700, and by the city's own admission there is insufficient shelter space, much less housing, available for them all. In January, more than 150 Christian leaders from various denominations signed an open letter to Mayor John Tory calling for extended warming centre operations. Pressure is building to have Toronto City Council open warming centres 24/7 through the winter. To read and sign the letter, visit [stonesoupnetwork.ca/openwarmingcentres](http://stonesoupnetwork.ca/openwarmingcentres).

### Christians gather for Week of Prayer

Bishop Kevin Robertson and other leaders and participants from churches across the Greater Toronto Area attended the annual service celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service was held Jan. 22 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Toronto. The theme was "Do Good - Seek Justice," and the preacher was the Rev. Dr. Robert Faris, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The service also featured the Salvation Army Band, the Jubilation Singers and the choir from the Chinese Martyrs Church.

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2023  
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Special speakers include **Sharmila Khare**, Director General, Charities Directorate, Canada Revenue Agency, and **Robert Delaney**, Director of the Policy, Planning and Legislation Division, Charities Directorate, as well as **Cathy Taylor**, Executive Director, Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN).

This webinar is eligible for 3.5 substantive hours towards the annual Law Society of Ontario (LSO) CPD and CPA Professional Development requirements.

TO PLACE AN AD CALL 905.833.6200 ext. 22 OR EMAIL ANGLICAN@CHURCHADVERTISING.CA

## IN MOTION

### Appointments

- The Rev. Canon Paul Walker, Honorary Assistant, Redeemer, Bloor St., Dec. 18, 2022.
- The Rev. Colin Bowler, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Irwin Sikha, Incumbent, St. Bede, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Samantha Caravan, Regional Dean of Peterborough, Dec. 21, 2022.
- The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew by-the-Lake, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena, Incumbent, St. Peter (Erindale), Feb. 15.

### Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Canon Mary Conliffe.

### Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

(receiving names):

- Christ the King
- Christ Church, Bolton
- Grace Church, Scarborough
- Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst
- St. George, Haliburton
- Christ Church, Scarborough
- St. Cyprian

### Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names):

- St. Aidan, Toronto

- St. George Memorial, Oshawa
- Grace Church on-the-Hill

Second Phase - (receiving names via Area Bishop):

- Holy Trinity, Thornhill
- St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges
- St. James Cathedral

Third Phase - (no longer receiving names): N/A

### Ordinations

- The Rev. Ali McIntosh will be ordained a Priest at Christ Church, Deer Park on Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Rev. Ginie Wong will be ordained a Priest at St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South) on Feb. 5 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Ben Tshin will be ordained a Priest at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Jake Cunliffe will be ordained a Priest at St. Mary Magdalene on Feb. 25 at 11 a.m.
- The Rev. Jillian Ruch will be ordained a Priest at St. Bride, Clarkson on March 5 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Dr. Max Dionisio will be ordained a Priest at St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough on March 26 at 4 p.m.

### Conclusions

- The Rev. Canon Anthony Jemmott has concluded his appointment as Commissary to Trent-Durham Area as of Dec. 31, 2022.

### Retirements

- The Rev. Dr. Monique Taylor has announced her retirement. Her last Sunday at St. James

the Apostle, Brampton will be April 30.

- The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Paul, Uxbridge will be May 28.

### Death

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Brian Freeland died on Dec. 8, 2022. Ordained deacon in 1950 and priest in 1951 in the Diocese of Ottawa, he transferred to the Diocese of Toronto in 1953 and served as honorary assistant at multiple parishes while working for the CBC. Beginning in 1957, he served as an assistant priest at St. Thomas, Huron Street, while taking up other diocesan and national church roles, including secretary of the Bishop's Liturgical Commission, a member of the Communications and Public Relations Committee, and a member of the General Synod Worship Committee. He served as chaplain of St. Thomas' Houses and was made an honorary canon of St. James Cathedral in 2005. His funeral was held at St. Thomas, Huron Street on Jan. 21.

## PRAYER CYCLE

### FOR FEBRUARY

1. Bishop's Committee on Interfaith Ministry
2. Parish of Georgina
3. St. James the Apostle, Sharon
4. St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg
5. Bishop's Committee on Interfaith Ministry
6. St. Paul, Newmarket
7. Trinity Church, Aurora
8. Ascension, Don Mills
9. Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
10. Incarnation
11. Our Saviour
12. York Mills Deanery
13. St. Cyprian
14. St. Theodore of Canterbury
15. St. George on Yonge
16. St. John, Willowdale
17. St. John's Convent
18. St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole
19. Nottawasaga Deanery
20. Family Ministries
21. The Clergy of the Diocese of Toronto
22. Ash Wednesday
23. The Incorporated Ministry in Flemingdon Park
24. All Saints, Collingwood
25. Christ Church-St. Jude, Ivy
26. BLACC Anglicans
27. Good Shepherd, Stayner
28. Holy Trinity, Clearview

150, at St. Olave, Swansea, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue in Toronto. With Robert Busiakiewicz, the former music director at St. James Cathedral.

## Events

**FEB. 19** - Black History Service, 10:30 a.m. with guest speaker Chris Spence, an athlete, educator and author, at Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Ave., Toronto.

**FEB. 20** - Crafts, face-painting, food, magic show, music and more, 1 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Ave., Toronto.

**FEB. 21** - Pancake Supper with sausage, regular and gluten-free pancakes, making masks with children, 5-7 p.m., St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. Adults \$6, children, \$3.

# New archdeacons, canon administrator appointed

Continued from Page 1

of Montreal, and was chair of the Social Justice and Advocacy Board in Toronto, as well as an honorary clerical secretary of Synod.

"To be involved with the start of anything new is often exciting and energizing, and thus I would say that this appointment fills me with joy and a great sense of anticipation," says Archdeacon Palmer. "But precisely because the whole endeavour of appointing territorial archdeacons and canon administrators is a new model for our diocese, I also have pangs of anxiety as a member of the first cohort. The reorganizing of the leadership structure could flourish or flounder because of our work.

"Simultaneously as I experience those feelings of joy, anticipation and anxiety, I am also humbled and honored to be considered someone suitable to walk alongside our bishops, as together we work to implement the diocesan vision." Canon Palmer's varied ministry roles have included hospital chaplaincy and cemetery management, and she has served the diocese on the Risk and Governance committee and was a long-serving member of the Postulancy Committee.

Canon Walton says she is "humbled but excited" by her appointment. "I think our Church is in a time of change as we continue to work through the world of COVID-19. The positions of archdeacon and canon administrator have an opportunity not only to support the College of Bishops but our parishes and their congregations in this time of change." Canon Walton is the prolocutor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. With a career in business administration and certification in mediation, bereavement and addictions counselling, she has served as an honorary lay secretary of Synod, as a member and planner of General Synod, and is on the diocese's Diocesan Response Team.

"I am very thankful for my appointment as one of the new archdeacons," says Archdeacon Anderson. "In many ways, my new colleagues and I are on the ground floor of developing a new administrative approach for the Diocese of Toronto. This comes as such an opportune time as we grow into a new vision for our diocese. I look

forward to the challenges that await us." Archdeacon Anderson is the diocese's canon pastor. A former lawyer, he has served as a regional dean and on the diocese's Governance Working Group and the Constitution and Canons Committee.

Bishop Asbil announced the new archdeacons and canon administrator in a letter to the diocese in December. "There are few things more exciting than watching a big project come to completion," he wrote. "Last evening, at Synod Council, I was very pleased to make an announcement that concludes a piece of work that started over two and a half years ago."

In 2020, Bishop Asbil created the Episcopal Leadership Working Group (ELWG) to consider moving the Diocese of Toronto from its 40-year-old system of one diocesan bishop with four suffragan bishops, each responsible for one of five (and later four) geographic episcopal areas. The ELWG eventually recommended a new model of shared episcopal oversight, with one diocesan bishop, the existing two suffragan bishops, and a number of territorial archdeacons or lay canon administrators, to assist the bishops, the regional deans and the parishes in the more administrative functions of episcopal ministry.

After due consultation through mid-2021, Bishop Asbil formed the Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team (ELIT) to bring this vision to reality. The ELIT defined the terms of reference for the new role, devised a recruitment, interviewing, selection and on-boarding plan for the successful candidates, and considered how the diocese might be parcelled into appropriate archdeaconries for the new model.

In his December letter, Bishop Asbil wrote that he was "full of thanksgiving and deep joy" for the gift of expanded and shared ministry in the diocese. "I want to express my deep gratitude to the members of the ELWG under the leadership of Canon Brian Armstrong and Ms. Susan Graham Walker, ODT, and to the members of the ELIT, especially co-chairs the Rev. Canon Stephen Kirkegaard and Ms. Susan Abell, ODT, and to all those who have brought us to this new day in the life of our diocese."

# LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the March issue is Feb. 1. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

## Music

**FEB. 5** - Choral Evensong for Candlemas at 4 p.m. featuring the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams, followed by an illustrated music feature entitled Vaughan Williams



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# BRIEFLY

## Former secretary treasurer dies

David Ptolemy, ODT, a former member of the Synod Office staff and a long-time volunteer in the Archives department, died on Dec.

5 at the age of 92. Mr. Ptolemy was the diocese's Director of Administrative Services from July 1, 1976 to May 31, 1977. He became Secretary Treasurer on June 1, 1977 and served in that position until his retirement on Dec. 31, 1994. He was also presented with the Order of the Diocese of Toronto several years ago.

# Jesus statue caged in protest

## Encampment threatened with eviction

BY ELIN GOULDEN

ON a bright, cold December morning, more than 100 people – Anglicans and other clergy, parishioners, neighbours, supporters, representatives of the media and the local MPP – gathered on the north side of St. Stephen in-the-Fields in Toronto, where sculptor Timothy Schmalz had just installed a cage around his statue of Panhandler Jesus. Mr. Schmalz, who is internationally renowned for his statues of Jesus as an unhoused person, installed the iron cage to protest the criminalization of homelessness, specifically the Notice of Violation that had recently been served upon the residents of the encampment around the church.

Mohawk elder Danny Beaton offered the traditional Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address, bringing the crowd together as one mind. He gave thanks for the beauty and harmony of all beings, and especially for those who “fight for justice for Mother Earth and for their relations, for how can we call ourselves human beings if we do not?”

Bishop Andrew Asbil expressed support and gratitude for the work of the Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig and her parish in developing a relationship with the community and especially with the encampment residents. “People come where they feel safe and secure, where they will be accepted and find sanctuary and peace. It reminds us, at this time of the year especially, of Mary and Joseph who came to Bethlehem and found no room, and of the innkeeper who provided what little they had – a space in a stable – where love and Christ could be born. It is no surprise that in this front yard, a community has come to pitch their tents where they can find support and help.”

Since the spring, a small encampment of unhoused people has sprung up outside the front doors and around the sides of St. Stephen in-the-Fields. As the City of Toronto has moved to clear unhoused people from encampments in city parks, some have come to find refuge and welcome outside



The Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig speaks outside St. Stephen in-the-Fields in Toronto. At right, the statue Panhandler Jesus is covered in a cage. Bottom right, the Toronto United Mennonite choir sings at the event. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

St. Stephen’s, where they are able to avail themselves of the church’s outreach programs and the supports of The Neighbourhood Group next door. While the presence of the encampment has posed a physical and logistical challenge, and has drawn opposition from some neighbours, Canon Helwig and her parishioners have steadfastly supported their unhoused neighbours, recognizing that all too often they have nowhere else to go. The city’s shelter system is stretched beyond the breaking point: in October, an average of 180 callers in search of shelter were turned away every day. Even the emergency department at St. Michael’s Hospital only manages to secure shelter for 5 per cent of the unhoused patients it discharges.

On Nov. 24, the St. Stephen’s encampment was served with a Notice of Violation by the City of Toronto, with the named violations being “obstructing street” and “dwelling in street.” (Though the encampment is located between the sidewalks and the walls of the church, a city right-of-way runs across the church ground inches from the west façade of the build-



ing). The encampment residents were given until Dec. 8 to vacate the encampment, with little likeli-

hood of being able to find shelter anywhere else.

When he heard about the No-

tice of Violation, sculptor Timothy Schmalz, whose statue of “Panhandler Jesus” has been a familiar sight outside St. Stephen in-the-Fields for the past nine years, reached out to Canon Helwig with the idea of installing a cage around the statue to protest the criminalization of homelessness. Canon Helwig issued a press release, inviting Bishop Asbil to be present for the unveiling of the caged statue. Media interest in the story, amplified by an article by Canon Helwig in the December issue of *The Anglican*, which was widely shared on social media, helped spur constructive conversations between Canon Helwig, staff of The Neighbourhood Group and city staff. Several of the encampment residents have been offered, and have accepted, indoor accommodation. While the Notice of Violation remains in place, there are no plans for immediate enforcement, and city staff in the Bylaw Enforcement and Encampment Office are helping to negotiate with their colleagues in the Transportation Department to come up with a solution that will respect the security of the remaining encampment residents until they too can access dignified indoor shelter. Canon Helwig announced this temporary reprieve to great applause from the assembled supporters.

Nonetheless, the threat of eviction still hangs over the encampment, and the lack of indoor shelter still poses a threat to the life and health of unhoused Torontonians. “We know we have a housing crisis in this city,” said Bishop Asbil, “and it takes all of us to have the conversations necessary to make a new way forward, to make space for all.”

Clergy and members of several faith communities were among those gathered in support of the encampment residents. An impromptu choir of some dozen members of Toronto United Mennonite Church sang two hymns: “Child of the Poor” and “Comfort, comfort, O my people.” Mary Jo Leddy, founder of Romero House, noted that “Anglicans are always in the front lines on these issues. It’s good to see.” Local MPP Jessica Bell was also in attendance, pledging to do whatever she can to support the parish and the residents of the encampment.

Elin Goulden is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

The Diocese is on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Instagram.



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