

**Seniors get  
affordable housing**

**Dinner serves up  
science, faith**



**Restorer finds  
hidden artwork**

# The Anglican

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## LIGHTING THE WAY

Faith Lam (holding candlelighter) practices lighting the first candle on the Advent wreath with other youth at All Saints, Markham. Advent begins on Dec. 1. A candle will be lit each week during Advent, followed by the lighting of the middle candle on Christmas Eve. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By BISHOP KEVIN ROBERTSON

# Jesus, the Perfect Gift



It's always hard for me to find just the right Christmas card. As I search, sometimes I like a particular image on the cover, but the message inside is overly sentimental. Or the word "Saviour" is spelled without a "u," a dead giveaway that the cards are from south of the border.

At other times, I really like the message inside the card, but the image on the front isn't quite right. It's either too secular (Santa Claus and reindeer) or it depicts the image of the Magi presenting their gifts at the manger, which would make it more of an Epiphany card than a Christmas card. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (which has recently been renamed Alongside Hope) produces beautiful Christmas cards every year. They are a great option, as the sale of them supports vital international work by our Church, but lots of other people use them too.

For me, the elusive search for just the right Christmas card points to a greater reality about Christmas. That is, many of us try to get Christmas just right, and that can be stressful! We go searching for a tree that is not too short and stubby, but also not too tall to fit through the door; we scour the stores and internet for the perfect gift for a loved one; we try to strike the right balance of time with various family members; we keep a watchful eye on the oven to get the ideal tenderness of the turkey on Christmas Day. There is somehow this expectation each year that Christmas is going to be just right.

In the many pressures of this season, it helps me to remember that the first Christmas wasn't perfect either – far from it. So many elements of this story are unplanned. Luke, in his gospel, tells us that Mary and Joseph were far away from their home in Nazareth. The journey from Nazareth to

Continued on Page 12

## THE BISHOPS' LEVEE 2025

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

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**YOUTH RECHARGE AT RETREAT – SEE PAGES 8-9**



# Anglicans invited to evenings with bishops

Gatherings  
a time for  
prayer,  
reflection

BY STUART MANN

THE bishops of the diocese are inviting Anglicans to join them online this Advent for four evenings of prayer and reflection.

The four-part series, called Advent for Everyone, will be held on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., starting Nov. 26. Led by the bishops, the gatherings will give Anglicans a chance to pause, connect and deepen their spiritual journey during this holy season.

“These evenings give us an opportunity to focus on what Advent and Christmas are all about,” says Canon Mary Conliffe, the diocesan executive assistant.

Bishop Andrew Asbil will host the first evening on Tuesday, Nov. 26, Bishop Kevin Robertson will host the second evening on Tuesday, Dec. 3, Bishop Riscylla Shaw will host the third evening



Advent for Everyone will deepen Anglicans' spiritual journeys during the holy season. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

on Tuesday, Dec. 10 and Bishop Asbil will host the fourth evening on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Each gathering will be an hour long and will feature a reflection by the bishop, discussion in breakout groups and conclude with a short service of Compline. The evenings will be

live and interactive.

Parishes that are used to holding their own Advent event can form their own breakout groups. When registering, participants are encouraged to provide the name of their parish so that organizers can put them together for the discussions. People who don't have a parish can register for the evenings as well, and they will be randomly assigned to a breakout group.

The Tuesday gatherings will help clergy and laity learn about and prepare for the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. “It's a way for the bishops to participate in the life of all the parishes by framing

what they think the lectionary readings are saying, and clergy who are giving a sermon on Sunday can contextualize it for their congregation,” says Canon Conliffe.

Advent for Everyone is an initiative of the Season of Spiritual Renewal, which seeks to renew the spiritual lives of Anglicans in the diocese and, by extension, the Church. The Tuesday gatherings are part of the leadup to 2025, when five large services around the diocese are planned. The Season of Spiritual Renewal has been holding online workshops for clergy and laity since September.

Canon Conliffe says Advent for

Everyone allows the bishops to engage in their teaching ministry, something that often gets put on the back burner. “They'd like to do more teaching, so this is a great opportunity for each of them to talk about the Season of Spiritual Renewal and also the season of expectation, anticipation, hope and joy leading up to the Christmas season.”

She says the evenings promise to be informative and meaningful. “The bishops are all such effective communicators, each in their own way, that it will be worth it for people to come back every week. I think they will find the bishops engaging, personable and prayerful, and they will have brought some really thoughtful reflections to the evening.”

The gatherings will be the first fully interactive event with the whole diocese, she adds. “We did something like this for the Clergy Pre-Lenten Day during the pandemic, but we've never done something like this that is open to the whole diocese. We're hopeful that it will feel more interactive than what we've done in the past, which has tended to be pre-recorded videos. People are so adept at Zoom now, it could be quite fun.”

People are encouraged to register early, especially if they want to be placed in their church's breakout group. To register, go to [www.toronto.anglican.ca/spiritualrenewal](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/spiritualrenewal).

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## BRIEFLY

### Workshop resources posted

The Season of Spiritual Renewal, which seeks to refresh the spiritual lives of Anglicans in the diocese, has been holding a number of online workshops since September. The workshops cover a broad range of subjects, including engaging with scripture, disability and the Church, equipping leaders for effective small group bible study, anointing, everyday witnessing to the community, Christian meditation and the Jesus Prayer, and equipping parents as spiritual nurturers. If you were unable to attend, the resources from all the workshops are posted on the Season of Spiritual Renewal webpage, [www.toronto.anglican.ca/spiritualrenewal](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/spiritualrenewal).

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Clockwise from above: the ceremony at St. Hilda's church; Canon Alice Jean Finlay is joined by her daughter Rebecca, Dean Douglas Stoute and Bishop Andrew Asbil; a view of the towers; Rod Seyffert is honoured for his 50th anniversary as a founding member of St. Hilda's Seniors Community. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



# Renewed towers provide housing for seniors

## Biggest project of its kind in city opens

BY STUART MANN

AS she sat in the audience, listening to the speeches, Canon Alice Jean Finlay thought of her husband, the late Archbishop Terence Finlay. "He would have been so proud to be identified with this project," she said. "Housing, especially for those in need, was always an issue for him."

Canon Finlay was one of about 200 people who attended the official re-opening of St. Hilda's Seniors Community in Toronto on Oct. 25. The ceremony was held at St. Hilda's church, located on the site at the corner of Dufferin Street and Eglinton Avenue West.

When fully occupied, the complex's three residential towers, named after the Rev. Canon Clifford Ward, Archbishop Lewis Garnsworthy and Archbishop Finlay, will provide affordable housing for about 500 seniors. It is the largest project of its kind in the city and possibly the country.

In his opening remarks, Bishop Andrew Asbil said the success of the project was due to the collaboration between the federal, provincial and city governments, St. Hilda's church and the housing complex's board of directors, led by the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, a former rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto.

"I am grateful for that collaboration," said Bishop Asbil. "It is a style and a vision of working together as community to help solve our issue of affordable housing. This is a moment when we give thanks that so many among us can call this place home." Many of the towers' residents attended the ceremony.

Bishop Asbil said it was grati-

fying that the towers are named after Canon Ward, Archbishop Garnsworthy and Archbishop Finlay, "who are all, to us, saints." Canon Ward was the rector of St. Hilda's when he proposed the idea of a housing project for seniors on the church's land in the early 1970s. Archbishop Garnsworthy and Archbishop Finlay, former diocesan bishops, were supporters of the project.

Two of the three towers are fully renovated, with the third to be refurbished when the funding becomes available. The towers are made up of studio and one-bedroom apartments, with an option of support services. Rent is capped at 80 per cent of the market level rates in the surrounding community. Many units are available on a rent-geared-to-income basis, and 80 units are for previously unhoused people.

The two towers are completely refurbished, with new plumbing and electricity and high-quality heating and cooling. Green strategies have reduced the buildings' carbon footprint by 40 per cent.

The first tower was built in 1977, followed by the second in 1982 and the third in 1997. Originally intended to provide affordable supportive housing for seniors, the complex eventually became an assisted-living organization, similar to a nursing home, and was no longer viable. The buildings fell into disrepair.

Rather than sell the property to developers, the board of directors made the decision to turn the towers into affordable housing units for seniors. Dean Stoute said the decision was rooted in a theory of cities found in the writings of Jane Jacobs, a Torontonian, journalist

and urban theorist who argued for the respect of city dwellers.

"You do not take cities and put all of the rich people in one corner and the poor people down on the other side of the track," Dean Stoute told the gathering. "That was the heart of what Jane Jacobs was saying. Because of the subway, which is going to stop right out here, this area's real estate value has gone through the roof. But because we're here, we bring that anchor, that mirror of reality, that says it's not just for the wealthy or the well-to-do, but at Dufferin and Eglinton, all people can live here."

The project's architect, Graeme Stewart, said the revitalization of the towers is one of the biggest housing stories in the country. "We're talking about an enormous investment and a significant number of homes," he said. "There's a lot of talk right now about the housing crisis but one of the stories we don't talk about is maintaining the affordable housing we have, and I can't overstate that this was a choice by the board to say we are going to keep these homes as affordable for another generation. That was a choice – there was no obligation to do that. They said we're going to take hundreds of homes and ensure that they are affordable for the long term."

Bishop Asbil thanked Dean Stoute and board members Ted Hawkin and Kevin Kindellan, "who in their tenacity and hard work over eight and a half years, worked with all levels of government and partners to get us to this place."

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#### In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of congregations in 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 Indigenous peoples.

#### Bishop of Toronto:

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil

#### Suffragan Bishops:

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw and  
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson

#### The Diocese of Toronto:

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Toronto, Ont., M5C 1L8  
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Supporters of Grassy Narrows First Nation protest in Toronto in September. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

# Conference builds links of resilience, resistance

## Anglicans learn how to work for social justice

BY MURRAY MACADAM

More than 100 Anglicans from across the diocese gathered online on Oct. 26 to learn more effective ways to work for justice alongside disadvantaged people. The diocese's Outreach & Advocacy Conference, with the theme of "Communities of Resilience and Resistance," included workshops tackling a range of topics, including some not covered in previous years.

Bishop Kevin Robertson welcomed participants and reminded them that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17), describing outreach work as a "sacred vocation."

The conference hit a snag when keynote speaker Rudy Turtle, former chief of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in northern Ontario, was unable to attend due to lack of internet access. Instead, participants watched videos about the Grassy Narrows situation, shared resources and discussed how they could show solidarity with the people of Grassy Narrows, who continue to suffer from the physical, social and economic costs of the discharge of 10 tons of mercury into the Wabigoon-English River system by a pulp and paper mill between 1962 and 1970, poisoning the water and fish upon which the community relied.

Janet Rodriguez challenged conventional thinking about disability issues in a workshop she led as a person with disabilities active in the organization Disability Without Poverty. She noted that 27 per cent of working-age Canadians say they have at least one disability. Often disability is seen as a problem to be cured or managed to relieve a person from suffering. The disabled person is not seen as someone capable of making

their own decisions, she said. The social model of disability, however, views a disabled person as someone able to make decisions about their life and health in partnership with specialists. "The impairment is part of their identity, and they embrace it," said Ms. Rodriguez.

In his workshop, the Rev. Christian Harvey, director of the One City Peterborough community agency, refuted common myths about homelessness, such as the belief that people choose to be homeless, that taking a harm reduction approach only enables drug use, and that homeless people are from "somewhere else."

He also punctured the myth that homeless people are lazy, noting that travelling around a city to access food banks and other

survival programs is hard work. When One City advertised 25 job openings for a street cleanup program, the number of applicants far exceeded the available positions.

Mr. Harvey underscored the role of community in addressing homelessness. "If we think housing is only about getting people indoors, we have misunderstood what housing is," he said.

When speaking with people who hold starkly different views about homeless people, he urged participants to explore, in a non-judgemental way, why a person has come to the beliefs they hold, rather than trying to score points through debate.

Meanwhile, record numbers of refugee claimants have arrived in Canada in recent

Continued on Page 5



Janet Rodriguez



The Rev. Christian Harvey



Theology, liturgy must change, says speaker

Weaving together scripture, theological analysis, discussion and prayer, a workshop at the outreach conference asked a bold question: what if the Church took the climate crisis seriously?

Led by Karen Turner, a member of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and the creation care group at Redeemer, Bloor St., participants explored how we've gotten into our current dilemma. Ms. Turner pinpointed what she termed a "distorted Christian legacy" that placed humankind at the pinnacle of creation, rather than seeing us as interconnected with the natural world. That worldview helped validate an interpretation of scripture as justifying our domination of the Earth.

Nor are the consequences for the land of human pride and greed limited to the creation accounts found in Genesis, noted Ms. Turner, pointing to the words of the prophet Hosea:

*God has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder,*



A distorted Christian legacy places humankind at the pinnacle of creation, rather than seeing us as interconnected with the natural world, says workshop leader Karen Turner. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

*stealing and infidelity. These things run rampant throughout the land... Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing. (Hosea 4: 1-3)*

Participants shared their feelings about the climate crisis, with words like "despair" and "depression" popping up, along with "hope." Ecological grief is something we need to acknowledge, said Ms. Turner, along with high rates of anxiety, detailed in a book called *Generation Dread* by Britt

Wray.

"The Church's theology and liturgy need to change to reflect our place in creation," she said. Participants mentioned a range of environmental activities their parishes and they as individuals are doing, but some urged bolder steps – including possibly walking away from church buildings that are hard to heat and holding services outdoors, something occurring through the "wild church" movement. We can be open to Indigenous beliefs and scientific learnings and apply them to our sacred texts. Author Brian McLaren's new book *Life After Doom* can provide insights.

Ms. Turner also recommended *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Phillip Newell, which outlines the theology and worship of the early Celtic church. Celtic Christian thought about our relationship to Creation is similar to the understanding and experience of many Indigenous peoples. "One can't help but wonder where we would be today if the Celtic understanding of the gospel had dominated back in the 11th century, remaining counter-cultural, instead of being suppressed by the dominating Roman version, aligned with the empire of the day," said Ms. Turner.

Murray MacAdam

Workshops explore racism, Black history, harm reduction

Continued from Page 4

years, many from Africa, with hundreds forced to sleep on Toronto sidewalks. Last winter, some found their way into churches, who turned their sanctuaries into emergency shelters. Today, refugee claimants still struggle to find housing and support. A workshop led by the Rev. Alexa Gilmour and the Rev. Eddie Jjumba, who have worked with refugees, explored how race was a factor in determining which refugees were left on the streets and who came to their rescue. They explored how to overcome barriers to helping, as well as ideas on how faith communities can prepare themselves to be places of refuge when a crisis strikes.

Sisters Sylvia and Carolyn Wilson led a workshop on Black pioneers of Ontario, focusing on early settlers in Simcoe and Grey counties, from whom they are descended. They've worked to preserve the history of the pioneers, whose presence had been almost wiped out. One harrowing story told of how a cemetery had its headstones removed and thrown into ditches or used in baseball games. The Wilson sisters are co-owners of the Sheffield Park Black History and Cultural Museum in Clarksburg, near Collingwood, and offer tours to interested groups.

A workshop on harm reduction as love highlighted the principles of harm reduction, which aims to reduce the negative impacts involved with drug use. Workshop leaders Barb Panter and Tina Estwick are involved with a Toronto site where people can use drugs safely, one of 10 such sites in Ontario slated to be closed by next March.

A workshop on ministry with former inmates was punctuated by comments from several men who had been in prison. "Without the support and understanding

of groups like Brampton Prison Ministry and Circle of Hope, I would not be on the road and journey of recovery from my addictions, mental health struggles and offending behaviours," said one.

The Rev. Mark Stephen, workshop leader from Brampton Prison Ministry, added, "These are people trying to change their lives. Changing one's life is almost impossible on your own. Recovering offenders need the assistance and understanding of all of us to rewrite the map of their lives. They need us to care, as much as we need them to change."

The Rev. Alison Hari Singh led a workshop that rooted the conversation about becoming an anti-racist Church in our creedal (Nicene) confession. She looked at how scripture sees "race" as a social construct rooted not in biology but in the false ideas human beings attribute to skin colour. The concept of race has unfolded in history via colonization and slavery, and the violence involved became embedded in western societies so that white European dominance and supposed superiority became entrenched in the structures of western society – structures also known as systemic racism.

Ms. Hari Singh outlined the Nicene controversy (Arianism). Arius claimed that God the Son was not of the "same substance" as the Father, but was of "similar substance" (*homoiousios*). The First Council of Nicaea determined that Arianism was heresy, and that the Son and Father share the "same substance" (*homoousios*). She made an analogy between the shared divine substance of the Father and Son and our shared substance as human beings: just as the Father and Son are *homoousios*, all human beings share in the same substance of humanness. For



Carolynn Wilson

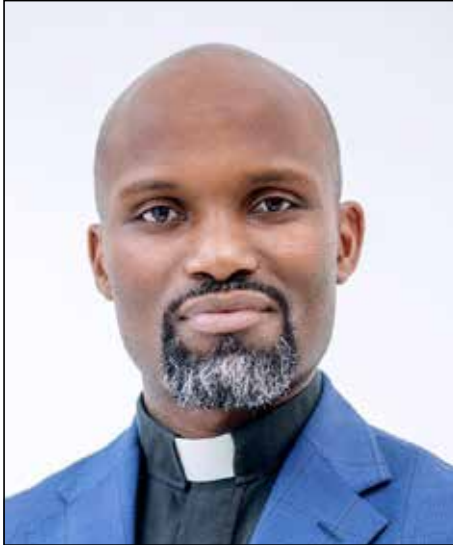
Christians to live or act in any way that denies this shared substance of humanity is, from a theological perspective, heresy. Racism, then, functions as heresy.

"The conference gives us a chance to explore issues which many people don't know about or where there's a lot of misinformation," said Elin Goulden, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant. "It opens our eyes to needs and injustices in our communities and give us practical things we can do. The closing plenary also gave us time to share what we'd learned with each other. That helps break down the isolation people might feel in their parishes, to know that other people in different parts of the diocese are also facing similar issues."

Murray MacAdam is a member of All Saints, Peterborough.



Sylvia Wilson



The Rev. Eddie Jjumba





The Redeemers perform some doo wop hits.



The Rev. Jake Cunliffe with his spouse, Jenna Freudenburg.



Anthony Morgan, co-host of *The Nature of Things*, gives the keynote address. All photos by Moon Creative House



The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner (centre) with, from left, Geoff Melbourne, the Rev. Ollie Lim, Aaron Dumpala, Tanya Melbourne, Jessica Carrington.



The Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark (centre) with members of the Parish of Minden, Kinmount and Maple Lake.

# Science, faith have chemistry, dinner hears

## CBC host delights crowd at fundraising event

BY STUART MANN

**WITH** a new venue, a dynamic young speaker and a lot of guests who were there for the first time, it felt like the Bishop's Company Dinner had started a new chapter in its long and storied history.

The fundraising dinner on Oct. 18 was attended by 420 people, including a large group from the Parish of Minden-Kinmount and four tables of young people from across the diocese.

Held at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel in Richmond Hill, the dinner featured a performance by The Redeemers, a singing group from Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., and an address by Anthony Morgan, co-host of CBC's *The Nature of Things*. The Rev. Paige Souter of Church of the Redeemer was the evening's MC, and Michael and Gwyne Willmot were the presenting sponsors.

"From the north, the east, the south and the west, we have come this night, and we are grateful for

your compassion, your creativity and your generosity," Bishop Andrew Asbil told the audience. He thanked all those who worked hard to ensure the event's success, including Melissa Doidge and Peter Misiaszek of the diocese's Stewardship Development department and staff of the Synod Office who volunteered.

In addition to raising funds for clergy in the diocese who are facing unexpected expenses, the dinner handed out bursaries to the following people for their theological education: Denise Byard, Grace Rockett, the Rev. Nkandiso Mapumuto and Yuhoing (Rose) Wang.

In his keynote address, Mr. Morgan spoke about how science and faith can help reduce suffering in the world. Mr. Morgan, whose family attends St. James Cathedral, is an award-winning science communicator, Ph.D. researcher, startup founder and game designer who has hosted dozens of TV programs.

Involving the audience in a few fun experiments, he showed how

people can be unaware of "blind spots" in their thinking. These gaps can "misshape" the way they see the world, blocking them from solving problems or even making them worse.

"That's why I think science is such a useful tool, because it inspires us to practice curiosity," he said. "It looks for the blind spots in our thinking, and if we can do that, we can understand the sources of

suffering more clearly."

He said people are often unable to solve problems because of their assumptions. Without realizing they're trapped in a particular way

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The Rev. Paige Souter, the evening's MC.



The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena with Gowtham Ganeswaran.



Bishop's Company Dinner presenting sponsors Michael and Gwyne Willmot with Bishop Andrew Asbil.



At the reception.



From left, the Rev. Ravi Kalison, the Rev. Canon Stephen Kirkegaard, Rebecca Kalison and Denise Byard.



Bishop Jenny Anderson with friends.



Sisters of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine.



Mary Asbil (second from left) with friends.

Continued from Page 6

of thinking, they can inadvertently perpetuate suffering.

"That's why I think the second huge benefit of science is that it encourages us to practice creativity – to identify and play with the blind spots in our thinking, ideally through experiments. Practicing creativity allows us to find the assumptions and blind spots that we have about the world and figure out which ones are shaky and which ones we've abandoned all together."

One of the best ways to find blind spots in our thinking is to listen to outsiders and fringe thinkers, he said. "To me, this is the greatest advantage to the scientific ap-

proach – it encourages us to crack the problem in collaboration. If we all have blind spots in our thinking that are invisible to us, what's the best way to find them? By talking to people who see things differently. If we do that, I think we can solve the problems of suffering. I think we can do it only that way – by working together."

He said fear – particularly caused by a perceived threat to one's identity – and a determination to "always be right" can also result in blind spots. "Fear shuts down the parts of your brain capable of creativity, empathy, open-mindedness and curiosity. It pulls us away from the

best version of ourselves."

Faith, he said, can play an important role in identifying and addressing the blind spots, assumptions and fear that people have. Church can provide a community and resources to help in times of need, either through the community itself or in the form of God.

"Faith helps us practice calm," he said. "Prayer allows us to practice what scientists call 'managed cognition.' In other words, prayer allows us to notice what our goals are and when they have us stuck in fear, so we can choose different goals. Finding community and setting our

Continued on Page 10



# Youth worship, learn and have fun in Muskoka

BY THE REV. BRIAN SUGGS

**R**eCharge, the annual diocesan youth retreat, was held on Sept. 27-29 at Muskoka Woods. Bishop Andrew and Mary Asbil, along with members of the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee (BYMC), were on site to greet the youth as two coach buses rolled in from Toronto around 9 p.m. on Friday night. In total, 120 people from across the diocese gathered to worship, learn and have fun together.

After settling in, the Rev. Yohan Dumpala and team led a time of worship. Bishop Andrew and Mary shared about times in their lives when they felt close to God, and then they led the youth in night prayers before everyone headed to their cabins.

The sessions on Saturday focused on exploring the Season of Spiritual Renewal. This time provided an opportunity to help the youth begin to better understand what renewal is and what it can look like. The session opened by praying for renewal to begin in the hearts and lives of those present and then to spread to each of their families and home churches upon their return.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen, co-ordinator of Season of Spiritual Renewal for the diocese, shared via video the four disciplines associated with renewal: widespread prayer; a deeper engagement with the bible; a commitment to worship; and more intentional discipleship. She also talked about her own personal spiritual journey, about how she identified with the biblical story of God calling Samuel, how Samuel's life changed after his encounter with God, about times when she had experienced God's presence, and how her life has been impacted through her relationship with God as a follower of Jesus.

Building on the video, Bishop Andrew and Mary spoke about what prayer is and what the Lord's Prayer is. There were testimonies and stories of prayers being answered and some discussion on how we can respond when our prayers aren't answered.

I led the evening session focused on the bible: what it is, what its purpose is, and what to do if you read it and don't understand. The youth also played a very loud and enthusiastic game of Bible Jeopardy, followed by a "Bible Lab" that focused on practical tips for studying scripture more deeply, led by three of the diocesan youth coordinators, Sarah Mair, Ian Physick and Constance Kendall.

In addition to worshipping, praying and learning together, participants got to try out the Kraken, a six-lane water slide, and choose their own afternoon activities, which could include archery tag, crate



Participants form a giant cross on the lawn of Muskoka Woods. Activities at the retreat included archery tag, hiking, basketball, arts and crafts, tennis, pickleball and more. **YOHAN DUMPALA**

stacking, the pump track (bikes and scooters), hiking, basketball, arts and crafts, tennis, pickleball, jam time with the band, or having time to catch up on homework and relax. Everyone's favourite game, Flame Battlers, was played on Saturday night and involved a lot of strategy, team camp fires, and trying to protect your fire from having cups of water poured on it. There was a new activity offered this year, a prayer and reflection space where youth could have quiet time when needed and engage in guided prayer and journaling exercises. The space was a huge success and organized by Rose St. Thomas, co-ordinator of the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program.

On Sunday, the Rev. Jillian Ruch, chaplain at Havergal College, celebrated Holy Communion and preached. Youth were invited to bring an orange shirt to wear on Sunday as we marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In her sermon, Jillian said, "reconciliation is something as Christians we are called into. It is about caring for our fellow humans – following the commandment given to us by Jesus. It is in this spiritual renewal time that we can also fully enter a process of reconciliation with our whole Christian hearts."

After worship, youth were invited to take a bible home if they wanted one, and they could also pick out encouraging

words and verses of scripture printed on stickers and small posters as a way of keeping them encouraged and engaged with their faith back home.

The members of the BYMC would like to thank the diocese for its continued support of the ReCharge retreat. We continue to pray for all youth and youth leaders in this diocese that the Holy Spirit would spark spiritual renewal in each of them, and through them that God will bless the Church and this diocese in new and fresh ways.

*The Rev. Brian Suggs is the incumbent of Christ Church St. James and chair of the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee.*





l, making music and more. There was also a prayer and reflection space where youth could have quiet time, when needed, and engage in guided prayer and journaling exercises. PHOTO COLLAGE COURTESY OF THE REV.



Photo adapted from Fizkes/Shutterstock

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# PWRDF membership approves new name

Alongside Hope reflects emphasis on partnership, agency says

BY JANICE BIEHN

ON Oct. 15, the membership of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund approved a new name for the 65-year-old organization. As of March 1, PWRDF will be known as Alongside Hope and its French equivalent, *Auprès de l'espoir*.

The issue of changing PWRDF's name to one that is easier to say and less confusing has been ever-present for many years. In 2022, the board approved a budget and the creation of a task team to identify a new name that would both honour the organization's history as the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for international development and humanitarian response and carry it into the future.

PWRDF traces its roots to the 1958 mining disaster in Springhill, N.S., which compelled Anglicans across the country to donate money to support the affected families. One year later, the Primate's World Relief Fund was established at

General Synod as an agency that would respond to emergencies on behalf of Anglicans in Canada. In 1969, the D was added for "development."

In the last fiscal year, PWRDF worked with more than 70 partners in 32 countries, and it was recently named to the 2024 Charity Intelligence Top 100 Charities List. The voting membership comprises board members, diocesan representatives and PWRDF's youth council.

The task team was made up of 12 key volunteers from across the country, including members of the board and youth council and PWRDF staff. Cyan Solutions, a marketing and creative agency in Ottawa, led conversations with the team, other volunteers and staff to inspire reflections and gain valuable insights.

In all of the discussions, one clear and hopeful theme emerged: partnership.

• PWRDF partners with local

organizations who carry out the work of food security, gender equality, community health, climate action and human rights.

- We partner with membership organizations that allow us to be part of a larger network.
- We partner with our generous donors and funding agencies, including Global Affairs Canada.
- We partner with the Anglican Church of Canada, dioceses, spiritual ministries and ecclesiastical provinces, through their bishops and their PWRDF representatives.
- We partner with parish representatives, clergy and countless volunteers in the pews across the country who connect Canadians with the work of our partners, our neighbours.

This theme of partnership is

woven throughout scripture. The task team was drawn to the story of the road to Emmaus. Days after Jesus died, the disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, still grieving their loss. As Luke writes, the resurrected Jesus came alongside them, but they did not know it was him. Jesus travelled with them and accepted their hospitality to dine with them. In the breaking of bread, their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

When we walk alongside one another, Jesus accompanies us. We are strengthened and comforted and recognize Jesus when we share in his feast. As we walk alongside each of our partners, supporting, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a better world.

Thus was born Alongside Hope. With the guidance of the board and the task team, taglines were developed in English and French to reflect the legacy of PWRDF.

Alongside Hope conveys the con-

cept of partnership in a compelling way, honouring Jesus' words to love our neighbour, says Will Postma, executive director of PWRDF. "It conveys the listening and learning that takes place when walking side by side, together with partners from around the world, including in Canada, with our supporters and volunteers. Alongside Hope inspires us even further in working with partners towards our vision of a truly just, healthy and peaceful world."

The name is changing, but the colourful globe icon will continue to identify the organization. This continuity will improve brand recognition as PWRDF transitions to its new name over the coming months and into 2025. More information is available at [pwrdf.org/our-new-name](http://pwrdf.org/our-new-name).

Janice Biehn is PWRDF's communications and marketing coordinator and a member of St. Olave, Swansea.

## Science doesn't work without faith: speaker

Continued from Page 7

goals allows us to reset our nervous system and use collaboration, curiosity and creativity."

He said compassion can also bring about change. "One thing that faith has taught us again and again is that when you express compassion and concern for the suffering of even those who might wish you ill, it can inspire them to do the same. And that is why I think that the faith approach is so invaluable – not only because it helps us practice calm but because it helps us practice compassion. It's taught me the most important lesson as a science communicator: before people care what you believe, they must believe that you care."

He said science doesn't work without faith. "Science can tell us some incredible things about how

to build things, how to go to other planets, etc., but it really only works when we find a way not to hate each other. It breaks down when we don't have institutions that remind us that showing compassion, even to those who wish us ill, is necessary in order to find our blind spots and reduce suffering."

Science and religion are complementary approaches to the problem of suffering, he said. "Science and faith are not what we think but how we think. They are ways of looking at the world. Science is an institution that helps us to practice collaboration, curiosity and creativity – to ask for help and look for blind spots in our thinking – and faith as an institution helps us practice noticing when our goals are not serving us and to choose better ones. Together, science and faith can help us transform our culture and leave behind goals that are unhelpful to focus on ones that will actually reduce suffering.

Science and faith encourage us to practice courage, to lean into society's discomfort. And I think that right now, this is what the Church is being asked to do."

In his closing remarks, Bishop Asbil thanked Mr. Morgan for his challenging and insightful comments. "Thank you for opening our eyes and giving us an opportunity to immerse ourselves in experiments, to help us to see and experience the world in a different way. We have work to do, but I know the faith community in this room, which is so dedicated to the craft of what it means to have faith in a world where there is so little, will be able to do a new math that's really an old math, because you really can feed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. Thank you for tonight, Anthony."

For more on the Bishop's Company or for more pictures from the dinner, visit [www.bishopscompanytoronto.ca](http://www.bishopscompanytoronto.ca).



Anthony Morgan and Bishop Andrew Asbil at the Bishop's Company Dinner. PHOTO BY MOON CREATIVE HOUSE

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# Restorer finds hidden mural

## Paint hid angels for decades

BY LARRY KROTZ

**WHEN** he started crawling around on scaffolds high up inside the sanctuary of St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle on Bloor Street, Maurice Kwiecinski knew that surprises lay in store. For the next seven weeks, the artist and restoration specialist would painstakingly scrape four layers of paint loaded on the church's upper walls since the early 1970s, hoping to uncover and then restore what he had been told lay below.

The unknowns were enticing. There weren't even proper photographs of the fresco-mural hidden under the layers of paint. When he found it emerging – a pair of angels facing one another from either side of the main stained glass altar window, and then other ornamental decorations, including an image of the paschal lamb on a side wall – it was thrilling.

Mysteries around the fresco, the restoration of which is a parishioner's memorial project to a partner who died in 2023, still abound. There seems to be no information in the church archives about the provenance of the original, which was undoubtedly painted soon after St. Simon the Apostle was built in the mid-1880s. The widely respected Eden Smith was one of the architects, and his fondness for the Arts and Crafts style of William Morris lent itself to such decorative touches.

The story of everything getting covered up a century later in the early 1970s is also somewhat murky.



Older parishioners who remember the original paintings seem unable to recall what discussions took place prior to the cover-up paint job. Parishioner Margie Huycke says that they just came to church one day "and there it was." It was done, it seems, at the impetus of a choirmaster who pushed for a number of alterations to the chancel area, believing the acoustics of

his music might be improved.

According to Mr. Kwiecinski, such paint-overs in churches are not uncommon. "People find interiors laden with murals and frescos too dark, or they think flat monochrome walls are more modern." He has worked in the field for some time. His father, Andrew, was an artist in Poland, and when the family emigrated to Canada in 1981,



Maurice Kwiecinski at work at St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, Bloor Street. Above, the uncovered angels on both sides of the church's stained-glass window. PHOTO BY LARRY KROTZ

the Roman Catholic church they attended in Kitchener experienced a flood. The elder Mr. Kwiecinski was asked if he could undertake repairs to wall frescos damaged by the water. He did so, and the careers of both him and son Maurice, who was his apprentice, were launched. Many churches – and even work on the Hockey Hall of Fame – later (Andrew passed away in 2009), Maurice would find himself up the scaffold at St. Peter and St. Simon with angels emerging.

For the parish, which prides itself on the historic nature of its building's architecture, the project has been exciting. The parishioners and visitors to the church find the res-

toration delightful. The Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, the incumbent, exclaims that in a city that tears things down and often replaces them with something only ordinary, it's great to do our part to restore the heritage of both Toronto, the diocese and our parish.

"Beauty is a way to draw us toward God's grace," he says. "This is a liturgical painting, expressing the reality we proclaim each Sunday that Heaven and Earth are joined together in worshipping God in Christ."

*Larry Krotz is a member of St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, Bloor Street.*

## BRIEFLY

### Unity week's resources in seven languages

Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 are now available, and they're in seven languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Arabic. The week will take place Jan. 18-25. The prayers and reflections were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy.

An ecumenical initiative that is celebrated around the world, the week offers Christians an opportunity to enter more deeply into the faith that unites them. The guiding biblical text for 2025 comes from John 11:17-27. The theme, "Do you believe this?" (v. 26), takes its cue from the dialogue between Jesus and Martha when Jesus visited the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany following the death of their brother Lazarus.

Next year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian

Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. The commemoration provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the creed formulated

during this council, says a spokesperson for the World Council of Churches.

To obtain the resources, visit World Council of Churches at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org).

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## BLESSED

Twenty-two dogs, five cats and 55 humans attend the Blessing of the Animals service at St. Mark, Midland in early October. Outside the church, several large bowls of drinking water beckoned invitingly, while inside, a table full of treat bags lured the mixed congregation into the church. Dogs who had previously only met at the local park or on the street while out for a walk greeted one another, noses to tails, and looked on, drooling, as each human was given a treat bag to share with their furry companions. The clergy were careful to name each animal and make eye contact as they sought God's blessing upon them. The whole service took about an hour. 'You could practically see the halos forming as each animal received its blessing,' wrote Bev Hanna, a local reporter. PHOTOS BY BEV HANNA



# Jesus is God's amazing gift

Continued from Page 1

Bethlehem was over 100 km – a walk of several days for a very pregnant Mary! After arriving in Bethlehem for the required census, the couple searched for an inn that could house them. But there was no room in the inn, so their baby was born in a stable instead. Those first on the scene after the birth were not family members and friends, but shepherds, who had been keeping watch over their flocks out in the fields.

None of this was ideal for Mary and Joseph, I am sure. And yet, Jesus came. Into the messiness of the world, and in timing that was far from ideal, Jesus came. For me, this is the reassurance of Christmas. Our celebrations are never perfect, but the gift of Jesus is always perfect. For "every good and perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17) and we rejoice that this perfect gift becomes for us the "pioneer and perfecter of our own faith" (Hebrews 12:2). The abundant life we receive in Christ is the very best gift we could be given and is the source of our joy this and every Christmas. Even if nothing else turns out quite right, we take hold of this truth that Jesus is God's amazing gift of salvation for the whole world.

Many authors over the centuries have tried to capture this sense that the birth of Jesus cuts through the mundaneness and disorder of our world and our lives. Whether we are ready for it or not, Christ comes. One of my favourite expressions of this is from Madeline L'Engle in her poem "First Coming":

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, and touch our pain,  
He came with love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

As we prepare to celebrate once again the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, may we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. And in our striving to make everything perfect, may we instead rest in the joy of God's perfect gift. Merry Christmas!

# When joy and hope are in short supply



BY MURRAY MacADAM

It's easy to become distracted by the conventional elements that mark the Christmas season,

such as family gatherings, preparing meals and buying and receiving presents. That can make it harder to focus on this time as a season of renewal, when God invites us to let Jesus come into our hearts and enable us to become more like him.

All around the world, the global tapestry of believers is waiting in anticipation to worship Jesus and his birth during the four-week season of Advent. Our Christmas celebrations follow the four main themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy and love.

Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29) and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

The word "Advent" stems from the Latin root *adventus*, which means "arrival," based on its root in the word *advenire*, comprising "ad" (meaning "to") and "venire" (meaning "come").

What – or who – is coming towards us? With what message and significance?

Someone whose presence will flip the values of the world upside down, in so many ways. Embodying – literally – a new concept of power and influence, coming into our midst not through a conventional understanding of power, but rather through that most helpless of human beings: a newborn baby. A baby born not to parents from the affluent elite of society, but rather to a humble carpenter's family. A family that had to endure the indignity of a mere stable in which to their baby was born, following an arduous

journey to Bethlehem. Later they became refugees, forced to flee to Egypt.

It would be the modern equivalent of Jesus being born in a homeless shelter. Can we imagine that?

Far from arriving in a world marked by comfort and joy, Jesus came that first Advent to bring peace to a world in turmoil and offer comfort to those who suffered. He entered the world bringing good tidings of great joy for those awash in a sea of sorrows.

The roots of Advent and its themes of joy and hope are particularly relevant for us today. We're living at a time when joy and hope are in short supply for many Canadians. The zeitgeist, or defining mood of our times, is marked by pessimism, political turmoil and heightened rates of anxiety, especially among young people. The darkness of these winter days seems mirrored by a dark mood over our land.

Advent hope is needed now more than ever. But it needs to be rooted in hope based on the realities of our world today, and on living out those radically counter-cultural values that Jesus embodied. Our living out of Advent hope can include charitable giving and helping others during this season – and on working towards lasting solutions to the urgent needs around poverty, hunger and homelessness that afflict so many in our wealthy nation. Our faith in action can serve as a beacon of hope.

Advent begins just as the days of winter darken, as we head into the darkest six weeks of the year. We can prepare for the birth of Jesus by preparing our hearts to have Jesus born in each of us, with his spirit inspiring us to bolder acts of compassion and justice. In this season of anticipation, we can do an honest inventory of our lives, asking ourselves if there are any habits or attitudes that prevent us from bringing the light into our hearts.

We can remind ourselves that the true Light shines brighter at the darkest of times – and that we can all reflect that light. This world is not all there is.

Murray MacAdam is a member of All Saints, Peterborough

**Brighten up your day.**

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Bishop Kevin Robertson joins the Rev. Dr. Irwin Sikha and the congregation of St. Bede's at a service marking the church's 100th anniversary. The celebration included music, skits and the recognition of parishioners and clergy from the past. The congregation pledged to go out into the world as shining lights, spreading God's love and compassion. PHOTOS BY TINA GEORGE



# St. Bede's light shines at vibrant service

BY TINA GEORGE

**ST.** Bede, Toronto culminated its centenary year (2023-24) with a celebratory service in October, while committing to the next century with faith and hope.

The service was a vibrant tapestry of music, drama and audio-visual presentations that showcased the theme. It opened with a grand procession, banners and flags flying, demonstrating the rich diversity and background of its members. The evening featured a time of praise led by the worship team, recognized past members visiting from far and near, and honoured priests who served in the past. Bishop Kevin Robertson, the guest of honour, delivered an inspiring address on the theme's relevance and the significance of maintaining a strong spiritual foundation in a rapidly changing world.

During the year, the congregation embraced Matthew 5:14 as its centenary guidepost: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." St. Bede's, perched on a hill for 100 years, was reminded that it is a light in others' darkness, shade on sunny days, hearts that comfort, and hands that wipe tears. The children, youth and young adults of the congregation performed songs, skits and mimes focused on this message and led the congregation in a pledge to go out into the world as shining lights, spreading God's love and compassion.

In today's fast-paced world, the anniversary served as an opportunity for the congregation to embrace a vision to rejoice, renew and reconnect; to renew spiritual commitments; to rejoice in the blessings for the faithful community; and to reconnect with God,

one another, and the core values that have shaped the church's community over the past century.

The centenary service was a beautiful amalgamation of the past, present and future. It was a heartfelt celebration of faith, commit-

ment and unity, reminding everyone of the power of spiritual renewal, joyful celebration and meaningful connections. St. Bede's is poised to enter the next century with renewed vigour and a deepened sense of purpose, ready to continue its

mission of spreading God's love and light. In Bishop Kevin's words "The Church is indeed alive and well here!"

*Tina George is a member of St. Bede, Toronto.*



## Archbishop finishes cross-Canada tour

The Most Rev. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, visited several dioceses across Canada earlier in the fall. He was invited to teach and preach on the theme of “Becoming a Church of Missionary Disciples.” His two-week visit began in Corner Brook and ended in Vancouver.

Archbishop Cottrell met with clergy and lay leaders and delivered several addresses on spirituality, evangelism and discipleship as they contribute to becoming a Church of missionary disciples. He spoke at clergy gatherings and conferences, including the synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

“We were challenged by his words as we stand at the crossroads at a very important time in the life of our Church, and the archbishop’s call for us to become a simpler, humbler, bolder Church. And yet we’ve also been given words of great hope. We never walk alone because God is always with us,” said Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

Archbishop Cottrell said it was encouraging to visit people from the Anglican Church of Canada. “This has been a coast-to-coast visit, meeting with and speaking to hundreds of clergy and leaders, but also energizing because of the wonderful hospitality received, and by being inspired by the Anglican Church of Canada’s determination to find ways of sharing the gospel that are generous and inclusive and pay attention to the mistakes of the past,” he said.

He also witnessed some of the reconciliation work that has been done with Indigenous communities in Canada, discovering parallels with the Church of England’s commitments to racial justice. “We have much to learn from one another and it is always a joy to discover the breadth, diversity and unity of the Anglican Communion.”

*Anglican Communion News Service*

## Parish celebrates baptisms in Farsi 1

VANCOUVER – In late June, the parish of St. Christopher celebrated the baptism of five adult members. Their journey to baptism led to the translation of the Book of Alternative Services and baptismal preparation classes into Farsi.

The five baptismal candidates are originally from Iran, and not all of them were fluent in English. The Rev. Jonathan Pinkney, rector of St. Christopher’s, led the baptismal preparation classes in English with a Farsi translator. The parish’s leadership decided they could go one step further and translate the liturgy as well. The parish received a grant from the Diocese of New Westminster to translate the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) into Farsi, launching the book at the baptismal service on June 23.

After the service, the newly baptized were presented with their own copies of the Farsi BAS to mark the occasion and help them in their spiritual journeys. The cover features artwork by Persian members of St. Christopher’s. The original, a mosaic of Mary made of wood pieces of



different colours, now sits in the church’s sanctuary.

*Topic*

## Prayers sought for bishop 2

WINNIPEG – Bishop Geoffrey Woodcroft of the Diocese of Rupert’s Land was admitted to hospital in late October and diagnosed with terminal cancer. The news came shortly after he announced his intention to retire in June 2025. Bishop Woodcroft immediately went on sick leave, expecting to transition directly to long-term disability leave.

The Ven. Simon Blaikie, executive archdeacon of Rupert’s Land, has been appointed diocesan administrator while the bishop’s seat is vacant.

Ordained a priest in 1990, Bishop Woodcroft earned his master’s degree in divinity at Huron College and served in the dioceses of Algoma and Rupert’s Land. He was elected bishop of Rupert’s Land, which spans parts of Ontario and Manitoba, in 2018. He has been an associate of Rupert’s Land Indigenous Council and was an Anglican representative in hearings for the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, a settlement between church, state and Indigenous representatives approved in 2006.

The Diocese of Rupert’s Land is asking for prayers for Bishop Woodcroft and his family. A mass for his healing and comfort was held at a Winnipeg parish on Oct. 23.

*The Anglican Journal*

## Partnership expands clergy education 3

HAMILTON & LONDON, ONT. – The Diocese of Niagara has partnered with Huron University College to create new opportunities for clergy education and leadership development.

In an agreement between the Niagara School for Missional Leadership (NSML) and Huron’s Licentiate in Theology program (LTh), students from Huron can take NSML courses for credit toward the LTh diploma, and potentially transfer credits to a Master of Divinity or Master of Theology program. Students from the NSML will also have the option to expand their learning by exploring the LTh course calendar.

The two institutions embrace similar missions and methods, prioritizing leaders from different parish contexts by developing missional courses that encourage contextual reflection and practice. Over the last three years, the NSML has lived into its mission to effectively train leaders to respond to the needs of God’s world by being a gospel-focus learning community. Likewise, Huron’s mission is to engage the world and create “leaders with heart.”

“I am so excited for the learning opportunities created through this new partnership,” said Bishop Susan Bell of the Diocese of Niagara. “It will be a real benefit to those seeking to learn more about our faith and what missional leadership is all about.”

*The Niagara Anglican*

## Students love the meal at Friel 4

OTTAWA – A church’s effort to invite University of Ottawa students to a meal served at the Friel Street student residence every two weeks is a hit. Both dinners in September attracted more than 200 students.

The Rev. Michael Garner, incumbent of St. Albans and part of the multi-faith chaplaincy at the university, was inspired to start the project after learning that food insecurity is a common problem for university students, magnified by recent high levels of inflation. He learned that the campus food bank has very limited resources and often runs out of food. Although a meal once every two weeks isn’t the solution for student food insecurity on campus, it’s part of an effort to raise awareness about the issue, and it provides an opportunity for church groups to express care and concern for students and a social event to help students connect with one another.

The project follows in the footsteps of an ecumenical program called Open Table that St. Albans participated in with United and Presbyterian churches to host meals on campus before the pandemic. Open Table has provided \$12,000 from its remaining funds for this project, half of which is being used to pay a student coordinator. The other half will help pay for food and supplies. The alumni association heard about the project and donated \$2,000 for equipment, such as bain-maries to keep food hot while it is being served.

*Perspective*



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IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen, Honorary Assistant, St. Matthew and St. Aidan, Buckhorn, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Alexandra Stone, Priest-in-Charge, St. Matthias, Bellwoods and Associate Priest of St. Mary Magdalene, Oct. 4.

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. John, York Mills (Associate Priest)
- Parish of Fenelon Falls and Coboconk
- St. Paul, Uxbridge

- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
- St. Peter, Oshawa

Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names):

- Christ Church, Brampton
- St. George on-the-Hill

Second Phase - (receiving names via Bishop):

- N/A

Third Phase - (no longer receiving names):

- Christ Church, Deer Park

Ordination

- The Rev. Ajith Varghese was ordained a Priest at St. Philip on-the-Hill, Unionville on Nov. 2.

Reception of Orders

- The Rev. Dr. Andreas D'Souza will have his Holy Orders received from the Roman

Catholic Church at St. Paul, Runnymede on Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Celebration of New Ministry

- The Rev. Brian Suggs, Incumbent, Christ Church, St. James, Dec. 15 at 4 pm.

Deaths

- The Rev. Canon Judy Allen died on Oct. 7. Ordained deacon in 2002 and appointed honorary canon of St. James Cathedral in 2019, she served as deacon of Holy Family, Heart Lake, Brampton. Her funeral was held on Oct. 19 at St. James Cathedral.
- The Rev. Dr. Derek Davidson died on Oct. 21. Ordained deacon in 2001, he served as deacon of St. Mary, Richmond Hill and Ascension, Don Mills. His funeral was held on Nov. 2 at the North York Kane-Jerrett Funeral Home.

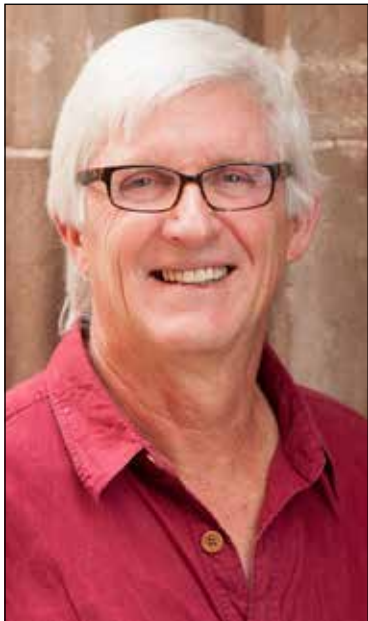
Lecture explores musician's work

St. James Cathedral will host its next Snell Lecture on Dec. 8, an engaging session that promises to inspire and challenge perspectives. The speaker will be Dr. Brian Walsh, pastor, theologian and award-winning author known for his work in biblical theology and contemporary culture.

Mr. Walsh will connect Leonard Cohen's songs and poetry with scripture, grounding his artistry in biblical imagination. By examining the prophetic and priestly themes in Mr. Cohen's work, Mr. Walsh, along with his musical and liturgical collaborators Deb Whalen-Blaize and David Krause, will create a liturgy that resonates with this cultural moment, offering candor, grace and hope.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral with a Eucharistic liturgy and homily focusing on the second Sunday of Advent, exploring the link between John the Baptist and Leonard Cohen. After the Eucharist and a reception, Mr. Walsh will give the Snell Lecture at 6 p.m. and celebrate the launch of his new book.

In conversation with Dean Stephen Hance, Mr. Walsh will take



Brian Walsh will be joined by musical and liturgical collaborators Deb Whalen-Blaize and David Krause at the cathedral on Dec. 8. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

questions after the lecture and discuss the theological methods reflected in both the liturgy and his writing.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR DECEMBER

1. St. James Cathedral
2. Project Ploughshares – the peace institute of the Canadian Council of Churches
3. All Saints, Peterborough
4. Christ Church, Campbellford
5. Parish of Belmont
6. FaithWorks shelters for women and children at risk
7. St. George-the-Martyr, Apsley
8. Peterborough Deanery

9. St. George, Hastings
10. Diversity Officer and Diversity Manager of the Diocese of Toronto
11. St. James, Emily
12. St. James, Roseneath
13. St. John the Baptist, Lakefield
14. St. John the Evangelist, Havelock
15. The Season of Spiritual Renewal
16. St. Thomas, Millbrook
17. St. John, Ida
18. St. Luke, Peterborough
19. St. Matthew and St. Aidan, Buckhorn
20. St. Michael, Westwood
21. St. Peter on-the-Rock, Stony Lake

22. The Anglican Church Women (ACW) – Enid Corbett, Diocesan President
23. St. Stephan, Chandos
24. Children's Ministry in the diocese
25. Christmas Day
26. The Community of Deacons (Archdeacon Kyn Barker)
27. St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough
28. The Children's Ministry Network
29. The Staff of the Synod Office
30. The Chapel of Christ Church, Lakefield
31. Rice Lake Regional Ministry

LOOKING AHEAD

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

**DEC. 1** - First Sunday of Advent Evensong, 4 p.m., Church of St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto. All welcome.

**DEC. 1** - Advent Carol Service, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road. Come sing carols with us as we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons together.

**DEC. 7 & 8, 14 & 15 & 20-22** - The Christmas Story, a Toronto tradition since 1938. Professional musicians and a volunteer cast present this charming hour-long nativity pageant. Suggested donation: \$25 adults, \$10 children. Visit www.thechristmasstory.ca to reserve seating or call 416-598-4521. At Holy Trinity, 19 Trinity Square, (on the west side of the Toronto Eaton Centre), Toronto. The Church is wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language interpretation on Dec. 14.

**DEC. 8** - Advent carol service with

music by Palestrina, Mendelssohn, Monteverdi and others, performed by the St. Martin in-the-Fields choir led by music director Jack Hattey, with instrumental support from violin, flute, trumpet and organ, 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave. Toronto. A freewill offering will be taken and donated to a charitable organization in the parish. The service will be followed by a reception to which all are invited.

**DEC. 8** - Fun-filled, family friendly concert featuring handbell ring-

ers, chimers and band, 3-4 p.m., St. John York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Audience participation and free will offering for Anglican missions and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

**DEC. 14** – Pancake breakfast with Santa and his elves, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Luke, 904 Coxwell Ave., Toronto. Tickets for adults \$8, children \$6, family of six, \$30. For advance tickets call 416-421-6878, ext. 21.

**DEC. 15** - Joy to the World, 4 p.m., a concert of word and song, St. George on-the-Hill, 4600 Dundas

St. W. Freewill offering.

**DEC. 15** - Christmas Lullabies Music for upper voices, with music by John Tavener, John Rutter, Eric Whitacre, Franz Biebl and more, 3 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave. Toronto. Tickets at the door: \$25 adults; \$20 students/seniors; free for children under 12.

**DEC. 15** - Bach Vespers: Cantata 191 "Gloria in excelsis Deo!" featuring the Redeemer choir, strings and trumpets, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road.

**DEC. 18** - Joyeux Noël, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Messe de minuit pour Noël and other seasonal favourites,

with accompanist Conrad Gold and conductor Ron Cheung, St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave. Toronto. Tickets at the door: \$25 adults; \$20 students/seniors; free for children under 12.

**DEC. 22** - Blue Christmas, a service for when Christmas is difficult, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road.

**JAN. 6** - Holy Communion for Epiphany (BCP) at 6 p.m., followed by a light supper, then at 7 p.m. Debbie Cowling presents an illustrated feature talk about her recent visit to Edinburgh and Glasgow. In-person at St. Olave, Bloor Street West and Windermere Avenue.

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# Messiah

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AND ORCHESTRA



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

**Thomas Bell**, Conductor  
**Jane Fingler**, Soprano  
**Marjorie Maltais**, Mezzo-soprano  
**Jacob Abrahamse**, Tenor  
**Dion Mazerolle**, Baritone

**TICKETS:**

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