

Clergy honoured
for long service

Why I went on
a pilgrimage



How to care for
parish registers

The Anglican

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MAY 2023

Church helps young people explore call to ministry

Year-long apprenticeship
includes room, board

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

YOUNG adults considering a call to ordained ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada will soon have the chance to explore that possibility with the support of the largest Anglican church in Toronto. Starting in September, a group of three to five apprentices will become the inaugural cohort of the Ministry Apprenticeship Program at St. Paul, Bloor Street, spending a year in service, study and spiritual formation.

The Ministry Apprenticeship Program, or MAP, was imagined before the pandemic when the Rev. Canon Dr. Barry Parker was the incumbent of St. Paul's. As part of a capital

campaign, members of the parish raised \$800,000 for the program, but with the onset of the pandemic and Canon Parker's retirement, there was no opportunity to use it.

"It was really at that point just a concept and little more than the name – the idea that St. Paul's should be an incubator for gospel ministry in Toronto and encourage new people to consider ministry," says the Rev. Dr. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson. An associate priest at St. Paul's since early 2021, Mr. Wigg-Stevenson will be MAP's director in its inaugural year.

Bishop Jenny Andison also joined St. Paul's in 2021 as its new incumbent, inheriting the concept for MAP and an untouched pool of

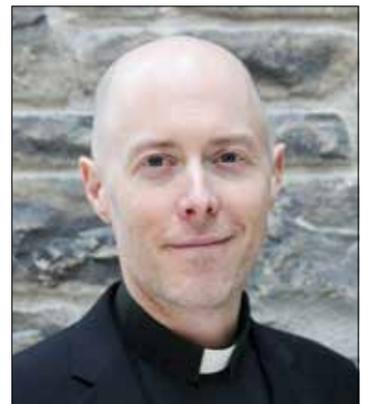


Greetings are exchanged on Sunday morning at St. Paul, Bloor Street. At right, the Rev. Dr. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson. MAIN PHOTO BY DHOU CHANG

money. It was up to the parish's new leadership team to fill in the details. "Our thinking was, what are the greatest needs of the Church – not just St. Paul's, but the Church in the diocese and, more broadly speaking, in the province and the national church – and what are the gifts that St. Paul's has to offer?" says Mr. Wigg-Stevenson.

The result is a program aimed at helping young adults discern a possible vocation to ordained

ministry, particularly those who may not be ready to commit to an expensive and time-consuming master's degree. "It's putting this idea in front of them and giving them a chance to explore that," says Mr. Wigg-Stevenson. "If you get people being ordained in their late 20s, you're talking about people who can offer decades of service to the Church, and who can offer some liveliness to the Church as it is right now."



Continued on Page 2

Anglicans want spiritual renewal

Clergy, laity express hope during consultations

BY STUART MANN

ANGLICANS in the diocese are hungry for spiritual renewal.

That's the top finding coming out of Cast the Net's extensive consultations with clergy and laity.

Cast the Net, the diocese's visioning and strategy process, takes its name and inspiration from John 21. Since last September, more than 500 clergy and laity have been asked to reflect on the scriptural passage and consider what similarities they saw between the situation the disciples found themselves in while out fishing after the resur-

rection and encountering the Risen Christ, and the situation they now find themselves after almost three years of pandemic.

The key question posed to both groups was, what might it mean for each of us, in our various ministries in the diocese, to cast our nets on the right (or other) side of the boat? For the lay consultations, participants were also asked to imagine that it was five years in the future and there was a feeling of new life and energy in their church and the diocese. They were asked, how did your church try a different approach that resulted in new life?

What new or different things did you focus on that brought energy and drew you closer to the life of Christ? What did you need to let go of to allow new things to happen?

The Cast the Net steering committee has drawn up a list of the most common responses, with the top one being spiritual renewal, comprising spiritual development and formation, preaching the gospel, evangelism, discipleship and following Jesus.

"We have heard from clergy and laity a desire to get back to the basics of Christian believing," says the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, one of

Cast the Net's coordinators, along with Dr. Anita Gittens and Canon Ian Alexander. "Over and over again, we've heard that we need to be centred in the gospel, we need to be rooted in the story of our faith, we need to be re-energized by it and its meaning in our lives. Not that it has been lost, but I think there was so much busyness that went on just getting through the days of shutdown during the pandemic, and it went on for so long, that there needs to be some time for renewal of our faith."

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Thank you

Thanks to the generosity of readers in the Diocese of Toronto, *The Anglican* received \$37,353 from last year's *Anglican Journal* fundraising campaign. The diocesan and national newspapers are mailed together 10 times a year, from September to June, and provide Anglicans with news, commentary, photos and more. The national appeal, which included diocesan newspapers across the country, raised a total of \$355,165. A donation envelope for this year's campaign is in this issue, for those who have not yet given; you can also give online. Thank you for your continued support of these newspapers. They are a vital part of the fabric of our Church.

Stuart Mann, editor

Church offers apprenticeships

Program committed to economic, racial justice

Continued from Page 1

Applicants don't need to be Anglican, but they need to be open to serving in an Anglican church and should be able to affirm the historic Christian faith as articulated in the Apostles' and Nicene creeds. They also need to have completed at least a post-secondary degree, which is a pre-requisite for admission to seminary, a logical next step for an apprentice who discerns a call to ordained ministry.

In addition to fostering vocations among young people, Mr. Wigg-Stevenson says MAP is committed to racial and economic justice, areas he suggests have not always been intentionally considered by diocesan programs and processes in Canada.

From an economic standpoint, the program includes full room and board at Wycliffe College for the year, as well as \$500 a month for personal expenses. "We wanted to make sure this was going to be available for people from all economic backgrounds. There shouldn't be any economic reason why this is prohibitive to anyone who's interested in applying," says

Mr. Wigg-Stevenson.

The leadership team is also planning to encourage applications from individuals of racial and ethnic backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in Church leadership. "St. Paul's right now just looks like Toronto, this tremendous growth from all over the world," he says. "We want the front of the church increasingly to look like the pews, and we know that has to start with encouraging vocations."

Apprentices will spend the year rotating through the ministries at St. Paul's, getting a taste of the variety of ministry possible in a church. They will be exposed to areas like young adult, youth and children's ministry, digital ministry and creative arts, small group ministry, and both contemporary and classical Anglican worship.

"I think St. Paul's really offers a learning environment where someone can experience all the different aspects that go into contemporary ministry, and experience them in a way that I hope is flourishing and hopeful," says Mr. Wigg-Stevenson.



Bishop Jenny Andison, incumbent of St. Paul, Bloor Street, speaks to young people at the church. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PAUL, BLOOR STREET

He's also confident that the people of St. Paul's will provide the kind of community support that a young person in discernment needs. He hopes to be able to pair apprentices with lay mentors who will walk with them through the year. "There's a certain unpredictable magic when you put Christians together – you just don't know how it's going to work out – but I have every trust that St. Paul's, as a church that historically has valued lay leadership, is going to find that alchemy of what it looks like to welcome these people into our community and to help them along their way for the year that they're with us," he says.

Since the discernment process is open-ended, there is no pre-determined outcome to an apprentice's year in MAP. They could choose to enroll in seminary or discover that they're being called to a different vocation or career.

"In an ideal world, God's calling

someone into ministry, they're feeling pretty confirmed in that calling by midway through MAP and they're able to write their seminary application while they're in MAP and move straight into seminary," says Mr. Wigg-Stevenson.

As for apprentices who don't discern a call to ordained ministry, he says he will feel "quietly confident in the Holy Spirit's leadership that this is going to be someone that's well poised to serve the Church in a different way in a lay capacity moving ahead."

As applications close and the interview process gets underway, Mr. Wigg-Stevenson says he's most looking forward to getting to know the apprentices. "I'll have the privilege of walking alongside a handful of people who are really trying to listen to the Spirit and be open to the calling of God into priestly ministry or whatever God might be calling them to," he says. "I don't know who they are, but God knows who they are."

Applications for the first MAP

cohort closed in April, but Mr. Wigg-Stevenson says he'd encourage anyone who might consider applying next year to go for it. "If you are a young adult who thinks, for whatever reason, that you might like to consider what it would be like to serve the Church, then why not take a year?" he says. "The worst case scenario is that you spend a great year working in a great place alongside great people, attending to your own spiritual formation, and in the end decide to go in another route."

Meanwhile, the team at St. Paul's is hoping that MAP is just one example of new ways the Holy Spirit is working in the broader Church to open the possibility of ordained vocations to more people. "I hope that what we're doing at St. Paul's is part of something bigger that God is doing with the Anglican Church of Canada," says Mr. Wigg-Stevenson. "I'm excited to see what it looks like."

To learn more about MAP, visit www.stpaulsbloor.org/map.

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Clergy honoured for service

Bishop Andrew Asbil presents stoles to clergy in honour of their 25th and 50th years of ordination to the priesthood at the diocese's annual Blessing of Oils and the Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows of Bishops, Priests and Deacons service at St. James Cathedral on April 4. After the service, clergy received consecrated oil for anointing and healing. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



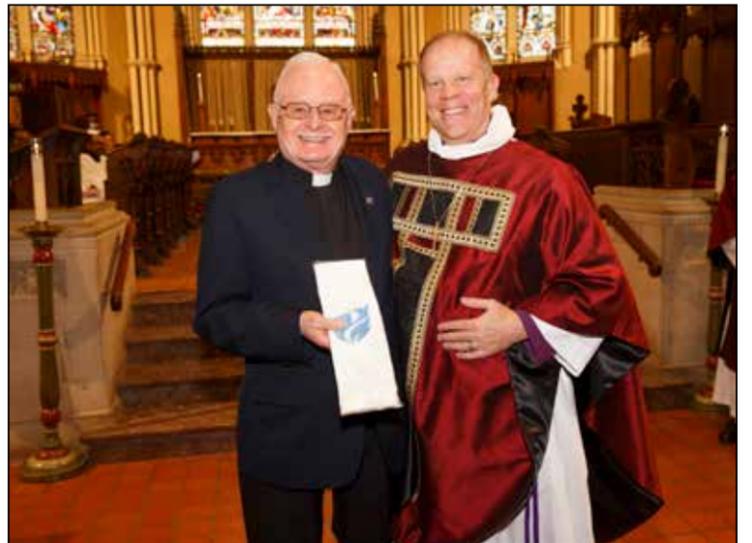
The Rev. Chris Horne receives her silver jubilee stole.



The Rev. Canon Millie Hope receives her silver jubilee stole.



Bishop Kevin Robertson receives his silver jubilee stole.



The Rev. Canon Bill Kibblewhite receives his golden jubilee stole.



Positions Vacant for School Chaplains

Currently our schools are recruiting Anglican clergy to work as Chaplains. There are immediate vacancies for commencement late this year as well as in 2024 and 2025.

The Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Schools Australia will be in Canada this June and is keen to meet with interested Anglican clergy. Individual interviews and small group information sessions will be conducted in Toronto.

Anglican clergy are encouraged to contact us to request a meeting with the CEO. You are invited to submit a current Curriculum Vitae, including appropriate professional and personal details.

Please send your information and meeting request by email to pa@ascschools.edu.au. Acknowledgement will be sent to confirm receipt.

Interviews and small group meetings will be held in Toronto on **Friday June 30th**.

You will be notified of further details by early June

You are invited to join our CEO to find out about the possibility of working in an Australian Anglican school.

Further information about Anglican Schools Australia and our member schools is available via the website www.anglicanschoolsaustralia.edu.au

Dare to be a priest



One of the joys of being a bishop is presiding at the ordinations of deacons and priests. Ordinations are full of joy and promise, and new clergy are signs of hope for the Church.

Ask any priest and they will tell you about the “holy huddle” of colleagues who laid hands on them with the bishop during the moment of consecration, and how deeply moving it was. Most clergy will not easily forget that experience of being covered in prayer!

We need more priests. We need pastors and teachers who will gather the people of God, preside at the sacraments of the new covenant, preach the word, and embody the love of Christ to a broken and hurting world. Our current clergy shortage means that we cannot consistently and reliably provide priestly ministry to every parish across our diocese. It also makes it challenging to create a list of candidates when parishes are in a selection process.

The shortage of priests has been particularly apparent during the pandemic, and I think there are several reasons for the dearth. First, I think the Church is not exempt from the overall labour shortage that is endemic across our country. As in secular society, we are experiencing the retirements of many baby boomers, and the “Great Resignation” of the early pandemic continues. Second, I believe concerns about the long-term viability of the institutional Church cause younger people in particular to think twice about their options as

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP KEVIN ROBERTSON

they test a call to the sacrificial life of a priest. With a decreasing number of full-time ministry positions, how can a young person contemplate a priestly vocation while also desiring to raise a family, especially with housing costs in the Greater Toronto Area? Thirdly – and perhaps most importantly – I'm not sure we always do a good job of looking and listening for those whom God may be calling. How often do we talk about vocation or ask people whether God might be calling them?

Back in the 1980s, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto launched a public advertising campaign seeking to raise up new priests. The roadside posters had a simple slogan: “Dare to be a Priest Like Me!” with the telephone number of the archdiocese under the slogan. The poster showed the crucified Jesus in the foreground against the backdrop of the City of Toronto. Several priests – including the current Roman Catholic Bishop of Ottawa – credit this campaign for having stirred something within them to consider this call.

Can we also find creative ways to help stir that longing within others? Can we be more intentional about planting the seeds that will yield a harvest of new clergy for our Church? I will never forget the day I returned home for the Christmas break from my first year of undergraduate studies. Waiting for me at my parents' home was a letter addressed to me from Bishop Taylor Pryce, former suffragan bishop of our diocese. I had been confirmed

by him a few years before at my home parish of Holy Trinity, Thornhill and I had met him just a handful of times. The letter included an invitation to come and have dinner with him and others at the end of the Christmas break. When I arrived at the dinner, there were about a dozen other 20-somethings around the table, all there to hear more about ordained ministry and to share their own tentative sense of perhaps being called to the priesthood. At least three of the young people around that table went on to ordination in our diocese.

There are other opportunities, too. In some churches, the Fourth Sunday of Easter (“Good Shepherd Sunday”) is a day to focus on vocations. The readings for that day provide wonderful opportunities to speak about calling. I would love to see Easter 4 revived as a “Vocations Sunday” for our Church each year.

On May 10, I celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination as a priest. And what a ride it has been! There have been some very difficult moments along the way, but many more filled with the sheer joy and privilege of serving the Church of Christ. If I had to do it all over again, I most certainly would. There really is no life like it.

This Easter season, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the new life we have in him, I invite you to look around and see who God may be calling to be a priest. Perhaps God is calling you. If so, please do not delay in speaking with your parish priest or contacting Canon Mary Conliffe, who oversees our postulancy process. If you believe God may be calling you into this wonderful ministry, dare to say yes. Dare to be a priest!



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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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Anglicans share their views

Continued from Page 1

The desire for spiritual renewal is so strong and widespread that Cast the Net's steering committee, which includes Bishop Andrew Asbil, plans to bring a proposal to Synod Council in May in response to it. The steering committee decided to act on it now rather than waiting for the final report that goes to Synod in November.

“Our process from the very beginning has been to not wait until the final report is issued to start doing things,” says Canon Alexander. “This particular theme is so strong that we think we need to act on it now, so we're developing a proposal that would take us past Synod and into some kind of pan-diocesan initiative in 2024.”

The committee is working on ideas and the proposal will be communicated to the diocese after the meeting of Synod Council in May, he said.

In addition to spiritual renewal, other high-priority responses from the consultations included attracting younger people, building up congregations and coping with decline, connecting with the broader community, greater cooperation among parishes and other denominations, addressing clergy wellness

and volunteer burnout, dismantling racism and colonialism, and focusing on social and economic justice and homelessness.

Participants also articulated their hopes for the diocese. These included: being Christ-centred, loving and in a prayerful relationship with God; being bold and innovative; being less institutional, secular and bureaucratic; speaking to people where they are today; being more inclusive; having better communication and collaboration; and less emphasis on attendance and revenue as measures of success.

Despite the trials and tribulations of the pandemic, which saw churches shuttered for several months and restrictions imposed on gatherings, clergy and laity expressed a strong degree of hope.

Dr. Gittens says people are moving from grieving the loss of parishioners who didn't return to church when they reopened to accepting the current situation. “People are starting to accept that this is the new norm and are asking, how are we going to move forward and what can we do? I've heard discipleship and evangelism mentioned a lot. Some have said that they don't feel they have the

skills to share their faith with their neighbour, and that they need to learn how to do that.”

Canon Alexander says people are at different stages of emerging and recovering from the pandemic. “Some parishes that we've spoken to have actually found that the pandemic has been transformative in a positive way for them, and that while some regular church members haven't come back, new folks have come in. So there is a certain level of emergence going on in some places and a turn towards hopefulness.”

Participants also expressed pleasure at working together, he says. “When we put people together from different parishes, at the end of the conversation we saw comments such as, ‘so good to hear that other people are going through similar things,’ and, ‘great to pick up on what others are doing.’ That is very much what this project is all about – getting the diocese to talk to itself and, as Bishop Andrew says, sing together again.”

While the clergy and lay consultations ended at the end of March, the committee planned to hold additional consultations in April and May with other groups, in-

cluding young families, chaplains, Indigenous ministries, youth and children's ministries, the Anglican Church Women and people who do not have the ability to meet online.

The committee has enlisted the help of Dr. Sarah Johnson, the Anglican Studies professor at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, who will analyze the data and identify some of the key themes and minority voices from all the consultations. Her findings, together with those of the committee, will help the committee begin to form recommendations that will come to Synod in November.

On behalf of the steering committee, Dr. Gittens, Dean Elliott and Canon Alexander thanked all those who took part in the consultations and those who facilitated them and provided administrative support, in particular Janet Marshall and Elizabeth McCaffrey of the diocese's Congregational Development department, members of the Diocesan Volunteer Corps, Amanda Lowry of the Bishop's Office, Melissa Doidge of the Stewardship Development and Congregational Development departments and Ajith Philip of the Administration and Property Support department.

Recycle The Anglican.



GIVE IT TO A FRIEND.

Why I went on a pilgrimage

BY THE REV. MARIA NIGHTINGALE

I am not any great expert on pilgrimage. I don't have any authoritative advice to give others on how to find the "best" pilgrimage. What I can speak to is my own experience of what led me to make my first pilgrimage this past fall.

I have never been a particularly athletic person, nor would I describe myself as particularly "outdoorsy." But sometime a number of years after the death of my husband, I discovered that walking in nature became a good way to work through stress and grief. It became part of my prayer practice to hike, though I wasn't always praying every time I hiked.

The desire then became to do something with my walking that was more intentional and for a longer period of time. The only pilgrimage route I'd ever heard of was the Camino in Spain, so I started by googling the Camino. Around the same time, a cousin walked the Camino and posted pictures on Facebook.

Thanks to the algorithms used by Facebook, things about pilgrimage started popping up in my feed. That's how I discovered that there are also pilgrimage routes in Ireland. That interested me because part of my heritage is Irish. I followed the Pilgrim Path page that is dedicated to these Irish pilgrimage routes. I visited Ireland with some friends in 2017, and my intention had been to walk at least one of the pilgrim paths, but the friends I was with weren't up for it, so I let the idea drop, intending to get back there someday. And then I changed jobs, and then the pandemic hit with all its travel restrictions, and I put the dream on hold. But it was still there in the background, and still popping up from time to time in my Facebook feed.

In 2021, something about the Camino Nova Scotia popped up in my feed. This was intriguing. Something closer to home than Europe! The timing wasn't right yet, though. Then in 2022, our College of Bishops announced the mini-sabbatical program for clergy, and they didn't put any restrictions on how that time was used. The time was right. I knew that a pilgrimage in Nova Scotia was exactly what I needed for a sabbatical time.

Pilgrimage has been described as "praying with your feet," and is a very intentional and physical way of using one's body in prayer. There were practical things I needed to do to prepare for the journey: buy plane tickets, book accommodations for both sides of the pilgrimage (during the pilgrimage we slept at churches or church camps along the route), acquire items and pack as lightly as possible. Physical preparation was needed, too. The pilgrimage was in early October, so I started walking every day of my summer vacation in August, gradually increasing the length of the walks. The longest I'd ever walked in one day prior to this preparation was 10km. We had been sent the itinerary, and the longest day would be a 30km walk! My goal was to do



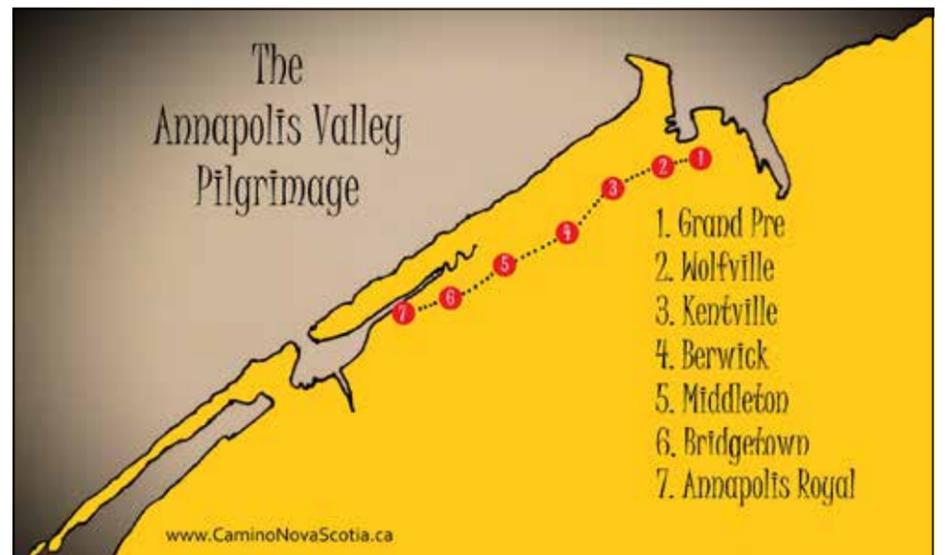
Above, pilgrims walk on the Camino Nova Scotia on a foggy day. At right, a map of the writer's route near the Bay of Fundy. PHOTO BY THE REV. MARIA NIGHTINGALE AND MAP BY CAMINO NOVA SCOTIA

that prior to the pilgrimage. I didn't make it, but I got fairly close. Returning to my regular schedule after vacation, and with lessening hours of daylight, I wasn't able to walk as far, but I still made it my goal to walk at least a couple kilometres every day in preparation.

The other part of the preparation was a spiritual one. The information we were sent about expectations clearly stated: "Walking pilgrimage is more than just a hike! Pilgrimage is travel for transformation. It's an opportunity to mindfully experience yourself in relation – to other pilgrims, to the land, to history and to the transcendent. Camino Nova Scotia is designed to provide times for personal growth and spiritual nurture, all while undertaking a physical challenge, with an eye to appreciating Nova Scotia for its place, its peoples, and its past."

We were asked to think about why we were making the pilgrimage, and why now. Of course, what I thought I was seeking ahead of time and what God chose to reveal to me by the end of it were two different things!

A pilgrimage is not just an external, physical journey: it is an internal, spiritual one as well. The two journeys are inextricably linked, however. What is happening while one walks informs one's inner reflections, and one's inner reflections inform how one sees what is happening around them as they walk.



One of the pilgrimage leaders remarked that "when you walk, the land becomes a part of you." By which she meant the act of walking helps you understand the land, and the land has a deep impact on you, in a way that riding or driving over it does not. As I walked, the landscape and the weather became part of my prayerful reflections about community, belonging and discernment. I had been seeking absolute certainty about what lay ahead, and what was revealed by the end was that even if things were "foggy" I just needed to trust the path and the directions I'd been given, and trust that eventually the fog would clear; but in the midst of the fog, to appreciate the beauty of that which was right in front of me. It felt really important to just

be in the moment, and not let the lack of clarity about the future disturb my state of mind, heart and soul. In a profound way, I could hear God asking me to relax and to trust.

By the end, I had gone roughly 110km from Grand Pré to Annapolis Royal. And while the physical journey sounds impressive to some (and I am proud of myself for finishing it!), I think what impressed me more was the spiritual journey that was tied to that physical journey; the connection to land and community, and the learning that developed and came together over five short days.

The Rev. Maria Nightingale is the associate priest at St. Peter, Erindale.



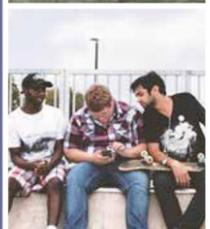
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“I was hungry and you gave me food...”
— Matthew 25:35



*Generosity
is the best way
of becoming more,
more and
more
joyful.*

—Archbishop
Desmond Tutu
The Book of Joy

Thank you!

The Diocese of Toronto’s annual FaithWorks Campaign raised \$1,434,100 in 2022 in support of Anglican-affiliated ministries throughout the Diocese and around the world.

We are called to share in God’s joy.

By Peter Mentis, FaithWorks Campaign Manager

The FaithWorks theme for 2023 is a quote from *The Book of Joy*, co-authored by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. Archbishop Tutu says,

“The Dead Sea in the Middle East receives fresh water, but it has no outlet, so it doesn’t pass the water out. It receives beautiful water from the rivers, and the water goes dank. I mean, it just goes bad. And that’s why it is the Dead Sea. It receives and does not give. In the end, generosity is the best way of becoming more, more, and more joyful.”

This passage reminds me of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*. He had condemned himself to a path of misery, loneliness and death. His fist was clenched tight, holding onto everything he had received and believed to be his exclusively. His life became a desolate place like the Dead Sea.

We can easily fall into this trap. Archbishop Tutu offers us a way out. He offers us a way to avoid this trap in the first place. He offers us generosity as a path to joy. He would have us understand and experience that opening our hearts to others, opening our clenched fists to share with others brings us joy. It is like finding an outlet for the Dead Sea, or the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. Yes, we are transformed by generosity! We build new relationships. We have a positive impact on the world. We better see true value and meaning beyond material possessions.

We are called to share in God’s joy. “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.” Jesus says (John 15:11). We are called to be joyful. “Rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy.” Peter exhorts us (1 Peter 1:8). “We rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.” Paul teaches us (Romans 5:2). I rejoice that through your generosity to FaithWorks, you have experienced the transformative and divine joy of generosity.

Thank you to all our donors, large or small, new or ongoing, individual, parish, corporate or foundation. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers in parishes and at the Diocese. Thank you to our ministry partners who are on the frontline of the struggle to bring well-being and security to so many. I pray the joy of generosity be yours. I pray your generosity leads you to a fuller experience of God’s love. I pray that you will continue to help the most vulnerable among us.

In 2022, the impact of your donation to FaithWorks was felt across the Diocese and throughout the world. There was a **35% increase** in the need for services provided by FaithWorks' ministry partners.



Over 27,000 people were served, including:

17,746

people who were fed, sheltered, nurtured and befriended

3,224

refugees, new Canadians and migrant workers who received support

2,702

people touched by the prison system

2,522

families who received assistance

1,439

women, children and youth who received life skills and housing support

846

Indigenous people who received pastoral, outreach and mentoring services

856

young adults living with mental health challenges

152

people impacted by HIV/AIDS



Thank you to our Ministry Partners

Our FaithWorks Ministry Partners struggle on the front-line each and every day to share the transforming power of Christ's love with thousands of people in need. We thank our Ministry Partners for being powerful witnesses to the love that is changing lives and changing the world.

A Place Called Home, Lindsay
All Saints Church Community Centre, Toronto
Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA)
Couchiching Jubilee House, Orillia
Flemingdon Park Ministry, Toronto
Inn from the Cold, Newmarket

Migrant Workers Ministry, Durham
North House, Durham
One City Peterborough
One Roof Community Centre, Peterborough
Orillia Christian Centre "The Lighthouse"
Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care, Toronto
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)
Samaritan House, Barrie
The Dam, Mississauga
Toronto Urban Native Ministry, Toronto

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS

Thank you to our Corporate and Foundation Donors who contributed \$234,900 to FaithWorks in 2022. Your generosity makes it possible to improve the lives of thousands of individuals and families.

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation
BMO Financial Group
Fast Foundation

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Fleck Family Foundation
New England Company

\$15,000 - \$19,999

Anglican Foundation
– Apostolic Catholic Trust
Letko, Brosseau & Associates

\$5,000 - \$14,999

Bicknell Foundation
Fiera Capital Corporation
Rogers Gardham, ODT
Smith-Boake Designwerke
VPC Group
Worker Sisters of the Holy Spirit

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Caldwell Securities
Foster Hewitt Foundation
Margaret Sisley Foundation
Nursing & Homemakers Inc.
Oriole Foundation
Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt LLP
Uplands Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR PARISHES

You are at the heart of the annual FaithWorks campaign as communities of compassion and hope. 93% of parishes participated in the 2022 campaign. Contributions from our parishes were \$871,700. Parishes retained \$82,368 for local outreach ministries. Area grants totaled \$43,145.

Thank you for being communities of love and hope.

Anglican Diocese of Toronto
135 Adelaide St E, Toronto, ON M5C 1L8
T 647-578-9757 | 1-800-668-8932
E faithworks@toronto.anglican.ca
W faithworks.ca



facebook.com/torontoanglican | [@anglicandioTO](https://twitter.com/anglicandioTO)
FaithWorks 2022 Charitable Registration
No. 107505059 RR0001



Visit www.faithworks.ca
for more information
or to donate

FIRST ARRIVALS

Some of the first migrant workers arriving in Durham Region in March shop for warm clothing, food and hygiene products at the Hub at St. Saviour, Orono. The Hub is part of the diocese's Migrant Worker Ministry, which serves the needs of thousands of men from Mexico and the Caribbean who work on farms in Durham Region every spring, summer and fall. The Hub, which is staffed by volunteers, provides donated items to the men for free. Items include coats, sweaters, shoes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and non-perishable food such as sugar, instant coffee, soft drinks and snacks. Joining the first arrivals at the Hub are the Rev. Augusto Nunez, the incumbent of St. Saviour's, with Dan and Audrey Margeran and their son from St. Jude, Wexford in Toronto, who were donating some items. To donate items to the Hub, contact Mr. Nunez at 416-886-4482 or email augusto.nunez73@gmail.com. PHOTOS BY THE REV. AUGUSTO NUNEZ



Galaxy S23
March 21, 2023



Galaxy S23
January 29, 2023 11



The Companions Program September 2023 – June 2024

The **residential Companions** program is an immersive opportunity to experience a contemporary monastic community rooted in the Benedictine tradition. It is open to women aged 21 and up regardless of Christian denomination.

Companions live, work, and pray alongside the sisters, learning from them but also sharing each companion's own gifts with the sisters and their ministries. They will:

- Learn to cultivate peaceful and creative ways of living in a diverse intentional community
- Appreciate silence and solitude as well as community and service for a healthy life
- Put down deep roots of spiritual intimacy with God and each other
- Develop a personal path to ongoing spiritual growth
- Discern individual gifts and vocations.



Application start & end (both programs):
January 1, 2023 – May 15, 2023



Open to women of all Christian expressions, **Companions Online** is an opportunity to become "monastics in the world," living a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, work, study, and recreation. Online Companions learn to develop practices that support and nurture their spiritual life from the comfort of their homes.

They meet regularly for classes and discussion groups, and commit to times of personal prayer at home. They share in book studies, participate in online worship and screen films relevant to spiritual growth and self-understanding. Online Companions also develop spiritual disciplines that follow the liturgical year.

Cost:

Residential Companions: sugg. \$100/month.

Companions Online: sugg. \$50/month.

If cost is a hindrance, assistance is available.

To learn more about either program, or to apply, email:

Shannon Frank-Epp, Program Coordinator, at companions@ssjd.ca, or phone St. John's Convent: 416-226-2201, ext. 342

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

How to care for parish records

Correct storage of important information is critical

BY CLAIRE WILTON

As part of its mandate, the Diocese of Toronto Archives collects and makes accessible the records of the parishes in the diocese. These records must be cared for by the parish until it determines that the records should be transferred to the Archives.

A record is information created and maintained by a congregation, regardless of media, used to control, support or document the activities of the congregation. Records include documents, photographs, video and film recordings, sound recordings, maps and drawings. An archival record is a record of enduring cultural, historical or evidentiary value and should be kept permanently.

How to store records

The first step in caring for parish records is to manage the records in the parish, making sure records that don't need to be kept permanently are routinely destroyed when they're no longer needed.

For records that are archival and need to be kept permanently, it's important to make sure they're being properly cared for. Records should ideally be stored in a location that maintains a relatively consistent temperature and humidity all year round, with temperature around 20 degrees Celsius and relative humidity of 45 per cent. Where such ideal conditions aren't possible, the parish should aim to keep the records in an area that doesn't experience significant fluctuations in temperature or humidity during the year. Records stored in areas with high temperature, high relative humidity and low air circulation are at risk of developing mould. If your parish has any records that show signs of mould, contact the Archives to get advice on how best to deal with them.

Records not stored in a file cabinet should be stored in boxes raised off the floor on metal shelving. This keeps them safe from water damage in the event of flooding and helps to protect against pests that make their home in wood. It's a good idea to place sticky traps in areas where



Photographs that provide historical value, such as this one of the diocese's Anglican Young People's Association conference in Orillia in 1957, should be kept permanently. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

you're storing records, preferably in darker corners where pests may hide. Check the traps on a routine basis to make sure you're not experiencing a pest problem. Several insects, including silverfish and book lice, will cause damage to records. If you notice insect activity, contact the Archives to discuss ways to remediate this issue.

Newspaper

Records within a parish archival collection may also need special care and consideration. If you are keeping newspaper clippings of articles about your congregation, make sure to note the name of the newspaper, the date of publication, and the page number where the article appeared.

Newspaper is very acidic and should be stored in a separate file folder from other material, or in an archives-safe enclosure if stored with other items. Items that are stored with newspaper, without any sort of buffer, will discolour and deteriorate more quickly.

Photographs

Photographs can be a wonderful way of documenting an event in the life of your congregation, but only photographs that have some historical value, providing evidence of people or events significant to the parish, should be kept permanently. Ideally, the subject of the photograph

should be clear and identifiable. If there are multiple photographs showing the same image from the same event, keep only the best one.

It's important to provide some written context for the photo, such as the date it was taken, the name of individuals photographed, and the event or location where it was taken. This ensures that when future generations view the photograph, they can understand the context and historical significance. To make sure the photograph isn't damaged when adding this information, you can use an index card stored behind the photo in a photo album or storage box. Alternatively, writing on the back of the photograph with a pencil is an acceptable choice. Write lightly around the edges to avoid damaging the focus of the photograph at the centre.

To ensure the long-term preservation of archival photographs, they can be stored in a box or in albums. If stored in a box, the box should be archives-safe quality that is acid-free and lignin-free, as photographs stored in an acidic environment will become discoloured over time. If stored in a photo album, they should be kept in acid-free sleeves made of polyester, polypropylene or polyethylene; avoid plastic sleeves made of polyvinyl chloride (also called PVC or vinyl). Photographs should not be adhered to the pages in any way, as glue and tape can cause discolouration and lead to deterioration of the photograph.

Photographs should be handled with care and only touched while wearing white cotton or nitrile gloves to avoid oils from fingers being left on the surface of the photograph, leading to deterioration over time. If the photograph is in fragile condition, arrangements should be made to transfer it to the Archives so we can make sure it's stored in the best conditions possible.

Audio-visual materials

Audio-visual material may be recorded on various media formats, including acetate-based film strips, magnetic tape like VHS, and CD/DVDs. Unfortunately, many of the formats can't be viewed or listened to as the necessary hardware becomes obsolete. This is an issue particularly with formats that require a specific viewing machine that is no longer manufactured. VCRs can be difficult to find these days, and many computers no longer have a

CD/DVD drive. This can also mean that if audio-visual materials have not been labelled properly, they become meaningless, as the contents cannot be verified. Take time to properly label these types of records, including title, date of recording and length of recording.

Audio-visual materials are more prone to deterioration, due to environmental conditions, than paper and should be handled carefully. They should be stored in a relatively cool location with relative humidity around 40 per cent.

Repair & conservation

If your parish has records showing signs of deterioration or damage and you feel they should be repaired, this work should be conducted by a professional conservator. Trying to repair records without the necessary knowledge or expertise may cause more damage in the long-term. In particular, regular transparent tape should never be used to mend tears in documents or photographs.

Transferring records

For records that are considered archival, we encourage you to transfer them to the Archives when they can no longer be properly cared for in the parish, perhaps due to age, condition or space issues. The Archives has storage with the ideal environmental conditions to slow deterioration of fragile records, and will allow us to schedule conservation treatments if needed.

We strongly encourage parishes to send in their parish registers of baptism, confirmations, marriages and burials as soon as the registers are no longer in use. These records are accepted as proof of birth and marriage, and in some instances where there have been errors or omissions in provincial registration of these events, they can be used to confirm the correct information. Due to the irreplaceable nature of these records, it's important to make sure they're sent to the Archives for storage in our vault, which has a fire suppression system. Several congregations have had devastating fires over the years, and in some cases records have been destroyed. For registers still in use or kept at the parish, we recommend they be stored in a fire-resistant safe or file cabinet.

If your parish has determined you may have records that should be transferred to the Archives, there are several steps you need to take to move that process forward. Before arranging to transfer records, the records must be boxed in clean boxes. You'll also need to fill out a record transfer form that provides a file-level listing of the records to be transferred. This form is available on our website, www.toronto.anglican.ca/archives, or you can contact the Archives and we will send you a form. Once you complete the record transfer form, scan it and send it to us so we can review what you're planning to send.

The Archives doesn't accept bibles, prayer books, banners, or liturgical vessels and linens. If these are no longer needed by your parish and have associated memorials, you can take a photo of the item and the inscription to keep permanently. These items can then be offered to other churches through a notice in the diocesan Bulletin Board; send an email to editor@toronto.anglican.ca. You can also reach out to the bishops' administrative assistants in case they're aware of churches looking for these items. Otherwise, they can be reverently destroyed.

Claire Wilton is the diocese's archivist.



At left, audio-visual material shows deterioration due to age while a poorly stored marriage register shows soot and water damage. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

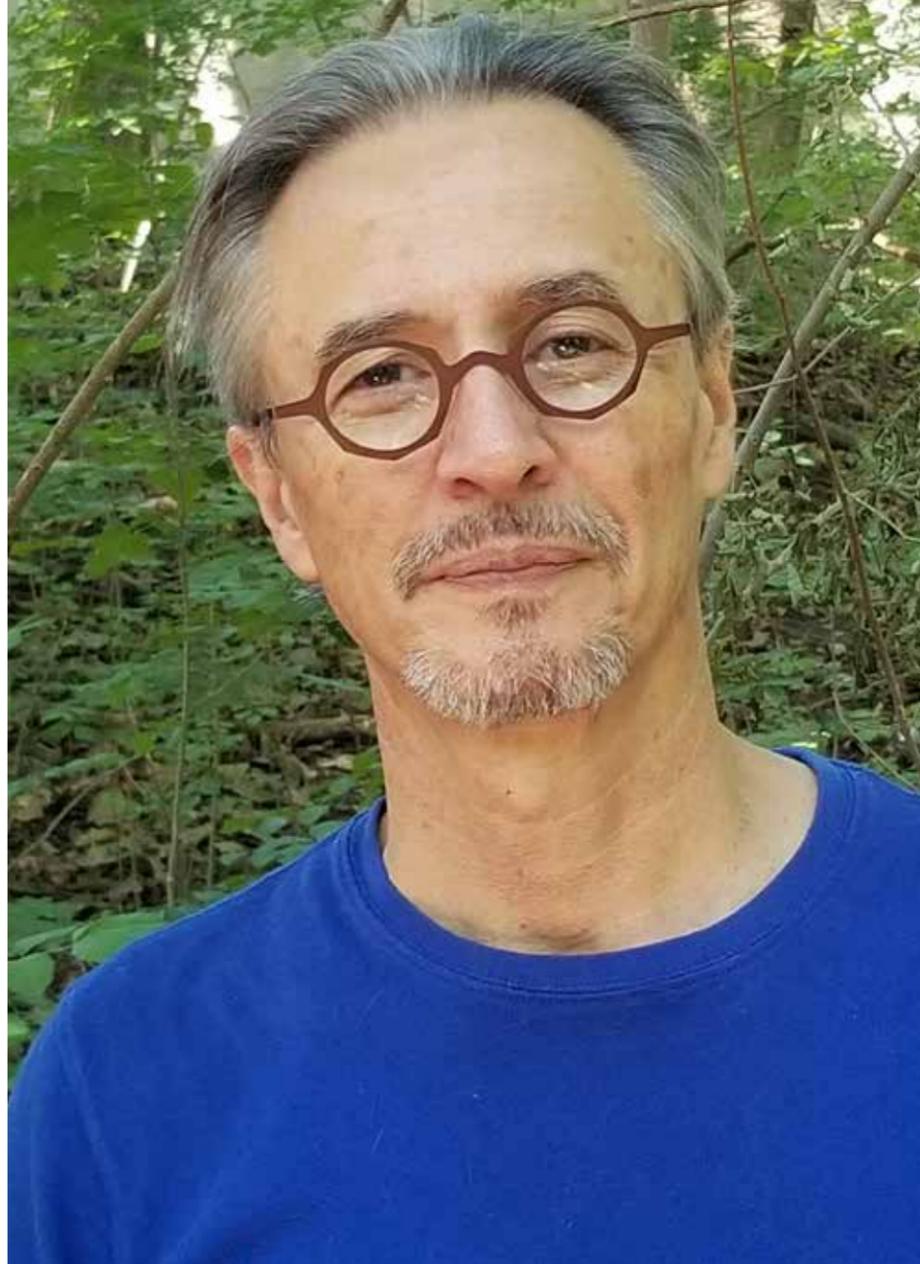
We want to care for what we love

Roberto Chiotti is a member of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and is an advisor to Net Zero Churches, an Anglican-led organization in Canada that aims to help churches reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from their buildings to zero.

My mother was born in Shanghai to a Chinese mother and English father. She was raised in what was known there as the Church of England faith, although we also have Confucian and Buddhist ancestors. My father was born in Italy and raised as a Roman Catholic. After joining the Italian navy, he was assigned as an admiral's aide and eventually served as chief of staff of the Italian embassy in Shanghai. They emigrated to Toronto from Shanghai after the Communist takeover, and I was conceived enroute. Growing up as a young child in North York, I would walk to our nearest church in the neighbourhood, which happened to be Presbyterian. That is where I learned my basic Bible teachings, creed and Christian values. We had a close family friend who was a cantor at an inner-city Anglican church (the name of the church escapes me) and our family would attend Christmas Eve services there frequently. Since my brothers and I were enrolled in the public school system, it was not until I became a teenager that I finally went to study my Catholic catechism, receive my first communion, and was confirmed.

Later, as an older teenager growing up during the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement, etc., I chose to reject authority, including organized religion, in favour of what I believed was a sound personal ethical and moral compass. It was another decade before I realized this was not working for me and chose to revisit my Catholic faith. By then, Vatican II had transformed the catechesis and liturgy in ways that were much more in alignment with my own interests. At about the same time, I met my wife Kimberly, who had been raised in the United Church and who seemed to be on a similar faith journey. Together, we began attending St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto, and eventually she chose to be confirmed in the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil in 1987. The following year, we were married at the cathedral.

After helping to serve a Christmas meal at an inner-city drop-in centre for ex-psychiatric patients, I began volunteering there on a regular basis and met a client who suggested my wife and I continue our theological studies at St. Michael's College, TST (Toronto School of Theology). We signed up in 1989 and began taking one evening course per term. One of our professors inspired us to begin attending the Basilian-staffed St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at the Newman Centre on campus, where he would preach occasionally. There we found ourselves part of a diverse and loving community. The liturgies were beautiful and often pushed traditional boundaries in ways that we found empowering and life-giving. In 1998, I finally graduated with my master of theological studies degree. By then, my wife Kimberly had transferred to OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), where she completed a master's degree of education in psychology, counselling, after which she established a psychotherapy practice specializing in grief, depression and anxiety.



Roberto Chiotti

Unfortunately, at some point, a new pastor was brought into the Newman Centre whose approach caused a great exodus of longstanding parishioners. Some of us ended up at an alternative Christian faith group called "Ruah." Eventually, Kimberly and I migrated back to our Catholic roots and joined Our Lady of Lourdes parish, staffed by the Jesuits. We were volunteering at Casey House AIDS hospice at the time, and the Jesuits had a ministry to Catholic residents of the hospice and offered a monthly healing mass at the church, which we often attended.

Since 2006, we have been registered parishioners at St. Gabriel's parish in Toronto, staffed by the Passionists. It is beyond our own parish boundaries but attracts me as the only church structure that has been designed to embody the eco-theological principles of Passionist priest and cultural historian, the Rev. Thomas Berry, C.P., author of seminal works such as *The Dream of the Earth* and *The Great Work*. As the architect of the church, I also have a more intimate connection and deeply rooted love for the place. It was during my graduate studies in theology and ecology at St. Michael's College that I was introduced to Berry's teachings by Fr. Stephen Dunn, C.P., who was both founder and director of the Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology at St. Mike's. Both Steve and Tom served as mentors for me over the years.

St. Gabriel's represents my unofficial graduate thesis, a way to give tangible,

meaningful expression to what Steve and Tom taught me about how to be in right relationship to the Earth. The design and orientation of the building towards the south garden reminds us that when we gather to worship, we do so within the greater context of creation. At the time it was consecrated in 2006, it was Canada's first church to achieve LEED Gold Certification and the first LEED Gold building in Toronto, garnering the city's coveted Green Design Award in 2007. From the beginning, every design decision was considered through the lens of eco-theology and as such, the completed building represents a form of catechesis, in and of itself, inviting us to contemplation and transformation. Our firm, Larkin Architect Limited, also recently completed a new church for the parish of St. Benedict's in Milton, Ont., designed to be the first net-zero carbon emissions church in Canada. It combines geothermal heating/cooling with a super-insulated building envelope and a 95 Kw array of solar photovoltaic panels mounted on carports in the parking lot.

I currently serve on my parish's Building Management Committee, in charge of the planning and ongoing management of the church building and its property. One of our roles was to re-envision St. Gabriel's one-acre garden, which initially had been planted to reflect the area's pre-settlement ecosystem. Over the years, it had become home to many invasive species that were choking out the original plant material. Subsequently,

it soon became known as the "Garden of Weeden." Subsequently, it has been re-constructed using Hugelkultur, an all-natural method, to grow food for local pollinator species and the Good Shepherd homeless shelter. We have a separate garden ministry of dedicated volunteers who tend to this wonderful, thriving resource.

I also conduct several tours and lectures at or about the church throughout the year, providing insights on how the design responds to eco-theology. St. Gabriel's has also been featured in Toronto Doors Open more than once. I am also currently serving as a facilitator for a parish-wide synodal discernment process that has established a three-fold vision for how the parish engages the world around us, which includes care for creation.

Another profound influence in my life was the decision for us to partner with our friends Kevin Shortt and Jack Bond to purchase a property in Northumberland County and build a straw bale, off-the-grid house together. Living there and caring for the land together as an intentional community helps to keep me grounded, centred and oriented for the work I do.

I am currently serving as a founding member of the Diocese of Toronto's Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and its liturgy and education subcommittees which, over the past two years, have provided many resources for parishes in the diocese such as Lenten, Advent and Season of Creation reflections, suggestions for how to gather out of doors for worship during COVID-19, and other initiatives that reflect our mandate. In 2020, I was appointed by the diocese to the Board of Management for Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, with the added assignment of exploring ways to redevelop its property to provide much needed affordable housing for the surrounding community while partnering with other local parishes and social service organizations to expand its ministries and outreach capabilities.

I am also an advisor to a nationwide Anglican initiative founded by Mark Gibson called Net Zero Churches that seeks to assist parishes across Canada to achieve Net-Zero carbon emissions as a faith-based response to the climate crisis. I am also willing to assist local parishes in the Diocese of Toronto who are seeking ways to achieve this goal and find other ways to reduce their ecological footprint. I believe that the climate crisis is the most threatening existential issue facing humanity today and is therefore deserving of all the attention and efforts we can muster. Ultimately, we cannot not have a healthy, thriving human and more than human community on a planet that is unhealthy.

My hope is that we will all become re-enchanted with the beauty of creation. Beauty stops us in our tracks, we fall in love with what we find beautiful, and we want to care for what we love. Five years from now, I pray that we have met our Paris Protocol commitments and prevented a rise in global temperatures beyond the threshold of 1.5 degrees.

I am not a biblical scholar, preferring instead to focus on the scripture that is creation, which for me represents the primary expression of the divine presence.

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

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Dr. John Oakes, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Cyprian, March 19.
- The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ the King, April 1.
- The Rev. William (Bill) Welch, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of North Essa, April 1.
- The Rev. Heather Gwynne-Timothy, Chaplain to the Retired for the Eglinton, Scarborough, St. James, Toronto East and York Mills Deaneries, April 1.
- The Rev. Dr. PJ Carefoote, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Martin in-the-Fields, April 24.
- The Rev. Samantha Caravan, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Luke, Peterborough, May 1.
- The Rev. Abraham Thomas, Assistant Curate, St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, May 1.
- The Rev. Paige Souter, Assistant Curate, Redeemer, Bloor St., May 7.
- The Rev. Andrew Kuhl, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst, May 10.
- The Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell (Diocese of Niagara), Priest-in-Charge, St. Peter on-the-Rock, Stony Lake, July 1.
- The Rev. Carol Shih, Assistant Curate, St. Timothy, North Toronto, June 1.

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):
- St. Cyprian
- Christ Church, Scarborough
- Grace Church, Scarborough

- Christ Church, Bolton
- St. George, Haliburton
- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit

Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names):

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

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):

- St. Aidan, Toronto

Ordinations

The following individuals were ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on April 30:

- the Rev. Hannah Johnston
- the Rev. Carol Shih
- the Rev. Doug Smith
- the Rev. Paige Souter
- the Rev. Abraham Thomas

Celebration of New Ministry

- The Rev. Christopher Dangpilen, Incumbent, San Lorenzo Ruiz, May 28 at 2:30 p.m.

Death

- The Rev. Canon W. Ebert Hobbs died on March 20. Ordained deacon in 1951 and priest in 1952 in the Diocese of Ottawa, he served in multiple appointments in parishes and at the national level in both the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church. Since moving to Toronto in 1980, he served as honorary assistant of St. Paul, Bloor Street. His funeral was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on March 30.

14. Scarborough Deanery
15. Grace Church in Scarborough
16. Holy Trinity, Guildwood
17. The Postulancy Committee
18. Holy Wisdom
19. Nativity, Malvern
20. New Hope Anglican Mission
21. Bishop Kevin Robertson
22. St. Andrew, Scarborough
23. St. Dunstan of Canterbury
24. St. Jude, Wexford
25. St. Margaret in-the-Pines
26. Diocesan Volunteer Corps
27. SPARK Youth Leaders Retreat
28. Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry
29. St. Margaret Tamil Congregation
30. The Clergy of the Diocese of Toronto
31. St. Michael the Archangel

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Worship

JUNE 11 – Choral Eucharist celebrating St. Barnabas, Chester's 165th anniversary, 10:30 a.m. at St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. For details of the church's celebrations, visit the church's website at stbarnabas-toronto.com or email stbarnabasanglican.office@gmail.com.

Gatherings

APRIL 18 - MAY 2 - Evening Prayer on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., plus light refreshments at 7:30 p.m., with the Rev. Dr. P.J. Carefoote's three-part Eastertide series on Wycliffe and today's Church. It includes segments from Morningstar, the film about John Wycliffe's life and legacy. Join us in person at St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto (or view later online). For more details, call 416-769-5686 or visit www.stolaves.ca.

MAY 5-6 - Monks' Cell, St. Theodore

of Canterbury's unique dining fundraiser of 52 years, is back. Dinner features charcoal grilled steaks or chicken breasts served with all the trimmings by attentive, costumed staff in a setting reminiscent of a mediaeval monastery refectory. May 5, 6-10 p.m. and May 6, 5-10 p.m. Reservations open April 2. Call 416-222-6198 or email monkscell@hotmail.com.

MAY 7 - Coronation Evensong at 4 p.m., followed directly by a special feature on *Charles and the Crown*, featuring words and music with a Royal connection, presented by St. Olave's Arts Guild to celebrate His Majesty's life, on the day after being crowned as Canada's King. Join us in person at St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere. For more details, please call 416-769-5686 or go to stolaves.ca

MAY 13 - Blessing of the Bicycles and Safety Check, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Reinforce rules of the road, get your tires filled, receive your blessing – and a hot dog!

MAY 18 - Guildwood Tech Skills Workshop, 4 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Do you find technology confusing or frustrating? If so, you're not alone. We offer help with technology for the elderly, seniors and anyone who is struggling. Registration: \$25 per session. Contact Denise at denise@trinityguildwood.org or call 416-261-9503.

MAY 31 - Guildwood Faith Vibes with trivia night, discussion and prayer, wine and cheese, refreshments, 6:30 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

Rummage Sales

MAY 6 - Spring rummage and bake sale with children's clothing, jewellery, shoes, household items, books, children's toys, baked goods and more, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Christ Church Scarborough Village, 155 Markham Rd., Scarborough.

MAY 6 - Spring sale with housewares, hardware, small appliances, furniture, clothing, books and more, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway.

MAY 27 - Community yard sale, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

Music

MAY 14 - Musicfest Rocks the Jungle, a concert featuring handbells, chimes, band and soloists, with all-time favourites such as Crocodile Rock, Circle of Life, Bare Necessities and many more, 3 p.m., St. John York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Tickets are free and there is a free will offering. Free parking and wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 416-225-6611.

JUNE 3 - Voices Chamber Choir presents J.S. Bach's Mass in B minor with soloists and orchestra in celebration of the choir's 25th anniversary, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Ron Ka Ming Cheung conducting. Tickets available at the door: \$30 adults, \$25 students/seniors (cash only). For more information, visit www.voiceschoir.com.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR MAY

1. St. Mark, Port Hope
2. St. Paul, Brighton
3. St. Paul, Perrytown
4. St. Peter, Cobourg
5. St. Saviour, Orono
6. The Chapel of St. George, Gore's Landing
7. Durham & Northumberland Deanery
8. Wycliffe College
9. Trinity College
10. St. George, Newcastle
11. Christ Church, Scarborough
12. Parish nurses
13. Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries



TASTY TRADITION

Churches across the diocese held pancake suppers before the start of Lent. At left, a young member of Christ Church, Scarborough Village gets a lift at the table while youth and their leader at St. Barnabas, Chester make crafts. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHURCHES

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The story of two Moseses

Teen helps child come to Canada

The Diocese of Toronto has declared June 4 as Refugee Sunday, a time for everyone to reflect on refugee issues and learn about getting involved. This story is provided by AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance), of which the diocese is a member.

In March 2019, a student named Louise walked into the AURA office in Toronto, asking if we could help sponsor her 19-year-old brother, Moses. Moses was living in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in north-western Kenya. Originally from Sudan, Louise and Moses had grown up in Kakuma, a camp of more than 200,000 people that has been over capacity since 2014. We took her information but told her that since AURA receives thousands of requests each year, it was unlikely we would be able to find her a sponsor group. Private sponsorship of refugees is an amazing program, but it is difficult to access. At AURA, we wish we could help everyone who comes to us, but we take great care not to create false hope.

A few days after Louise's visit, Marin Lehmann-Bender, AURA's sponsorship director, had an idea. The refugee sponsor group at Trinity College had recently finished another sponsorship and had some remaining funds. With Louise studying at the University of Toronto, it could be a good partnership. AURA approached the Rev. Canon Andrea Budgey, the Trinity College chaplain and sponsor group lead, who said yes almost immediately. With this enthusiasm, Marin started the process of developing Moses' case. Many meetings, phone calls, interviews and documents gathered led to a strong final application. With the commitment of a great team from Trinity College and the invaluable help of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, AURA submitted Moses' application for resettlement to Canada in July 2019.

Two weeks later, AURA's sponsor group from St. Bartholomew, Regent Park welcomed a Sudanese family who, like Moses and Louise, had spent many years in Kakuma. This family had been



Big Moses, as he was affectionately called, and his sister Louise visit Marin Lehmann-Bender (centre) at AURA in 2020. Moses is now studying computer science at the University of Toronto. At right, little Moses (in foreground) is re-united with his mother Sarah and his brother in Toronto. PHOTOS COURTESY OF AURA

separated from their two-year-old son, who remained in Kenya when they travelled to Canada. His name was also Moses. Marin worked with the sponsors and the family, trying different routes to reunite little Moses and his mother Sarah, finally submitting an application in December 2019 through a special exception to Canada's moratorium on sponsoring unaccompanied minors.

Little Moses' application was progressing unusually quickly. But when the pandemic hit and everything slowed down, entry restrictions caused refugee arrivals to cease almost entirely. While he would have been allowed to enter Canada, Little Moses was too young to travel alone. The International Organization for Migration usually arranges escorts for unaccompanied minors but couldn't in this case because of Canada's entry restrictions. It is impossible to describe what it means for a mother to face one delay after another when she's



waiting to reunite with her child. Then Marin had another idea: What if Big Moses (as we affectionately came to call him) could bring

Little Moses to Canada? Would he be willing? Would Little Moses' mother consent? Could the Canadian embassy finalize Big Moses'

application quickly enough for this to work? Would the government of Canada even allow it?

After conversations with both families and sponsor groups, AURA pitched this idea to a resettlement officer at the Canadian embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. He agreed that this was the best solution and was exceedingly helpful in moving Big Moses' application forward as quickly as possible. As a final step before travel was arranged, we suggested the two Moseses meet one another in Kenya. But by that time, they had both moved out of Kakuma Refugee Camp. To our delight and surprise, they were both in the same town in Kenya—approximately a 10-hour drive from Kakuma! They met, and Big Moses formally agreed to assume the responsibility of accompanying Little Moses, now four years old, on a two-hour flight to Ethiopia followed by a 15-hour flight to Toronto. The Moseses arrived safe and sound in August 2021. Big Moses went straight to the hotel for a then-mandatory quarantine, and Little Moses went straight into his mother's arms.

After countless hours of working on applications, consent forms, declarations and quarantine plans, after hundreds of emails and phone calls with family members, lawyers, sponsors, the government of Canada and resettlement partners, AURA's plan worked. The Moseses now call Toronto home, and two more refugees found freedom, family and safety in Canada.

Many hands moved the Moseses forward on their unusual journey to Canada. Dozens of individuals were directly involved in making this incredible resettlement a reality. We have no doubt that the Moseses will, in turn, impact dozens of lives, and the ripple effects of their being here will go on for decades to come.

Your parish can sponsor refugees. This requires forming a group, raising money and committing to helping a refugee or family settle into your community. Parishes often partner with other faith groups, community groups or local relatives of refugees to work together for sponsorship. To learn more, visit www.auraforrefugees.org.

Resource materials for Refugee Sunday, including fact sheets, FAQs, prayers and worship resources, will be available on both the diocesan and AURA's websites.

BRIEFLY

Hymn Society to hold conference in Montreal

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada will hold its annual conference July 16-19 on the campus of McGill University in Montreal. This year's theme, "Land, Language, and Liberation," offers an opportunity to explore how to celebrate, praise God, and live into the Church's mission in light of the challenges in the world today. Both

in-person and online registrations are available.

The conference will include many opportunities for learning, connecting, celebrating and singing. Anyone who believes in the importance of congregational song is welcome to register for the full conference. Advance registration rates are available through June 15. For more information or to register, visit www.thehymnsociety.org.

Founded in 1922, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is an ecumenical organization of people who are passionate about hymns and congregational song.

Teams invited to scavenger hunt

Anglican churches in York-Scarborough are hosting their second Scarborough Steeplechase scavenger hunt on June 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and inviting members of the community to participate.

Teams will begin at Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., and travel to 10 churches before reaching St. Timothy, Agincourt, 4125 Sheppard Ave. E., for a reception and awards ceremony. Bishop Andrew Asbil will present awards to the winners and congratulate all

participants. There will be giveaways and swag for all participants, with the top three teams winning special prizes. A video of the event will be posted online.

At each stop on the steeplechase, at least one team member will complete an activity, such as a water relay or building tour. Contestants will need to navigate their way through an undisclosed course with only clues they win at the stops to guide them.

"Rather than batten down the hatches, this scavenger hunt is a way for our churches to open their doors, introduce themselves,

show how we like to have fun and celebrate," explains Denise Byard, one of the event's coordinators.

Anyone, including minors accompanied by a guardian, is invited to register by June 1 with a \$25 donation to PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund).

To register or learn more about the Scarborough Steeplechase, visit www.scarboroughsteeplechase.homesteadcloud.com or contact either Denise Byard at denise@trinityguildwood.org or Elaine Vanderwerf at associate@sttims.ca.