

**Priest helps town recover**

**Weekend away energizes youth**



**Student designers show fashions**

# The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

[www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)

DECEMBER 2023



## LIGHTING THE WAY

Young people at St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto practice lighting the first candle of the Advent wreath at the church. A candle will be lit each week during Advent, followed by the lighting of the middle candle on Christmas Eve. Advent begins on Dec. 3. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By BISHOP RISCYLLA SHAW

# Reconnect with the holy



“CHRIST’S love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.” As a member of the central committee of the World Council of Churches, and our Canadian Anglican representative, I am pleased that the theme this decade is inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:14, in which our faith as followers of Christ is called into action. In responding to this call to be the hands and feet of Christ, we give each other the gifts of becoming more fully human together. From the beautiful opening of the Gospel of John, “In the beginning was the Word,” we are invited to call to mind that in God there was unity before all differences. Jesus’ interactions with people cross social, racial and gender borders, constantly reminding us that there is no centre, no margin, no “us and them” in the Jesus movement.

In our survey work for Cast the Net, the diocese’s visioning process, we have learned that the three

key interests of the generation coming up involve the climate crisis, inclusion and diversity, and reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings.

In our work to reconnect with all that is holy, can we let this climate crisis break our hearts? How can we feel the truth and face the grief together in our pews, in solidarity with our children and our children’s children, those who are made vulnerable because of our choices and the choices of our parents and our parents’ parents? We live and move and have our being here. This planet’s health determines our very existence, so how can we make a choice to support our Mother Earth with our dollars and our words this Christmas? Can we dare to stare down complicity, compliance and convenience, to step forward in faith and hope?

Let this be a Christmas present to you from Jesus: “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). The real presence of Christ is not just in the

Continued on Page 2

## THE BISHOPS’ LEVEE 2024

at the Cathedral Church of St. James



Please join the College of Bishops to offer best wishes and prayers for the New Year.

**January 1, 2024**

Said Eucharist at 12:15 p.m.

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**All are welcome.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. PERKINS – SEE PAGE 10**

### PING PONG FOR FAITHWORKS

Members of St. Christopher in Richmond Hill play in the church's sixth annual Ping Pong Relay for FaithWorks on Oct. 14. More than 30 players gathered at the church to play ping pong from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., raising \$38,376 for FaithWorks – a record amount for the parish. FaithWorks is the diocese's annual outreach appeal, providing help to those in need. 'We want to let all those who work on the front lines know that you have our support as you serve the needy and the less privileged in our communities,' says the Rev. Canon Dr. Philip Der, incumbent. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S



The Very Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance

## Diocese to welcome new Dean

THE Very Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance has been appointed the new rector of St. James Cathedral and Dean of Toronto, beginning on Jan. 15. He succeeds the Very Rev. Stephen Vail, who retired in 2022. The appointment was announced at the cathedral on Oct. 29.

Dean Hance currently serves as the national lead for evangelism and witness for the Church of England, a role he has held since 2019. He was previously the Dean of Derby, and before that the Canon Missioner of Southwark Cathedral and the director of mission and evangelism in the Diocese of Southwark.

He is married to Jacqui, who currently serves as the evangelism and witness priority coordinator at Lambeth Palace.

"I ask your prayers for both of them as they prepare to move across the pond," Bishop Andrew Asbil wrote in a letter announcing the appointment. "Please welcome them both with warmth and joy as we all begin a new ministry together in this place."

The couple was present at the cathedral for the announcement. "Jacqui and I are so excited to begin this new adventure together. Do please pray for us and for the community here at St. James as we get ready to go forward together, moving in early January," Dean Hance said in a video posted on Twitter.

The service of installation will take place at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

## Step forward in faith and hope

Continued from Page 1

bread and wine of the Eucharist, but in the least, the lost, the lonely, and in me, in you, in each of us. How can we transform our Church into a Church of service? A Church with a theology of abundance and a passionate, enthusiastic heart for serving all in our communities? We believe that God has given us all we need (2 Peter 1:3), so how can

we learn to see what is in front of our eyes, the good gifts and mercies that lavishly flow down upon us? How can we learn to see that the people we exclude are our very selves?

The implications of inclusion are very real in the life of our community. When we engage with the joys and hopes of people from all walks of life who are living in our neighbourhoods and communities, we physically show our sincere faith in the presence of Christ in everyone. Can we listen with the ears of our hearts to the anxieties,

pain and suffering of our children, who desperately want us to name and to own our benefitting, participation and co-responsibility in the chain of history, including critical climate damage, exclusion, power-grabbing and ignorance? If yes, then we are helping our Creator to build the new world.

Such a life-bringing goal! We can participate in the healing of the nations when we reject the impoverished versions of order that keep our current flawed structures in place, when we humble ourselves to really hear the truth

and invest the time and energy in relationships that work for justice. Then and only then can we begin to do reconciliation. And it isn't our own voices to which we need to listen; if we authentically want to engage in change, we have to check our own privilege at the proverbial door and deeply listen, participate in dialogue and mutual conversation.

We see each other through our affection for one another, and through our curiosity. When we respond to the existential concerns of those whom we love, a small step at a time, we build communities of hope together. It takes courage and wisdom to have the gentleness of spirit to see with new eyes that which is right in front of us; to see, know and believe that we are each and all a sacred part of creation. Be brave! "Our imagination of God shapes how we act in the world." A word of truth from author Jeremy Duncan.

If we trust that God has given us everything we need, then how can we not be the hands and feet of Christ in this time and in this place, serving one another? Serving the planet, made in the image of God, who is crying out for a revolution of love and justice?





This Christmas, let's give our money, attention and priority to these big three: climate crisis, reconciliation and inclusion.

God is good!

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# Priest helps bring hope to town

## Food, funds given after building collapses

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

**I**n a remarkable display of community spirit and resilience, the people of Penetanguishene, a town of about 10,000 on the southern tip of Georgian Bay, rallied together this fall after a downtown building collapsed.

At around 3 a.m. on Sept. 7, two walls of the building at 78 Main St. suddenly crumbled as its residents slept, displacing 35 people and several businesses from adjacent buildings. Thankfully, nobody was seriously hurt.

The Rev. Eileen Steele, incumbent of the Parish of Penetanguishene, was on hand in the immediate aftermath of the collapse as the town's residents began to assess the damage and its affects. She says it didn't take long for people to start asking where they could donate money and goods to help their displaced neighbours.

"That's when the idea actually came to me – there were so many points of contact and people wanting to help, I thought we need to do something together as a community and pull it all together so that everybody knows where to donate, how to donate and exactly what we need," she says.

Soon, a coalition of local business owners and support agencies banded together to form a group called Penetanguishene Stands Together. Along with the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Salvation Army, Ms. Steele was joined in her efforts by local business owners Jill St. Amant and Deanne Palazzo Dalzell. "Without them coming alongside, we wouldn't have reached what we did," she says.

The team was able to determine the most immediate demands, create lists of needed items and provide a central point of contact for people looking to help. Social media proved to be a valuable tool in connecting with people and sharing information.



At left, the Rev. Eileen Steele with brothers Leonard and Robin Beecroft in front of their partially demolished home. Above, volunteers with some of the 450 pounds of food donated at the event. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE REV. EILEEN STEELE

The group also organized a community event on the afternoon of Oct. 14 featuring an extensive silent auction, live music, crafts for kids, snacks and food.

"The whole point was to help those from the top to the bottom of everyone who had been displaced, including businesses, and bring some light and love into the town, because that was so desperately needed," says Ms. Steele.

The event was well attended and raised more than \$6,800 and 450 pounds of food.

"For a small town, that is incredible," says Ms. Steele. "It's a town that pulls together. We simply walked up and down the street asking for silent auction

items or business support, and I had nobody say no – nobody. We had five tables of silent auction items. I'm not surprised."

The team's next step was to determine how to distribute the money and food fairly among those affected by the collapse. "It's not always the easy thing to do, in terms of who needs what," says Ms. Steele. "Nobody's been allowed to get back in their home."

She said the group was planning to distribute gift cards to let people make their own decisions about how best to replace their lost possessions.

Meanwhile, the site at 78 Main St. persists as a reminder of what so many have lost. Demolition work

took place slowly throughout the fall as workers tried to preserve the adjacent buildings and limit the risk from asbestos. "You're still seeing people's pictures on the walls and their glasses in the cupboards," says Ms. Steele. "There's a lot of work ahead. It's not a fait accompli, it's not done."

As the community continues to recover, Ms. Steele says she is thankful for the generosity of so

many people in Penetanguishene. "One person can come up with an idea and other people can jump in and help, but it wouldn't have succeeded without the grace of God that everybody wanted to help – everybody," she says. "We find ourselves working together to fulfill the needs where we best can with the gifts that we have. That's community, and that's what I'm most proud of."

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### THE BEAUTY OF DUTCH ART

**Debbie Cowling**

presents many colourful slides from her recent visit to Amsterdam, Leiden, Haarlem and The Hague.

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<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Cowling-Bursary-proposal-2023.pdf>

# Dinner brings Anglicans together

## Sold out event raises funds for clergy in need

BY STUART MANN

**BISHOP** Andrew Asbil summed up the mood of the crowd as he addressed the first in-person Bishop's Company Dinner since 2019. "How wonderful it is to be all together in this room and hear Anglicans chatting and catching up and meeting for the first time," he said.

The dinner, held Oct. 20 at the Marriott hotel in downtown Toronto, was sold out, with 405 people coming from around the diocese to socialize, enjoy a delicious meal and listen to the music of jazz guitarist Nathan Hiltz. Blake Goldring, ODT, was the guest speaker and the Rev. Roshni Jayawardena, incumbent of St. Peter, Erindale, was the MC. The annual dinner raises funds for clergy and their families in need and to provide bursaries for theological education. This year's event raised more than \$170,000.

Mr. Goldring, a member of St. Clement, Eglinton and the executive chairman of AGF Management Limited, gave a humorous and inspiring account of how his faith has influenced his personal and professional life.

"It provides me with the resilience, clarity and strength needed to overcome life's challenges," he said. "It helps me persevere in the face of adversity, find the clarity to make wise decisions – though my wife may not agree – and conditioned me to treat others with kindness, compassion and empathy."

He said he practices servant leadership, a philosophy in which the goal of the leader is to serve others, prioritizing their growth and well-being. "Perhaps the very best example of servant leadership is Jesus. In Mark 10:45 he said, 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.' As we all know, he certainly practiced what he preached. His example and his teaching influenced me from an early age, and they continue to guide me to this day, helping fuel my business success and inspiring me to make a meaningful impact on our society."

Mr. Goldring has given back to the community in many ways. With his wife Belinda, he funded the development of Sunnybrook hospital's first hybrid operating room, which opened last year. In 2006, he founded Canada Company, a charity that provides support for members of the military, veterans and their families. He also provided funding for the Anglican Military Ordinate, a ministry to Anglicans in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Mr. Goldring has financially supported the Bishop's Company over the years and encouraged others to do so as well. "Our clergy serve as the Church's front line. Think



**Clockwise from top: a group from Christ Church, Deer Park; Blake Goldring, ODT, the evening's guest speaker (middle), with Bishop Andrew Asbil and the Rev. Andrew Federle, incumbent of St. Clement, Eglinton; Bishop Jenny Andison, rector of St. Paul, Bloor Street and the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, vicar of St. James Cathedral; jazz guitarist Nathan Hiltz performs; Archbishop Colin Johnson and Ellen Johnson with the Rev. Kevin Wong, incumbent of All Saints, Markham, and friends. PHOTOS BY BLINDSPOT MEDIA**



about COVID-19 and what they did for us through that dark time – the impact they had. They brought comfort, they provided succor, they made sure to address the spiritual needs of our community. But we mustn't forget that they are also from our community, and they too have needs. I hope that all of us can find it in our hearts to open up our wallets and help ensure that our spiritual leaders get all the support they need and deserve as they carry out their important work in the service of others."

After Mr. Goldring's speech, Bishop Asbil spoke about how important the Bishop's Company is to him. "When we get calls from our clergy colleagues with real life crises, there are moments when the first thing I do is tap my heart, knowing the hurt the family is going through, but by golly, the ability to be able to help financially is such a gift," he said.

The evening included a tribute



to the late Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones, a retired bishop of the diocese who died of COVID-19-related complications in 2021. "What an amazing gift Michael was to us," said Archbishop Colin Johnson in his tribute. He described Bishop Bedford-Jones as a gifted teacher and mentor. "We saw in him authentic Christian spirituality. He loved the Church and what it could

be. His faith was joyous."

Sponsors of the evening included a generous benefactor who wished to remain anonymous, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation, AGF, Ecclesiastical, NHI Nursing and Homemakers Inc., Mr. Ken Huggessen and Ms. Jennifer Connelly, Turner and Porter, Blair Franklin, Fiera Capital, Miller Thomson, Northleaf and VPC Group Inc.



## TheAnglican

The Anglican is published under the authority of the Bishop of Toronto and the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. Opinions expressed in The Anglican are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher.

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**Circulation:** For all circulation inquiries, including address changes, new subscriptions and cancellations, call the Circulation Department at 416-924-9199, ext. 259/245, or email [circulation@national.anglican.ca](mailto:circulation@national.anglican.ca). You can also make changes online: visit [www.anglicanjournal.com](http://www.anglicanjournal.com) and click Subscription Centre.

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### National Indigenous Archbishop

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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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# Conference explores ways to confront displacement

## Embrace vision of new creation, participants told

BY MURRAY MACADAM

**AROUND** 100 Anglicans from across the diocese, and even Atlantic Canada, gathered online Oct. 28 for the annual Outreach and Advocacy Conference, exploring the theme “Living in Exile: Inhabiting a World of Displacement.” Conference workshops focused on how life on the margins of society makes itself felt for people living in rural poverty, in Toronto’s homeless encampments, experiencing food insecurity, and those who do not feel a sense of belonging in the Church.

As the conference began, participants were inspired by the Rev. Tina Conlon’s reading of Isaiah 65:17-25, which lays out a bold vision for a new creation marked by justice and peace.

Keynote speaker Dr. Brian Walsh, an author, academic and farmer, made the displacement theme real by outlining the tale of a woman named Meredith who came to the aid of a Black man on the Toronto subway who was seen as a security threat. Meredith drew strength from her own deep sense of feel-

ing rooted from her experiences growing up and from the values of her Christian family. That helped her support the young man on the subway and not be intimidated by police officers who surrounded him.

Dr. Walsh expanded on the theme of displacement, noting that homeless people who have been displaced by poverty, addictions and other reasons then move into parks, only to find themselves further displaced when their encampments are dismantled.

“Jesus creates a place for all, a place for a new creation,” he said. “Without the radical hope of a new creation, without a compelling vision of homecoming in the face of homelessness, we will not have the spiritual or imaginative resources to confront the forces of displacement that wreak such suffering in our world. The only way to inhabit a world of displacement is by living out this vision of radical homecoming in community together.”

Workshops explored other elements of displacement, including one that delved deeper into the



An unhoused man sleeps in a doorway in downtown Toronto. At right, the Rev. Lorna May and Dr. Brian Walsh. MAIN PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

homeless encampment issue. It noted that the encampments represent a positive choice for those people who feel restricted by rules imposed by shelters and who enjoy a sense of belonging and community in the encampments.

A workshop on building a movement for affordable housing looked at how the Lakeshore Affordable Housing Advocacy and Action Group in Etobicoke takes a “boots on the ground” approach to working with tenants to educate them about their rights and advocate for housing. The group is working on a land trust project.

Poverty and a lack of affordable housing reach into every corner of our diocese, as was outlined by a workshop on rural poverty led by the Rev. Lorna May from the parish of St. Luke, Creemore. Creemore, a village north of Toronto, is known for its affluence, yet a food bank that began by serving six families two years ago has expanded to serve 37 families. It delivers food to people in need partly because some have no way to get to the food bank, others are too embarrassed to be seen at the food bank, and because deliveries provide a way to keep in touch with people. One person had direct contact with only one person each week – the person dropping off food to her.

“We have families who skip meals and at times go without food,” she said.

Canada’s hunger crisis came to the fore in a workshop on basic income and food insecurity, led by Queen’s University professor Dr. Elaine Power, an expert on food insecurity and a campaigner for basic income. She outlined the alarming rise in foodbank use in Canada, from one and a half million visits per month in March 2022 to



## Participants urged to take action

**PARTICIPANTS** of the outreach conference heard a range of ideas to address the needs of marginalized people in our society and bring us closer to the vision of “a new heaven and a new earth,” found in Isaiah 65.

To confront the deepening crisis of housing, participants were urged to raise their voices. “We have to pressure government for more funding,” said housing workshop resource person Jasmin Dooh. “There is a reason more housing co-ops haven’t been built in the past 50 years. It’s the lack of funding.”

The Rev. Lorna May said, “Advocate for change, advocate for a guaranteed basic income. Write letters, phone your representatives.”

A number of ways in which Canadians can support basic income were suggested. These include:

- Add your voice to that of over 60,000 Canadians on a petition calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to support basic income. The petition is at [www.leadnow.ca/basic-income/](http://www.leadnow.ca/basic-income/).

- Urge your MP and the federal government to support Bills S-233 and C-223, currently before Parliament. If passed, they would establish a national framework for a basic income. Visit [www.ubiworks.ca/guaranteed-livable-basic-income](http://www.ubiworks.ca/guaranteed-livable-basic-income).
- Support advocacy coalitions such as the Basic Income Canada network and UBI Works.
- Arrange a showing at your church or community group of *A Human Picture*, an award-winning 16-minute documentary on Ontario’s basic income pilot project. Visit [www.ahumanpicture.com](http://www.ahumanpicture.com).

Participants were also encouraged to truly welcome people with different life experiences into their parishes and to evolve into “communities of resistance” to the mainstream society.

Murray MacAdam

almost two million in March 2023, as outlined in a report by Foodbanks Canada called *From a Storm to a Hurricane*. Yet hunger is actually far worse, since many people are too embarrassed to access food banks or can’t get to them. Dr. Power estimates the number of food-insecure Canadians to be at least eight million.

“This should be a national disgrace in one of the richest countries in the world and one of the richest in human history,” she said.

Aside from the hardships involved, food insecurity costs us far more than many realize. A Canadian who doesn’t have to worry about where their next meal is coming from needs, on average, \$1,608 in health care costs. But a person enduring severe food insecurity requires \$3,930 per year in prescription drugs, doctors’ services, emergency room visits and other health costs.

A basic income program could make a huge difference for people who go hungry or must cut back on other needs, she said. Lindsay was one site where a basic income pilot project was carried out by a former provincial government. “I saw how life-changing it was for so many of my friends,” said Finn Keesmaat-Walsh, who lived near Lindsay at the time.

The Church’s need to become more radically inclusive was also discussed at the conference. Church structures sometimes make it hard for people with different life experiences to feel welcome and feel God’s grace. “The Church is the one institution that exists for the benefit of those outside it,” said the Rev. Susanne McKim, quoting Archbishop William Temple. “But we don’t act that way a lot of the time.” The Rev. Claudette Taylor added, “We need to walk in each other’s shoes.”

Other workshops highlighted farm-worker issues, parish nursing, displacement and the Indigenous experience, and the Greenbelt preservation campaign.

The conference marked 20 years since an annual Outreach and Advocacy Conference was first held in the diocese. “We need to hear the current forms which injustices are taking,” said Elin Goulden, the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant. “There are new ways of responding. We need to be rooted in the dream of God’s vision for the world to have the energy to do this work. This is God’s ultimate endgame.”

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



Young people from across the diocese gather for a photo at Muskoka Woods in Muskoka, Ont. During the retreat, participants worshipped, made friends and enjoyed numerous activities. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BISHOP'S YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

# Youth recharge at retreat

## Bishop inspired by energizing weekend

BY MICHELLE CLOUTER  
AND THE REV. BRIAN SUGGS

**THE** Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee (BYMC) held its annual ReCharge Youth Retreat on Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 at Muskoka Woods. There were 150 participants from across the diocese representing 20 different parishes. It was a beautiful fall weekend, and those attending spent time making new friends, reconnecting with old ones, praying, worshipping, eating, playing and even getting some sleep.

It was a joy to have Bishop Andrew and Mary Asbil for the weekend. They led night prayers on Friday night, led a team challenge and helped facilitate the Cast the Net session on Saturday. Bishop Asbil also celebrated the Eucharist on Sunday.

"This has been such an energizing weekend," he said. "To see all these young people and their faith-

ful leaders coming away, fighting the traffic to get out of the city, coming from the four corners of the diocese to gather for play, prayer and ministry is so inspiring. It gives me so much hope for the Church of today."

The Rev. Yohan Dumpala, assistant curate at St. John the Baptist, Norway, led the worship, assisted by the Rev. Rob Petkau, a Wycliffe College student from the Diocese of Calgary, as well as numerous youth on percussion instruments. The theme for the retreat was "The Joy of Following Jesus Then and Now." Cormac Culkeen, youth coordinator for Trent-Durham and co-coordinator of the diocese's Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program, was the main speaker. They shared with the youth about St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis of Assisi, and from John 15:5-17.

Participants had lots of time to play and explore many of the

activities that Muskoka Woods offers. They played glow-in-the-dark capture the flag on Friday night. On Saturday, they rode The Kraken, a huge, six-lane waterslide, and played an exciting game of flame battlers. Also on Saturday afternoon, they enjoyed their choice of volleyball, basketball, tennis, gaga ball, a high ropes course, indoor rock climbing, long boarding and scooters, hanging out by the lake, and arts and crafts. On Sunday, they battled in a team version of Jeopardy (the bible edition)

The BYMC would like to thank the diocese and the College of Bishops for their continued support of youth ministry and this annual retreat. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

*Michelle Clouter and the Rev. Brian Suggs are members of the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee.*





# Bursary for musicians revived

## Funds can help parishes during time of renewal

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

A funding opportunity for parish musicians that was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic is being revived for 2024. The Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music is currently accepting applications from musicians in the Diocese of Toronto who are looking to enhance musical participation in their parishes.

The bursary was established by friends and family of the late Douglas Cowling, ODT, a musician, writer and scholar who shared his enthusiasm for accessible music and liturgical experimentation with parishes throughout the diocese and beyond. Mr. Cowling died in 2017.

“He was so gifted in so many areas that we wanted to establish something that would honour and highlight all these gifts and continue his work. He was very much involved in the ministry of music for all, to include everyone, all ages,” says Elizabeth Cowling, his widow.

The bursary in his name aims to support clergy and musicians to collaborate, foster and implement programming to enhance worship and musical creativity, particularly with participation by all age groups. An award of \$5,000-10,000 to a parish



Douglas Cowling, ODT

in the diocese will support the music staff to further liturgical training or provide creative liturgical programming.

Liturgical programming could include special events and gatherings, community programs around music, congregation and community outreach, a conference or gathering, or a multi-parish project using digital tools to support worship. Training for music staff could include workshops, retreats, guest lectures or musical coaches.

The bursary was first awarded

in 2018 to Robert Graham, then the music director at Holy Trinity, Guildwood. “That was quite wonderful, because they had a musician there who was very enthusiastic, with the capacity to work with all ages,” says Ms. Cowling.

A later applicant fell ill and wasn’t able to accept the bursary, and then the pandemic put everything on hold for a few years. “We were creating a conference for parishes doing this type of musical inclusivity just before the pandemic,” says Ms. Cowling. “Life got in the way.”

Now, with parishes back to in-person worship and refocusing their energies on the future, the bursary team thinks this is the perfect time to renew its support of musical creativity and innovation.

“I think parishes right now have gone through a sea change in the congregation and in new people coming in, new rectors,” says Ms. Cowling. “They’re thinking about what they can do and facing some struggles, so we would like to encourage once again parish renewal with creativity.”

The Cowling family had originally committed to giving at least \$5,000 a year for five years to a fund managed by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation, but Ms. Cowling says they’re going to see

how things unfold as applications come in.

“We thought five years was going to be a long time, and then three years were taken up by pandemic. We’re reframing everything right now, and we may give more than one bursary if we have many positive applicants. We’re not restricting ourselves to one,” she says.

As for who she’d like to see apply, Ms. Cowling says she hopes to hear from parish musicians who show a similar level of enthusiasm as her late husband. “Someone for whom inclusivity and participation is important,” she says. “Someone who’s drawn to liturgy and thinking, what can I do? Who has a broad background, maybe not necessarily in the Church, but who can bring that to the community.”

She encourages musicians to get the support of their parish priest and to think about the bursary as a whole-parish commitment. “Think about all the talents, all the abilities that you have in your particular parish, and use them,” she says. “Include all the arts; it doesn’t have to be just music.”

The deadline to apply for the Cowling Bursary is Dec. 31, with grant recipients announced in January. For more details, email [cowlingbursary@gmail.com](mailto:cowlingbursary@gmail.com).



## PANTRY FOR THE PEOPLE

St. Paul, Lindsay officially opened its new free food cupboard called “St. Paul’s Pantry” in August. Parishioners stocked the pantry and then it was blessed by the Rev. Bonnie Skerritt, incumbent. A dedicated team of parishioners is stocking it three times a week. “The pantry is definitely meeting a need in the community and we are delighted that community members are also starting to leave food their for others,” says Ms. Skerritt. “In response to an article in a local paper, we even have had a large donation of items and grocery gift cards after a local lady decided that for her 70th birthday she would like food for the pantry.” PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PAUL, LINDSAY

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# Church begins centenary celebrations



**MARKING** its 100-year journey from a Scarborough community church to a multicultural parish, the church of St. Bede launched a year of centenary celebrations. The inaugural service on Oct. 28 was nostalgic, celebratory and purposeful.

blossomed and was established as a parish in 1924. In 10 short years, a church building was constructed, up on a hill, replaced by the current building built in 1959.

In a gathering of congregants, friends of the parish, previous incumbents and members from yesteryears, the parish celebrated its journey thus far: Glorious music by the choir offered praise and thanksgiving, and an adorable children's program encouraged the gathering to go out into the world carrying the light of God's love. Past parish priests in attendance were honored to commemorate their leadership and contributions. Video presentations painted a vivid tapestry of the parish's history and vibrant community life.

The parish became an integral part of the community and its faithful followers, bringing to life the theme for the centenary, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid." (Matthew 5:14)

Under the able leadership of many Anglican priests, the parish has continued being a beacon of light living out the discipleship of Jesus and fulfilling the ministry of the Church beyond its immediate neighborhood. Today the parish consists of a congregation that gathers in worship and fellowship from every corner of the Greater Toronto Area, with the Rev. Dr. Irwin Sikha as the incumbent.

Jennifer McKelvie, the deputy mayor of Toronto, was a special guest and felicitated the congregation on 100 years of service. Having grown up in the neighborhood of St. Bede's, Ms. McKelvie remembered the very engaged church from her childhood.

Those unable to attend the inaugural service in person had the opportunity to join virtually. The event was livestreamed, with the recording available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArhQrWjhTO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArhQrWjhTO4). The service was followed by a sumptuous meal and fun activities such as a photo booth and auction.

Archdeacon Cheryl Palmer commended the parish community on adapting to new realities over the years. She urged the congregation to take the message of Christian love beyond the walls of the parish.

The inaugural celebration sets the stage for several centenary activities planned over the upcoming year, promising more moments of reflection, connection and joy.

St. Bede's originated as the Regent Park Mission in 1923. It quickly

*Submitted by the parish*



Members of St. Bede's, past incumbents and friends enjoy a service and a meal to mark the start of year-long celebrations at the Toronto church. The service included music by St. Bede's Praise Band, a homily by Archdeacon Cheryl Palmer and a performance by children of the parish. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



## CARIBBEAN CELEBRATION

St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering and St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering) host the Caribbean Cultural Event in Pickering on Sept. 23. More than 250 guests enjoyed a Caribbean meal and entertainment and bid on items in a silent auction. Proceeds from the event supported the various outreach projects of the churches. At right are the Rev. Shelly Pollard (left), incumbent of St. Martin's, and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas, incumbent of St. Paul on-the-Hill. PHOTOS BY EUGENE FARRUGIA



## A Mr. Perkins Story

# Lessons and Carols

BY THE REV. DANIEL GRAVES

Ever since he was a boy, the one thing Mr. Perkins looked forward to most about the Advent and Christmas season was the annual service of Lessons and Carols. Perhaps it was the fact that he had grown up in a large city church – a church with a long tradition of excellence in music and ceremony – that shaped his love for this annual event. In his quiet nostalgic moments, he would retreat into his early memories, like a trip through a well-known and oft-visited museum, and revisit the Lessons and Carols service of his youth. In his imagination, he would hear once again the haunting tone of the boy treble coming from the church entrance, echoing through the darkened silence the opening words of “Once in Royal David’s City.” And as the choir processed with candles, all joining in the remaining verses, his heart was warmed by the light breaking through the darkness of night. In his mind’s eye he would conjure up the ghost of his childhood rector, who in his best Richard Burton voice would pronounce these words: “Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe, lying in a manger...” And then, Mr. Perkins would dream. He would dream of the day when he might have a church with a long nave for a procession and a four-part choir that could sing a myriad of anthems and sing carols with angelic descants. He even dreamt that someday he would have in his midst a young boy whose pure treble voice would break the silence and darkness with that opening verse. And he dreamt of being that rector with the Richard Burton voice, calling a full church to worship the newborn king.

But alas, Mr. Perkins did not have a church with a long nave, nor a four-part choir, nor did he have a boy treble. He certainly did not have a full church, nor did he have the voice of Richard Burton. Mr. Perkins was not the rector of a quasi-cathedral city church, but the rector of Christ Church, Hampton’s Corners – a little church, tucked away in a little corner, almost forgotten in the vast diocese of which he was a part. While Mr. Perkins dreamt about someday being able to offer such a service, he knew his dreams were only that, and so he would escape into the memories of Lessons and Carols of youth with a mixture of sentimentality and sadness. From time-to-time (each year, in fact) he thought that perhaps he might raise the idea of a Lessons and Carols service with his faithful organist, Mr. Jack Organ, but Jack would emphatically reject the idea. “Impossible,” he would bellow, “We’re not a cathedral.” And that was that. But Mr. Jack Organ now worshipped on another shore, and his daughter-in-law, the young widow, Mary Organ, was now at the console, faithfully directing the six octo- and nonagenarians that made up the choir of Christ Church. It was Mary who first broached the idea with Mr. Perkins that maybe this year they should give it a shot.

“Mr. Perkins,” she said one Sunday in early November as they were leaving the church after the parishioners had departed, “I know you have always wanted to have a Lessons and Carols service here at Christ Church. What do you say we

give it a go this year?”

Mr. Perkins’ heart leapt within him. It was like all he had dreamt was about to come true. Without missing a beat, without thinking, completely caught up in the excitement that comes when what you thought could never be is offered freely and unexpectedly, he said yes. And so, the plan was hatched.

If Mr. Perkins had stopped to think even for a moment, he might have thought better of it. He might have demonstrated some reservation. He might have considered the obstacles that stood in the way of executing the sort of Lessons and Carols service about which he so regularly fantasized. Perhaps amongst the readership of this little story there will be some of you who have participated in a Lessons and Carols service as choristers, or perhaps as a choir director, or even as a cleric. It is a service that takes considerable planning, considerable rehearsal, and considerable talent. I don’t think any of these three things were on the side of the people of Hampton’s Corners. Now, I don’t mean to disparage them, but to say that they would have been up to the task might be a disservice to the truth. They could put on a church supper like no one else. They were experts at running an annual dance. They could decorate the church more beautifully than any church in the diocese and they were famous for their Christmas bazaars. But Christ Church, Hampton’s Corners was not the liturgical or musical centre of the diocese, and Mr. Perkins knew it.

In spite of this knowledge – willfully ignoring it, in fact – in blissful pursuit of a sentimental return to the Christmases of his childhood, Mr. Perkins barrelled forward, enthusiastically preparing the service. He got his dog-eared copy of Carols for Choirs 1 down from his shelf and blew the dust off it. He busily selected the lessons and prepared the program. Mrs. Mary Organ put out a call for choristers, hoping to bring in a few ringers to round out the ranks, and selected some classic carols and well-known traditional anthems. Reginald Canon, the scrupulous people’s warden, was elected to conscript readers from the community and assign them the lessons. The time-honoured tradition would be that outstanding members of the local community would read the lessons, with the rector himself concluding with the lesson from John 1, “The Word Made Flesh.” Reg was delighted to inform Mr. Perkins that Marcus Alderman, the reeve of Hampton’s Corners, had agreed to be a reader – a wonderful coup, given that Mr. Alderman was a Presbyterian! Thus, the preparations unfolded.

The first sign of trouble came when Mr. Perkins learned that while a number of parishioners had volunteered to join the choir and fill out the ranks, Mary had been unable to procure any “ringers.” On a couple of occasions, he had poked his head in the church and listened to a bit of the rehearsal. He winced once or twice at the sour notes he heard and the dissonances amongst the voices, and then quietly closed the door and told himself, “Well, there are still three weeks...”

At last, the sacred night came – Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. The church was beautifully appointed and adorned. There were poinsettias, and holly, and Christmas lights, and a magnificent tree topped with a star. The lights were dimmed, the church was packed (thanks to a thoroughly effective advertising campaign



led by Reg Canon), and silence fell over the congregation as the organ sounded a single note so that the solo verse of “Once in Royal David’s City” could begin. There was no boy treble, rather Miss Lillian Littlestature, the diminutive, aged spinster, had joined the choir for this occasion, having told Mary Organ that she had once sung this same part, eight decades ago in this very church. As silence fell, after the note had sounded, Lillian, with the sort of vibrato that can only be attained with age and decades of underused vocal chords, began, “Once in Royal David’s City, stood a lowly cattle shed...”

A tear came to Mr. Perkins’ eye, but not the sort of tear that comes from nostalgic reminiscences of Christmases of yore, but rather the sort of tear that comes from the sound of fingers crossing a chalkboard. The first verse of this hymn seemed much longer than he remembered, and he was serenely comforted when the whole congregation joined in on verse two and the choir began to process.

Upon reaching his appointed place in the chancel, Mr. Perkins began...

*“Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe, lying in a manger...”*

However, in the middle of the prayer, in which he was admonishing the congregation to remember the poor and the helpless, the cold and the hungry, seven-year-old Tommy Tornado set his older sister’s hair on fire with his vigil candle. Fortunately, Reg Canon (who had been skeptical about the use of open flame in the church) was at the ready with a bucket of water, and doused the flame, and young Suzy, saving the day. The shrieking subsided and as the whole row of the Tornado family noisily departed the church, the service continued. Several individuals quietly snuffed out their own candles, just to be on the safe side.

The readings began, telling of Man’s first disobedience in the garden, God’s promises to Abraham, Christ’s birth foretold by Isaiah, all punctuated by familiar congregational carols. Then came the first anthem, “The Angel Gabriel,” an old Basque carol. Mr. Perkins had owned that this might have been a bit ambitious for the little choir, but he trusted that Mrs. Organ would have told him if the choir could not have pulled it off. Perhaps she was just as overly optimistic as he was. We will leave it by saying that it was a rendition for the ages – ages past, and best forgotten.

On the bright side, the readers chosen from the community were all quite good and read most competently. When the sixth lesson came, the reeve, Mr. Marcus Alderman, approached the lectern, and then a feeling of horror overtook Mr. Perkins, for he had chosen the alternative sixth lesson, which might not have been the most appropriate to be read by an elected official. Mr. Alderman boomed: “And so it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.” The congregation erupted in laughter that their reeve should be chosen to read the “taxation” passage. Reg Canon, who had chosen the readers, sat with a self-satisfied look on his face, amused at his own cleverness. Mr. Perkins hung his head in shame. This was certainly not going as planned.

Thankfully, though, there were no further disasters that evening. The second anthem was a bit better than the first, but not by much. Aside from that, the evening continued with some lusty congregational belting of favourite carols, and at last Mr. Perkins took to the lectern one final time to read the Ninth Lesson: St. John Unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

“In the beginning,” he began, once again calling up his Richard Burton voice, attempting to restore a sense of decorum and gravitas to the evening’s proceedings.

Continued on Page 11

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## IN MOTION

### Appointments

- Captain The Rev. Greg Bailey, Honorary Assistant, Christ Church, Stouffville, Nov. 1.
- The Rev. Jeff Nowers, Priest-in-Charge, Christ the King, Nov. 1.
- The Very Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance (Diocese of Southwark), Dean of Toronto and Rector of St. James Cathedral, Jan. 15, 2024.

### 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
- St. Mary, Richmond Hill
- St. George, Haliburton
- St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale
- Christ Church, Bolton
- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit

### Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names):

- Christ Church-St. James
- St. Martin in-the-Fields

Second Phase - (receiving names via Bishop):

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

Third Phase - (no longer receiving names):

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

### Celebrations of New Ministry

- The Very Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance, Dean of Toronto and Rector of St. James Cathedral, Jan. 14, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

### Conclusions

- The Rev. Christopher Parsons will conclude his appointment as incumbent of St. Paul, Newmarket on Dec. 31.

### Death

- The Rev. Paul Kett died on Oct. 8. Ordained deacon in 1980 and priest in 1981, he served as assistant curate of St. Clement, Eglinton, incumbent of the Parish of Creemore and incumbent of St. Paul, Uxbridge, and served as honorary assistant at St. John the Evangelist in Kitchener after his retirement in 2006. His funeral was held at St. John the Evangelist in Kitchener on Oct. 14.

# Hello? Can anyone hear me?

BY THE REV. JUDITH ALLTREE

LOOK around you the next time you're riding a bus or subway, or sitting in a waiting room at the dentist, doctor or your hairdresser. Notice what most people are doing: they are on their mobile devices, smartphones or tablets, keeping in touch with the world with their heads down, focused on the screens in front of them while shutting out the rest of us. All of which seems like normal behavior.

Now try to imagine that you are on a huge ship (think a cruise ship with fewer people, pools and bars and more giant cargo containers). You pick up your smartphone to make a call to your family and... nothing happens. You are in the middle of the ocean, where there are no cell towers, where there is no Wi-Fi. Just dead air. What do you do? Nothing. You wait until you reach land, possibly weeks away. You hope and pray that there's a local seafarer centre with free access to Wi-Fi and that you will be given enough time to get off your ship, get to the centre and make that call.

The Mission to Seafarers distributes a survey called the happiness index, which is available throughout the year to any seafarer anywhere who wants to complete it. In fact, there is an entire website devoted to the happiness index ([www.seafarershappinessindex.org](http://www.seafarershappinessindex.org)) where statistics are posted that reflect the views of seafarers from around the world. And everyone in the shipping industry is now paying attention to those statistics and to what the seafarers are concerned about (think: recruitment and retention of staff).

Two of the most important issues that have arisen through the happiness index are shore leave and connectivity. Although COVID-19 is mostly in the rearview mirror, many countries and ports – and indeed shipping companies – often refuse seafarers shore leave, to the detriment of their mental and physical



The Rev. Judith Alltree stands in front of a ship docked in Toronto harbour in 2019. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

health. Canada has attempted to maintain a "green zone," which has allowed shore leave and repatriation of seafarers, except during the height of COVID-19. The Mission to Seafarers is vigilant in ensuring that seafarers are given shore leave when they arrive anywhere in Canada.

In addition to allowing the seafarers time away from their ships (and each other... think about being trapped in your office, 24/7, for weeks at a time), shore leave gives them access to free Wi-Fi at the seafarer centre, which are often the only places a seafarer can get free Wi-Fi. Wi-Fi on board ship may be available, but its access is strictly limited, often based on rank, and it's never free. There is only one port in Canada that offers free Wi-Fi, and it isn't in Ontario.

So it is a huge relief for seafarers to be able to get the Wi-Fi code immediately on arrival at the mission stations and to connect with loved ones around the world. Even though Canada has the most expensive mobile communication systems in the world, seafarer welfare centres, particularly the Mission to Seafarers, offer this as service of primary importance.

We "landlubbers" take so

much for granted. We complain about the price of things, especially since the pandemic, yet we can still just go to the grocery store or market and buy groceries, gas, clothing, school supplies – or choose not to, depending on our budgets. And then we can pick up a phone, call a friend and commiserate with them about these price increases. Then again, we're on land. Our seafarer friends, who bring us 90 per cent of everything (and can afford almost none of those things) are often stuck in the middle of the ocean and can't access a store or a mobile signal from a cell tower.

Please keep seafarers in your thoughts and prayers this Christmastime, especially when you go out to do your Christmas shopping. (Remember: "No shipping, no shopping.") Please donate to the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario through our CanadaHelps platform ([www.mtsso.org](http://www.mtsso.org)). Help us bring the "ministry of small gestures" to all our seafarers this Christmastime. And thank you for your support!

*The Rev. Judith Alltree is the executive director of the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario, a ministry supported by Anglicans.*

## PRAYER CYCLE

### FOR DECEMBER

1. Philip Aziz HIV/AIDS Hospice - a FaithWorks ministry
2. The Chapel of Christ Church, Lakefield
3. St James Cathedral
4. The Oratory of the Good Shepherd
5. Christ Church, Campbellford
6. FaithWorks Shelters for women and children at risk
7. Parish of Belmont
8. St. George-the-Martyr, Apsley
9. St. George, Hastings
10. The Peterborough Deanery
11. St. James, Emily
12. St. James, Roseneath
13. St. John the Baptist, Lakefield
14. St. John the Evangelist, Havelock
15. All Saints, Peterborough

16. St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough

17. The Anglican Church Women (ACW) - Enid Corbett, Diocesan President

18. St. John, Ida

19. St. Luke, Peterborough

20. St. Matthew and St. Aidan, Buckhorn

21. St. Michael, Westwood

22. St. Peter on-the-Rock, Stony Lake

23. St. Stephen, Chandos

24. Children's Ministry in the Diocese

25. Christmas Day

26. The Community of Deacons (Archdeacon Kyn Barker)

27. Chaplains to the Retired Clergy

28. The Children's Ministry Network

29. The Staff of the Synod Office

30. The Archives Department of the Synod Office

31. The Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of the Diocese

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But then he paused and simply continued in his own, gentle Mr. Perkins voice:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*The same was in the beginning with God.*

*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose*

*name was John.*

*The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe...*

Mr. Perkins continued,

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (Mr. Perkins emphasized the "us") and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

A hush fell over the church as he read, and at that very moment the Mystery of the Word made flesh came to Mr. Perkins,

and dare I say to his little church, in a way it never had before. It was not into a perfect world that Christ came, but a flawed world, a world marred by sin, by pride, by vanity, filled with broken people, imperfect people, silly people, sad people. Christ came into a world that did not sing in perfect harmony, to people who did not speak like Richard Burton, to people who accidentally (or even intentionally) lit fires, to the mistaken and mischievous alike. For each and every one of us, the Word was made flesh, and manifested forth his glory.

Following the service, in very Anglican fashion, the congregation met in the hall over sherry. Across the room, Mr. Perkins

caught the glance Mrs. Mary Organ. She approached him with a silly smile that was full of all the evening's tragedy (or was it comedy?), and raising a glass asked him, "Well, Mr. Perkins, was that everything you dreamed of?"

Touching his glass to hers, he responded, "Not exactly Mrs. Organ, it was oh so much more. Merry Christmas... and thank you."

"A very Merry Christmas to you, Mr. Perkins."

*The Rev. Daniel Graves is the theologian-in-residence at Trinity, Aurora and author of the Mr. Perkins series of stories.*

# Africa explored through fashion

**I**n late October, members of St. James Cathedral invited the wider community to explore the vibrant African continent in a multi-faceted three-day exhibit.

From Oct. 27-29, "African Fashion: Many Threads – One Cloth" considered Africa and the African diaspora through the lens of fashion. The event included more than 20 speakers, storytellers and musicians, along with curated exhibits celebrating Africa's traditional and contemporary fashion. The program also wove in many other aspects of African life, from cuisine and music to dance, storytelling and artefacts.

The sold-out opening night gala featured a live fashion show featuring designs by students from Toronto Metropolitan University and George Brown College. The reception that followed included exhibits, a buffet of West African foods, and a demonstration of how to fashion authentic African head-dresses.

Saturday's program included musical performances and a series of expert lectures outlining Africa's ethnic and linguistic diversity, changing demographics, rapidly transforming societies and economic and ecological challenges. The Sunday afternoon program, which was free and open to the public, featured music, dance and exhibits, including performances by Juno-award winning musicians Donné Roberts and Adam Solomon.

The initiative was conceived of by Nancy Mallett, ODT, the cathedral's longtime volunteer archivist, and Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye, a cathedral parishioner. They were inspired by the 2022-23 "Africa Fashion" exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, U.K.  
*Staff*



## LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email [editor@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@toronto.anglican.ca). The deadline for the January issue is Dec. 1. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).

### Gatherings

**DEC. 2** - Voices Chamber Choir with conductor Ron K. M. Cheung, 8 p.m., Night of Wonder, Healey

Willan: The Great "O" Antiphons of Advent, with organist Conrad Gold, at St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors.

**DEC. 2** - Holiday market and bake sale with arts, crafts and food, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Aidan, 2423 Queen St. E., Toronto.

**DEC. 3** - Advent Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**DEC. 3** - Feast of St. Nicholas service and potluck celebration, 10:30 a.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

**DEC. 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24** - The Christmas Story, a Toronto tradition since 1938, with professional

musicians and a volunteer cast presenting a charming hour-long nativity pageant, at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, 19 Trinity Square, Toronto. Suggested donation: \$25 adults, \$10 children. Visit [www.thechristmasstory.ca](http://www.thechristmasstory.ca) to reserve or call 416-598-4521, ext. 301.

**DEC. 10** - Advent carol service, 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. A freewill offering will be donated to a local charitable organization supported by St. Martin's. A reception will follow to which all are invited.

**DEC. 16** - Healey Willan Singers, 8 p.m., Enchanted Carols, Howard Goodall: Enchanted Carol, with pianist Ellen Meyer and conductor Ron K.M. Cheung, St. Martin

in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors.

**DEC. 17** - Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**DEC. 19** - The Wonder of Christmas Concert, 4 p.m., with guest singer Denise Williams, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. In-person and streamed to YouTube. Proceeds to support PWRDF.

**JAN. 5** - Epiphany Eve Service, 7 p.m., plus The Beauty of Dutch Art, an illustrated feature talk, 7:30 p.m., by Debbie Cowling looking at Rembrandt, Vermeer, Van Gogh and other artists, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.