

Clergy honoured  
for long service

Communion Forest  
plants a seed



Church celebrates  
with concert

# The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

www.toronto.anglican.ca

JUNE 2025



## ALL DONE

Bishop Andrew Asbil, bishops and clergy share a happy moment with transitional deacons after their ordination at St. James Cathedral on May 4. For more photos, see Page 3. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

# Planning Feasibility Study releases report

Recommendations include lower campaign goal, focus on parishes

BY STUART MANN

**THERE** is an openness to a diocesan-wide fundraising campaign – if it is grounded in parish realities, shaped by transparent communication and delivered with an invitational spirit.

That's one of the key findings in the final report of the diocese's Planning Feasibility Study, which wrapped up in April. The report is available on the diocese's website at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/feasibility-study](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/feasibility-study).

In partnership with the diocese, M&M International, a Toronto-based consulting agency, undertook a feasibility study to assess

the readiness, capacity and support for a proposed diocesan-wide capital campaign of \$45 million over five years. Through 245 confidential interviews, nine open forums and 18 regional deanery meetings, the study gathered input from a broad cross-section of the diocesan community.

"These conversations offered deep insight into parish realities, priorities and the perceived feasibility of a major campaign," says the report.

The study found that while 89 per cent of respondents expressed a level of support for the campaign's proposed case for support, there

was a clear desire for greater focus, clarity and alignment with urgent parish needs. "Trust, transparency and a well-paced, grassroots approach emerged as central themes," it says.

M&M International found that the diocese would benefit from refinements to the case for support, stronger communications strategies and a readiness phase before launching a campaign. It recommended a revised campaign goal of \$25-\$30 million, contingent on implementing the recommendations in the report. It also recommended a minimum 70/30 sharing formula, meaning that 70 per cent

of funds raised were retained by the parishes while 30 per cent were for diocesan initiatives.

Several initiatives in the case for support emerged as clear priorities, based on the respondents' feedback. These included growing the capacity of churches, faith formation and discipleship, parish and diocesan-wide outreach, empowering leaders, invigorating generational ministries, shifting from maintenance to mission, and listening to and walking alongside Indigenous communities and taking prayerful action.

"These initiatives reflect deeply held values across the diocese

– spiritual renewal, strong local ministry, future-ready leadership and better infrastructure to support mission," says the report. "Respondents asked for detailed implementation strategies and emphasized the need for ongoing diocesan support that enables – not replaces – local action."

Initiatives that received more modest support included parish-led advocacy, imaginative regional ministry, innovative parish initiatives, transforming and greening churches, and caring for neighbours. "Feedback on these areas included concerns about overlap

Continued on Page 12

CONFIRMATION SERVICE DRAWS A CROWD – SEE PAGES 8-9





Clergy receive holy oil after the service for anointing.



The Very Rev. Duncan Abraham, dean emeritus, receives a standing ovation for his 70th anniversary.

# Clergy honoured

**BISHOP** Andrew Asbil, joined by Bishop Riscylla Shaw and Bishop Kevin Robertson, presented stoles to clergy and deacons celebrating their 25th, 50th and 60th years of ordination at the diocese’s annual Blessing of Oils and the Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows of Bishops, Priests and Deacons service at St. James Cathedral in April. After the service, clergy received consecrated oil for anointing and healing.



With the bishops are, from left, Bishop Peter Fenty (celebrating his 50th anniversary), the Rev. Hollis Hiscock and the Rev. David Bousfield, celebrating their 60th anniversaries. Missing from the photo are the Rev. Ian Nichols and the Ven. David Peasgood (60th anniversaries), the Rev. Dr. Roland Kawano and the Rev. Canon Anthony Jemmott (50th anniversaries). PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Celebrating their 25th anniversaries with the bishops are, from left, the Rev. Deacon Warren Beal, the Rev. Dr. Ann Jervis, the Rev. Michael Stuchbery, the Rev. Janet Stephens and the Rev. Canon Janet Read-Hockin. Missing from the photo are the Rev. Joanne Bennett, the Rev. G. Philip Cooper and the Rev. Dr. Ron Kydd.

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## BRIEFLY

**Synod coming up**  
The 163rd Regular Session of Synod will be held Nov. 7-8 at the Sheraton Parkway, Toronto North hotel in Richmond Hill. Synod was held at this location in the past, including 2023. The pre-Synod meeting will be held online Oct. 4. For more information, visit the Upcoming Synod page on the diocese’s website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca/upcomingsynod](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/upcomingsynod).

**Archbishop to give Snell Lecture**  
Archbishop Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of Sacred Circle, will give the Snell Lecture at St. James Cathedral on June 22 to mark National Indigenous Day of Prayer and National Indigenous History Month. A Eucharist will begin at 4:30 p.m.





ORDAINED

Newly ordained transitional deacons receive applause from the congregation at St. James Cathedral on May 4 during the Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons service. From left are the Rev. Tiffany Robinson, the Rev. Rajini Lyman, the Rev. Denise Byard and the Rev. Michael Brain. The service included the examination, consecration and vesting of the new deacons. The Rev. Canon Lisa Newland gave the homily. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



*"Come away...and rest a while..." Mark 6:31*

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These grants aim to foster outreach programs, community engagement, and various creative initiatives to reach the wider community, that inspire new connections and strengthen the church's presence.

For further information, contact the Foundation Office:  
[adt@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:adt@toronto.anglican.ca) 416-505-6537.

Application deadlines are  
April 30th, July 31st and October 31st.

**THE FOUNDATION**  
Anglican Diocese of Toronto



# Let us renew our commitments to truth and reconciliation

BY THE REV. LEIGH KERN

This June will mark 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report on genocide against Indigenous nations in the Residential School system. Ten years since survivors released the 94 Calls to Action as a pathway to healing, justice and revitalization. Ten years since the courageous voices of survivors shook the world and broke through the silence of denialism. “What can I do to advance reconciliation?” the late Hon. Murray Sinclair would often hear as he spoke to Canadians, to which he would respond, “We have given you 94 Calls to Action.” Yet after a decade, only 14 Calls to Action have been completed. The federal government claims that 85 per cent of the 94 Calls are underway, yet Indigenous scholars and auditors have demonstrated how unsubstantiated this claim of near completion is.

Right Relations ministries and the Bishop's Collaborative for Right Relations have undertaken an audit of our diocese's progress on our responsibilities to the 94 Calls to Action. This work is being carried by dedicated members of the Diocese of Toronto, including clergy, lay people and survivors of Residential Schools and intergenerational survivors. Of the 94 Calls to Action, 13 specifically name and call upon the Church. We encourage all parishes to study the Calls and use them as a framework for spiritual renewal, advocacy and discipleship.

The 94 Calls to Action are a pathway to healing and reconciliation that requires the participation of all of us and every sector of society. Chief Dr. Wilton Littlechild, commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, teaches that the Cree word for reconciliation is “wītaskīwin,” meaning restoring good relations through respect. Christian colonialism has been unmasked of its heresies by the testimonies of thousands of survivors whose bodies bear the scars of abuse by religious leaders. The journey of restoring good and right relations is a spiritual practice that requires courage, humility and commitment. Truth leads us to freedom and transformation. Jesus' life, death and resurrection testifies to God's boundless solidarity with the wounded and oppressed, while promising hope and new life. In this 10th anniversary of the 94 Calls to Action, let us not despair or sink into apathy. Let our spiritual renewal in Christ energize us to participate in the work of new creation in our midst, where the Spirit is speaking to the Church and calling us to greater authenticity to the faith we hold. The 13 Calls to Action that name the Church call us to enact our values through solidarity and healing from false doctrines of Christian colonialism. They call upon the Church to transform our relationship with land, Indigenous nations, power and theologies of European supremacy.

Calls to Action #45 and #49 call for the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and theologies that justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, and a renewal of the treaty relationship that is built on mutual respect. The Doctrine of Discovery gave religious and legal justification for the forced enslavement of non-Christian people and the theft of their lands. This dehumanizing doctrine is the bedrock of the Residential School system, where Indigenous children were subject to forced labour. Many survivors have likened their experience of exploitation to concentration camps. The treaty process contrasts this culture of violence against children and dehumanization, calling on all people on this land to live with respect and responsibility to all life. Call to



The names of the Residential Schools in Ontario are displayed at the Spirit Garden in Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Action #45 illustrates how renewing treaty relationships is a remedy to the destruction of the Doctrine of Discovery. To honour this Call, Right Relations ministries is studying our relationship with land, displacement of Indigenous peoples and land acquisition in this territory.

## Responding to Call to Action #45 and #49 in your parish:

- *Review your roots.* How was your parish established? Review records and documentation relating to how your parish acquired land, local history of Indigenous displacement (by Indigenous sources), and local treaties. Share what you have learned or ask for support from Right Relations ministries by emailing lkern@toronto.anglican.ca.
- *Learn about the Doctrine of Discovery.* Though the Doctrine of Discovery was repudiated by General Synod 2010, it continues to be the foundation of Canadian society and the ongoing denial of Indigenous sovereignty. As a parish community, commit to watching the award-winning film by Anglican Video, “Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts” and utilizing its powerful study guide at <https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery>.

## Responding to Calls to Action #71-76:

Calls to Action #71-76 speak to the painful reality of missing children and unmarked burials associated with Residential Schools. *Sites of Truth, Sites of Conscience: Unmarked Burials and Mass Graves of Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children in Canada* states that:

“[In Residential Schools] Thousands of Indigenous children were subjected to violence, abuse, disease and neglect in these institutions, and many of them died. Their death rates were far higher than those of non-Indigenous school-aged children. When they died, government and Church officials often did not return the children to their families and communities for burial. They were buried instead in cemeteries at the institutions, often in unmarked and mass graves that were sometimes dug by other children. Many of these cemeteries

and burial sites are neglected, abandoned and unprotected. Families were provided with little information about what happened to their children.”

The federal government has discontinued funding for the National Advisory Committee on Residential Schools Missing Children and Unmarked Burials. This funding is essential to continue the sacred work of honouring deceased Indigenous children and fulfilling Calls to Action #71-76. Here is what you can do:

- *Engage with truth.* Dignified burial and honour of the deceased is a Christian value. Read the *Special Interlocutor on Missing Children and Unmarked Burial* reports in a study group in your parish. Visit <https://osi-bis.ca/osi-resources/reports>.
- *Advocate* that the federal government restore funding for the Indigenous-led “identify, locate and commemorate” missing children program.
- *Fundraise* to support the Survivors' Secretariat's ongoing search of the grounds of the Mohawk Institute, an Anglican Residential School. Visit <https://survivorssecretariat.ca>.

How is your parish, family and community honouring our sacred obligations to the 94 Calls to Action, survivors and the children who never returned home from the Residential Schools? As we reflect on our journey of the past 10 years, let us all renew our commitments to truth and reconciliation.

“I urge all Canadians to not be bystanders. Each of us must stand up and speak out. We must insist that these missing children, who were abused and neglected during their lives, now be treated with the respect and human dignity they deserve. We need to work together as we move forward. Let us honour and support all the survivors, Indigenous families and communities leading this sacred work and keep the Spirits of the children foremost in our hearts and in our minds.” (Independent Special Interlocutor, “Sacred Responsibility: Searching for the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials,” Interim Report, 2023, page 4.)

Amen.

The Rev. Leigh Kern is the diocese's Right Relations coordinator.



## 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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## The Anglican Church

### In the Anglican Communion:

A global community of 70 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 164 countries.

### Archbishop of Canterbury:

Lambeth Palace,  
London, England SE1 7JU.

### In Canada:

A community of about 600,000 members in 30 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and north to the Arctic Ocean.

### Acting Primate:

The Most Rev. Anne Germond,  
Church House, 80 Hayden St.  
Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2 Tel: 416-924-9192

### National Indigenous Archbishop

The Most Rev. Christopher Harper  
Church House, 80 Hayden St.  
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### In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 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:

135 Adelaide St. E.,  
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# Communion Forest plants a seed



BY MARY ASBIL

**T**he devastation was unreal. The trees that had shaded us, protected us, gave us oxygen and life, were destroyed in one summer.

Five years ago, the spongy moths invaded our forests and ate through the trees until the dust settled. The moths, whose usual appetite was oak, were so invasive that they digested the coniferous trees on our property as well – the hemlock, spruce and pine.

This was the first personal moment for me when I felt heartsick and helpless to save trees I have known since birth. I had taken them for granted.

Two years later, at the 2022 Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Communion put forth a call to action on the environment and sustainable development with specific requests, including: “Join in the Communion Forest initiative, to protect and restore forests and other ecosystems across our planet, and commit to promoting tree growing at the time of confirmation and other key life and faith moments, as a symbol of spiritual growth.” (4.1.5)

The call was overwhelmingly accepted. The initiative was blessed and supported by clergy and laity from around the world on the grounds of Lambeth Palace, and a tree was planted. As a stark reminder of the environmental crisis around us, the grounds and gardens of the palace surrounding the tree were brown and dry, resulting from 40C weather, a summer of intense heat that resulted in wildfires raging across the land and around the world.

I was moved by the call, its hope for our present and future – a movement of Anglicans that had the potential to transform the world through prayer, faith

and action. One affirmation of the call particularly spoke to me:

“Humanity needs a spiritual and cultural transformation. We must see the world differently: repenting of and rejecting an extractive worldview, which regards the earth and all nature as something to be exploited, and embracing instead a relational worldview, at the heart of Christ’s teaching. This is espoused especially by Indigenous peoples, who see the profound interdependence of all creation.” (3.3)

I love our homeland, our trees, our wetlands, our ecosystems. And I love how our Church moves into action for the most vulnerable and unprotected. For the past three years, dioceses, provinces and local churches around the world, including three Ontario dioceses – Niagara, Ontario and Ottawa – have committed to encouraging parishes to develop activities that support and sustain tree growing and ecosystem conservation.

Since January, the Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care and I have engaged wholeheartedly in conversations about joining the Communion Forest movement here in our diocese. Once a seed is planted, it is amazing to see how it matures into a beautiful sprout. Nature takes its course, but it needs the sustaining support and love of a community to help it grow.

A small sub-committee has sprouted to encourage further conversations and interest in feeding and tending to this movement through our local churches, parishes and deaneries. There is a groundswell of anticipation of how we can support the biodiversity of not just our church lands but our communities, of how we can partner with other Anglican provinces across the world to support reforestation, protection and preservation of all ecosystems.

It doesn’t take a long walk around your own neighbourhood to see the effects of human-caused climate change. As a



A mature tree nourishes the earth and its creatures. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Church, we lead by example; we gather our resources to support and provide for our communities. When we tend our own grounds, we provide shade and food. When we tend our communities, we provide love. We are called to be caretakers of God’s garden, and I have faith in this spiritual call to all of us to share in this

ministry, one seed at a time.

*Information about the Communion Forest in the Diocese of Toronto in time for parish preparations for the Season of Creation, to be held Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, will be posted on the Creation Care page of the diocese’s website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).*

# Talk of food brings joy and memories



BY MELODIE NG

**I**s there a special food that’s dear to your heart (and stomach)?

Food is such an incredible site of flavour, memory, culture and satisfaction. Food connects us with the people we consider home, and to the lands and waters of our ancestors. At Common Table Farm – Flemingdon Park Ministry’s urban farm project – we have the joy of encountering the raw ingredients of food daily.

Flemingdon Park Ministry (FPM) recently celebrated the opening of a new space at 10 Gateway Blvd. in Toronto. Its bright interior will be a welcome gathering place for local residents, many of whom are newcomer women. People from all over the world find their way through our doors to have a cup of coffee, to join an English conversation class or to receive support, such as the veggie hampers provided by our farm.

Given the diversity of our community, I was curious to find out what vegetables are cherished. I asked several people what vegetable was special to them and why. Marianne, a volunteer farming with us for several seasons, contributed this reflection:

“In the past, when I thought of eggplant, I only envisioned the bell-shaped deep purple vegetable. But at the



Okra, a vegetable for food and good health.

Common Table Farm, we grow several different varieties, including the long and skinny Asian eggplant, the striped white and purple round eggplant, and the grape-sized striped yellow-green African eggplant. I enjoy planting, staking, fertilizing and harvesting the various eggplant.”

Marianne points out that even in a single vegetable there can be so much glorious variety. This can be eye-opening to visitors to our farm. Supermarkets tend to stock the same varieties, usually those bred for uniformity and a long shelf life. We have become accustomed to thinking that a tomato or eggplant should only look a certain way.

Sitting around the table at FPM’s office, a few women shared about their favourite vegetables. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Joan grew up familiar with the root vegetable cassava. In the past, you had to travel to Spadina Avenue or shop

at Caribbean stores to find it, but Joan has noticed that nowadays it’s much more readily available in Toronto. Cassava is made into pone – a sweet dessert. It is also boiled or added to soup. A specific food may be called one name in Trinidad and a different name in Jamaica.

The conversation then turned to okra. In Afghanistan, where Tourpikey is from, okra is known as bamia. I learned that okra not only makes a tasty dish but has incredible health benefits, such as helping with diabetes and blood pressure, improving your mood or even helping with constipation! The women suggested that okra be soaked in water overnight and the resulting water be consumed for these health benefits. Malalai chimed in, “When I’m upset, bring me chili, naan, and okra!” Other women joined in the discussion about harvesting and preparing okra, and dealing with its characteristic slime. In Trinidad, okra would be cooked with the leafy green callaloo. So many different cooking methods and recipes were being shared at once, I couldn’t keep up with recording it all! Tourpikey commented that while she loves okra, it can be expensive. Now knowing just how beloved this vegetable is, and how it can be unaffordable, I’m very honoured to be a farmer who can grow this crop for our community.

Okra is also special to a young woman connected to our farm. Gabrielle was a youth participant in our inaugural

Young Farmer Program in 2023. She loved the farm so much that she came back a second (and now third!) summer as a seasonal employee. Gabrielle shared these thoughts:

“When I began working at the farm, I would always tell my family what vegetables I had a hand in growing. When I mentioned okra, my grandma’s face lit up. She was so excited to hear that it was so accessible to her, and it reminded her of her mother, who would often boil okra. Being someone of mixed descent, I often struggle feeling connected to all aspects of my culture, but when my grandma recalled the times of her mother boiling okra, I felt a step closer to a stronger connection to my cultural heritage. I think that the incorporation of fruits and vegetables from all parts of the world is what makes the farm so essential. When cultural, social and economic backgrounds differ, food is something that has the ability to bring everyone together, connecting previous memories to create new ones.”

Collective joy arises in sharing about specific foods and the treasured connections and memories they embody. We witness the beauty of our community through the foods we eat and love. Hungry yet? Maybe it’s time for that favourite food.

*Melodie Ng is the manager of the Common Table Farm.*



# Let there be light



There's a particular kind of stillness that settles in a closed church – the kind that clings to the air and is heavy with dust. Light, if it manages to slip past the boarded windows, falls in faint rays that barely reach the floor. Yet within that stillness, the space is anything but empty – it is full. Full of the stories of the many generations who gathered to worship, mourn, celebrate and belong there.

In the summer of 2023, the diocese's Property Resources and Archives teams began visiting and exploring these spaces.

What began as a simple project – one scheduled site visit to the former All Saints, Cannington – has since evolved into a sacred mission: a commitment to the memory of our closed parishes and to our role as stewards of those properties entrusted to our care.

Armed with flashlights, bankers boxes, gloves and an ever-evolving tool bag, we unboard windows and let sunlight fall once again through stained glass. We collect liturgical furnishings left behind, search for holy hardware and document everything from war memorials to the commemorations scattered throughout. And yes, we often test the bells – ostensibly for structural integrity, but mainly because the ringing of a bell in an otherwise empty nave feels like calling something sacred back to life.

That tradition began at St. John, Harwood, during a visit in preparation for her eventual sale. As our visit concluded, we rang the bell. No one thought much of it until calls started pouring into the Property Resources office. Neighbours had heard the bell toll and, concerned (or curious), went to check on the church. Finding no one there, it became a haunting but hilarious moment that we still laugh about. More than that, it was a reminder that these churches may be closed, but they are not forgotten. The community still listens for her call.

## BEYOND THE BRICKS

By MAC MOREAU

Many of our most memorable encounters have come not from inside the buildings, but just outside them – from the neighbours who pull over when they see folks poking around. Protective and deeply connected to the buildings, these neighbours tell us stories, share memories and bring the history to life. They are stewards, too – knowledge keepers and quiet guardians of these sacred sites.

Another unforgettable moment happened at Trinity Church, Colborne. At the time, the windows and doors were boarded, leaving us to explore by flashlight. The stained glass, though present, remained hidden in the shadows. We arranged for the window boards to be removed and when we returned, sunlight poured through, illuminating the stories etched in glass. In that moment, the church was alive again, telling its story in full colour.

Trinity Church, Campbell's Cross is a story of "what might yet be." The charming redbrick church had been closed since 2017 and sat vacant. When we visited in late 2023, we recognized its strategic location and potential for revitalization. That visit sparked a new future and, today, Trinity is home to a Montessori school, bustling with children's laughter. It's a beautiful example of what can happen when we honour our past and dream about our future.

For Pam Boisvert, who joined the Property Resources team in 2024 after two decades with the diocese, the work is deeply personal: "After more than 20 years of seeing these churches as items on agendas and documents, it's a profound experience to now walk their grounds in person – to stand among the headstones and step inside shuttered buildings that were once filled with life, laughter and worship. These places mattered, and they still do. With proper maintenance and a vision, many of these buildings can continue to



Property Resources and Archives staff take a break from work. From left are Daiane Monteiro, Mac Moreau, Claire Wilton and Sarah McDougall. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROPERTY RESOURCES

serve in new ways."

Claire Wilton, the diocese's archivist, agrees and sees her role as preserving the memory of a closed church and maintaining records that detail the life of the parish. "Making a record of these memorials, including taking photographs, allows for future generations to know more about the people who worshipped and served in a community. Every photo, every record matters."

Claire is especially passionate about war memorials, which she calls "essential and sacred." The discovery of a deteriorating Roll of Honour at one of the churches reminded us why this mission was so important. By documenting these memorials, the Archives contribute to national records like the Canadian War Memorials Database, ensuring that no name or story is lost to time.

These site visits are not about nostalgia, but about stewardship of both land and memory. They affirm the value of

ministry wherever it took root. Whether in a bustling downtown parish or a quiet crossroads chapel, they invite us to listen again to the witness of these spaces.

What binds it all together is the spirit of the team. From Claire being hoisted through a sacristy window (locks long seized, and keys long missing), to our many debriefing lunches where stories spill out over a shared meal, this is joyful work. More concisely, it's a vocation of stewardship, and one we take seriously.

We invite the whole diocese to journey with us – to see these visits as chapters waiting to be reread and reimagined. Even when the pews are empty and the lights are off, even when the windows are boarded up and the bell no longer tolls, the Church, its people and our collective story never close.

"Let there be light."

Mac Moreau is the diocese's director of Property Resources.

# You can welcome people who are fleeing for their lives



By ELIN GOULDEN

World Refugee Day, June 20, is a day designated by the United Nations to celebrate the strength and courage of people who have

been forced to flee their home countries to escape conflict or persecution. It also helps raise awareness of the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but thrive.

While the Sunday nearest June 20 is often observed as National Indigenous Day of Prayer, for several years our diocese has encouraged parishes to choose another Sunday in the month before World Refugee Day to highlight the important work of refugee resettlement. Our first Refugee Sunday was proclaimed by Bishop Asbil in 2021. Since 2024, Refugee Sunday has gone nation-wide, with the invitation now coming from the Primate's office. Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), which provides support to the 15 Canadian dioceses that are Sponsorship Agreement Holders with the federal

government, has compiled resources for parishes that wish to observe a Refugee Sunday at [www.alongsidehope.org/refugee-sunday](http://www.alongsidehope.org/refugee-sunday).

For more than three decades, our diocese has partnered with the Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA) to resettle refugees. AURA and the diocese are joint signatories of a sponsorship agreement with the federal government, allowing us to sponsor some 80 or so persons per year, providing them with practical and emotional support during their first 12 months in Canada. AURA staff work tirelessly to match parishes with refugee cases and to prepare parishes and volunteers for the work involved in welcoming and supporting refugees in that first year, all while navigating the labyrinth of federal regulations and paperwork on our behalf. AURA staff also represent us in meetings with other Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) and in the network of Anglican SAHs supported by Alongside Hope.

Even parishes that have limited financial or volunteer capacity can play an important role in refugee sponsorship as "support parishes." In such cases, AURA

staff connect parishes with local community groups and/or family members of the refugees to be sponsored, who contribute all or much of the financial and practical support. The parish holds and disburses the funds for the sponsorship and can get involved in other ways as it's able. With the current federal government "pause" on all private refugee sponsorships except those done by Sponsorship Agreement Holders, this is an important way our parishes can step up to help welcome people who are fleeing for their lives.

The numbers of people worldwide forcibly displaced due to conflict, violence and persecution have increased rapidly every year since 2012, to a record high of 122.6 million in 2024. This figure includes more than 43 million refugees. More than two-thirds of them are hosted in neighbouring countries, many of which are also low- and middle-income countries. For many of these refugees, resettlement in another country is their only long-term hope to survive and thrive. Sadly, this increase in need has coincided with a rise in xenophobic rhetoric that blames immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers for social

issues such as a lack of housing – which owes more to decades of domestic policy decisions than to incoming refugees.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people are reminded to treat strangers and foreigners as the native-born among them. As followers of Jesus, who himself was a refugee as a child in Egypt, we are called to welcome the stranger as if welcoming Christ himself. This includes rejecting language that dehumanizes anyone, especially those fleeing from horrors most of us here in Canada can only imagine. Rather, we can recognize the gifts and talents refugees bring to our communities and find ways to support them. As we help them rebuild their lives, they in turn help build up our communities.

Please consider setting aside a Sunday this month to pray for and celebrate refugees. If your parish is not already involved, consider reaching out to our ministry partners at AURA to find out how you can be part of the ministry of refugee resettlement in the Diocese of Toronto.

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



# Concert unites tradition, worship

## Parish celebrates centenary

BY TINA GEORGE

ON April 26, more than 400 attendees from across the Greater Toronto Area gathered to experience “Namo” (to bow down and worship), a musical worship concert celebrating St. Bede, Toronto’s 100th anniversary. The event featured renowned musician Clement Vedanayagam Sasthriyar, who brought to life traditional Tamil Christian songs (Keerthanais) composed by his great-grandfathers.

Clement Sasthriyar is a seventh-generation descendant of the revered Vedanayagam Sasthriyar, the 18th-century Tamil poet and theologian, hailing from a lineage honoured with the title “Sasthriyar” (the learned one) for their contributions to literature, poetry and music. Mr. Sasthriyar’s musical journey led him to explore both Carnatic and Western classical music from a young age, allowing him to create a unique fusion that honours his ancestral roots while embracing contemporary expressions.

During “Namo,” he showcased his mastery of the violin and the depth of his compositions while engaging the audience in singing popular Tamil songs that have touched countless hearts over decades and generations. He was joined by lead singer Melita Suresh, St. Bede’s vocalists and an ensemble of musicians playing keyboard, guitars, drums, tabla and flute. The performance also featured the Ezraites and the St. Bede’s choir, creating a harmonious blend of South Indian musical heritage and Western classical influences.

The concert was not only a musical feast but also a spiritual journey, with each Keerthanai thoughtfully explained in English, allowing the diverse audience to connect deeply with the songs’ meanings.

This event was the culmination of a year of centenary celebrations for St. Bede. The year was marked with special worship services, bible studies, youth confirmations and special outreach projects, while reflecting on a century of faith, celebrating the present and prayerfully looking forward to continuing the mission of being a beacon of light and hope in the community.

For those who missed the live performance, the full concert is available to watch on St. Bede’s YouTube channel ([www.stbede-sanglican.ca/sasthriyar](http://www.stbede-sanglican.ca/sasthriyar)).

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



Tina George of St. Bede’s (left) with Clement V. Sasthriyar, Melita and musicians during the concert. Photos by Michael Hudson



The Ezraites Choir and the Church of St. Bede Choir perform.



Enjoying fellowship and refreshments after the concert.



The Rev. Dr. Irwin Sikha, incumbent of St. Bede’s, gives a blessing at the end of the concert.



Clement V. Sasthriyar and Melita.

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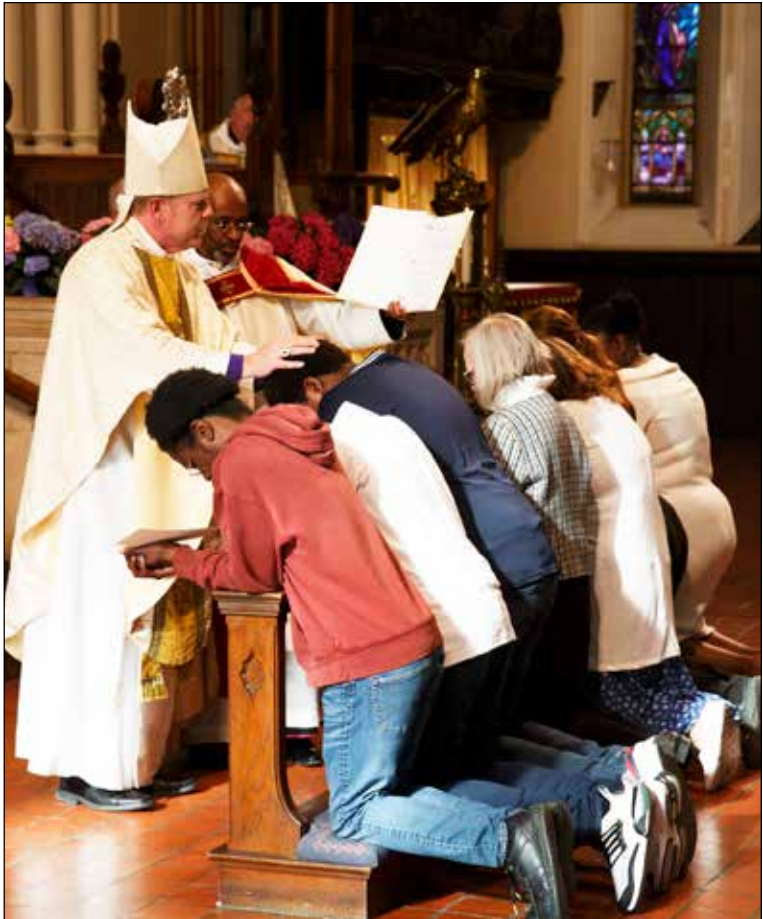
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SPECIAL

Thirty-five confirmands, three who renewed their baptismal vows and two who were received into the Anglican Communion join Bishop Andrew Asbil and presenters at the diocese's Confirmation, Reaffirmation and Reception service. St. Paul, Rexdale, St. Dunstan of Canterbury, All Saints, Whitby, St. John the Baptist, Norway, Christ Church, Stouffville, St. Jude, Bramalea North, Christ Memorial, Oshawa, St. Aidan, Toronto, St. Timothy, North Toronto, Trinity







**AL DAY**  
into the Anglican Communion service at St. James Cathedral in April. The participants came from Christ Church, Deer Park, St. James Cathedral, Holy Family, Heart Lake, St. James the Apostle, Brampton, Holy Trinity, Thornhill, College School and Wycliffe College. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON





**Great photos are just the start.**

Photo adapted from Fizkes/Shutterstock

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DEACONS DAY

The diocese's deacons, diaconal candidates and Bishop Riscylla Shaw (far right) gather at St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole on April 5. The day included a renewal of vows, updates on the activities of deacons in the diocese and across Canada, small group discussions about opportunities and challenges, networking and a discussion about the roles of deacons and the ways they contribute to the life of the Church and the wider community. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEACONS

Nativity, Malvern celebrates 50th anniversary

BY BRIAN CHANDLER

**CHURCH** of the Nativity, Malvern, celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 30 with an evening of praise, worship, thanksgiving and sumptuous food. The evening's celebration commenced with a service officiated by Bishop Andrew Asbil and included performances by Joy Lapps on steel pan, drumming by John Odell, a solo rendition by Rose Worrell and an anthem from the church's choir.

Attendees received a history of the church's existence, from its formation in 1974 by the Rev. Victor Reigel to its current priest, the Rev. Amirolld Lazard. The history outlined all the clergy at Nativity over its 50-year history.

The church received congratu-

latory messages from Canada's prime minister, local city councilor Jamaal Myers, the TTC chair, and MPP Vijay Thanigasalam.

The church recognized past Incumbents: the Rev. Canon Donald Butler, the Rev. Pam Prideaux and the Rev. Vernon LaFleur. They were each presented with a glass plaque, as was Bishop Asbil. Also receiving recognition for their years of contribution and dedication to the church's life and ministry were 15 members of Nativity's congregation.

The evening concluded with a dinner reception. Special thanks are extended to the Parish Committee for their work on planning this event.

*Brian Chandler is a member of Church of the Nativity, Malvern.*



Nativity's church choir performs. The evening's music included steel pan and drumming. PHOTOS COURTESY OF NATIVITY, MALVERN



The procession prepares to enter.



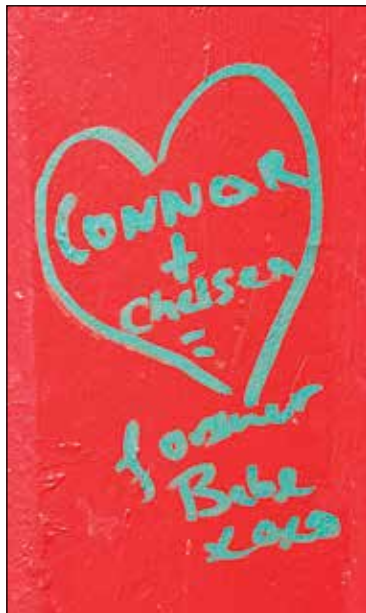
Bishop Andrew and Mary Asbil join the Rev. Canon Donald Butler (left), the Rev. Pam Prideaux and the Rev. Amirolld Lazard.





## SOLEMN WALK

The Rev. Canon Dr. Alison Falby, holding cross, leads *The Way of the Cross* in the Opioid Epidemic in downtown Toronto on Good Friday. Walkers stopped to pray at locations where people have died of opioid overdoses. The walk began and ended at All Saints Church-Community Centre, located on the corner of Dundas and Sherbourne streets. At right, the names of people who died are written on a wall outside the church. About 21 people die of opioid overdoses each day in Canada, a third of those in Ontario. Four of the 10 supervised consumption sites in Toronto were closed as of March 31, with two more in danger of closing. More than 60 per cent of parishes in the diocese have supported a call to keep supervised consumption sites open in Ontario. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



# Cricket festival marks decade of community and faith

BY RANIL MENDIS, ODT

**THE** Anglican Church Cricket Festival (ACCF) will celebrate a joyful milestone – its 10th anniversary – on July 12 at Creditview Sandalwood Park in Brampton. Since its humble beginnings in 2016 as a friendly match between St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South and St. Peter, Erindale, the ACCF has grown into a beloved annual gathering that unites churches across the GTA in a day of sport, fellowship and faithful fun. Rooted in the idea that commu-

nity-building can happen on and off the pitch, ACCF offers a unique space where all are welcome, seasoned players, first-timers, children, seniors and curious spectators alike. The festival uses modified rules to ensure inclusive participation, embodying the gospel message of welcome, inclusion and joy.

More than a game, the ACCF is a space for the working of the Holy Spirit through cricket in the lives of young and old, church and unchurched, skilled cricketers and enthusiastic amateurs alike.

“Cricket, for many of us, is more than a game – it’s a language of community,” says Anand Natesan, captain of last year’s winning team from Westney Heights Baptist Church. “The ACCF feels like worship in motion. Every cheer and high-five becomes an act of praise. It reminds us that sport can be a joyful reflection of faith – God’s love in action.”

This year’s festival promises to be more exciting than ever, with the possibility of welcoming new teams to the lineup. Back for more friendly rivalry are our beloved regulars:

Church of South India, Toronto; Holy Family, Heart Lake; St. Bede; St. James the Apostle, Brampton; St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea; St. Jude, Bramalea North; and St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South. And we can’t forget the ever-spirited Clergy & Friends XI, led by the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields. Expect a day full of matches, music, food and plenty of laughs!

As host city, Brampton continues to play a vital role in fostering this celebration of sport and spirit. The Rev. Jeff Stone, a longtime sup-

porter and key inspiration behind the cricket team from St. Jude’s, says, “The ACCF isn’t just about cricket. It’s about witnessing the community of God’s good-news bearers, gathering in joy to enjoy a little fun competition. That’s the beauty of this festival – it opens hearts while opening innings.”

Join the celebration – your presence matters!

To register or volunteer for the ACCF, contact Ranil Mendis, ODT at [rmendis1@gmail.com](mailto:rmendis1@gmail.com).





St. Barnabas, Chester parishioners carry the cross into St. Barnabas with the Rev. Louise Dightam (centre) for the final stations of the cross. PHOTO BY HELEN TAYLOR

## Christians walk together on Good Friday

FOR more than 25 years, St. Barnabas, Chester on Danforth Avenue in Toronto has joined with local churches for a Good Friday walk. This year, 210 people of varying denominations walked about one kilometre along the Danforth, taking turns carrying a large wooden cross.

The walk carried the participants through the stations of the cross, beginning inside Riverdale Presbyterian Church, and then stopping inside Holy Name Roman Catholic

Church, the Danforth Church and East End United Church, ending at St. Barnabas for the last stations and meditation on the cross. Inside each church, participants worshipped with readings, reflection, prayers and hymns. While they travelled from one church to another, they sang “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

“It was very meaningful to all worship together in each church, and to walk alongside fellow Chris-

tians on the way,” said the Rev. Louise Dightam, priest-in-charge at St. Barnabas. “It was also heartening to see how the churches worked together on planning the walk, with one church preparing the bulletin, another repairing the large wooden cross, another storing it for the next year and we Anglicans providing the posters and social media content, as well as hosting a simple reception at the end.”

## Feasibility study releases report

Continued from Page 1

with existing programs, perceived redundancy, and timing or lack of clarity on diocesan vs. parish responsibility,” says the report. “For instance, building improvements were widely recognized as urgent, but many felt they should be addressed through proceeds from the sale or lease of diocesan assets – not additional parish fundraising.”

The study concluded that a refined and prioritized case for support, with a reduced overall financial goal and clear articulation of parish benefits, would be essential for broad endorsement. “Respondents often mentioned the importance of parishes setting their own goals, voluntary participation (in the campaign) and transparent communication from the diocese,” says the report. “Campaign success will depend on focusing on what is most needed, supported and likely to strengthen local ministry for years to come.”

Bishop Andrew Asbil said he was encouraged by the level of participation in the study and thanked respondents for their valuable input. “We heard a lot! Pieces of feedback

standing out are that parishes are burdened, leaders are tired, and that our Synod Office can be a loving servant for our diocese. We also recognized a deep hunger and thirst for spiritual renewal, for faith formation, for empowering leaders, and for sharing Christ’s love with our communities. Above all, we heard that we are in this together. While we are 195 parishes, we are all followers gathered in a boat on the Galilean sea, hearing Jesus call to us from the shore. In this study, we heard our collective longing to answer Jesus’ call.”

He added, “As we move together to embrace the 20 Calls in our Cast the Net strategic plan, we know that financial support will be important at the parish level. Over the coming months, we will reflect on the results of this study and next steps for a campaign, including the formation of a prayer team to guide our discernment. Thank you for sharing your time and perspective with this study. There is work to be done, and the Spirit is moving in our diocese, calling us into the future in hopeful new ways.”

## We’re working for you

MEET the members of the Bishop’s Committee on Intercultural Ministry. From top, left to right, and then bottom, left to right, here’s who we are.

**André Lyn, ODT**, co-chair, actively serves his parish, St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea, and the Diocese of Toronto. Answering God’s call, “Here I am Lord, send me,” he applies strategic, inclusive leadership to advance equity, dismantle systemic barriers and foster belonging in and beyond the Church. Drawing strength from Joshua 1:7, “Be strong and courageous,” André leads with faith, vision and a commitment to inclusion.

**Donna Scantlebury**, co-chair, is a devoted member of St. Hilda, Fairbank. She teaches equity, inclusion and human rights to law enforcement professionals. Donna’s motivation for racial justice stems from her belief that religious spaces should honour the diversity of our cultures, identities and experiences, while being sacred sanctuaries of safety and belonging. Donna hopes to witness people truly exemplifying the sacred message, “Love thy neighbour as thyself.”

**The Rev. Adrienne Clements** has been the incumbent of St. Hilary, Cooksville since 2018. She grew up in a diverse area of downtown Toronto, so for her, the world has always been multi-cultural and multi-coloured. Working in Africa and India for 20 years, Adrienne grew to appreciate the concept of

“Ubuntu – I am because of you.” She considered it a gift to live in such a rich array of cultures.

**The Rev. Susanne McKim** is a working retired priest who was formed in anti-racism years ago as her mother modeled radical inclusion when Black and Brown people moved into their all-white town. She’s had a heart for equity ever since, and she’s found that sharing her blind spots can encourage other white people to become aware of their own. Susanne does some writing and continues to preach justice.

**Bishop Riscylla Shaw**, who has oversight of the North and East archdeaconries, is our diocesan Diversity Officer. Bishop Riscylla has been involved in many concerns for racial justice throughout her years of ministry.

**Brother Reginald Crenshaw**, OHC, is a member of the Order of the Holy Cross. Working as lay pastoral associate at Holy Trinity, Thornhill, he continues to serve as a parish selection coach, an Appreciative Inquiry coach and a member of the Momentum working group. With a doctorate from Columbia University, he’s been a significant educator in antiracism programs in the dioceses of Chicago, New York and Toronto, and as adjunct professor of theology at New York Theological Seminary.

**Elin Goulden** is the social justice and advocacy consultant for the Diocese of Toronto. She’s inter-

ested in the intersectional aspects of social and ecological justice and is always learning from her Black, Indigenous and other racialized neighbours, colleagues and fellow Anglicans. Elin has provided staff support to the Bishop’s Committee on Intercultural Ministry since 2018.

**The Rev. Leonard Leader** has served extensively in the Diocese of Toronto, with ties to several parishes, including St. Paul, L’Amoreaux, St. George on Yonge and Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, where he currently worships and serves. He’s interested in sharing ideas and advocating for inclusion. His pre-ordination public service career included staff positions in employment equity and the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

**Alice Akinwalere**, a lifelong member of Trinity-St. Paul, Port

Credit, graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in sociology and criminology. Now pursuing a legal career, Alice is deeply committed to social justice and social change. With a strong foundation in faith and advocacy, she strives to influence positive change, using her skills to create a more just and compassionate world.

**The Rev. Canon Maurice François** works with a focus on multilingual and intercultural ministries. Working with three parishes (St. Paul, Runnymede, St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto and Parroquia San Esteban), he also serves as a pastor for immigrant communities and offers pastoral support to the transgender community of downtown Toronto. In addition to these ministries, Canon Maurice produces our artwork.

**John O’Dell**, an instructor on

equity, inclusion and human rights, is a churchwarden, a choir member and a performer of African drumming at Nativity, Malvern. A community volunteer since 2004, John’s work has included negotiating collective agreements and defending employees’ rights against their employers, among many other things. In 2017, John received the African Canadian Achievement Award for Community Service.

*This article was written by André Lyn, ODT, and Donna Scantlebury. If you have any questions or want to learn more about how the members of the Bishop’s Committee on Intercultural Ministry can serve you, email them at [intercultural.ministry@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:intercultural.ministry@toronto.anglican.ca). Your correspondence will be kept confidential.*





# Anglicans go on virtual pilgrimage

## Dean takes pilgrims to holy sites

In a world often preoccupied with speed, noise and distraction, a unique spiritual journey unfolded across Canada and the United States on April 5 – not along winding roads or across distant borders, but within hearts and souls gathered in prayer. At the invitation of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada), the Very Rev. Richard Sewell, Dean of St. George's College, Jerusalem, led people from across North America in a virtual spiritual pilgrimage.

The volunteer-run Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP) is a quiet but vital force in the Church, promoting prayer as a foundational practice for spiritual life. This event, structured in two sessions and centered entirely in prayer, brought participants into a sacred space of reflection and renewal. Hosted online, each 90-minute session was a part of the AFP's monthly online seminar series, "Let Us Pray." The resources, including teaching guides, webinars and prayer materials, and the videos from this pilgrimage are freely available at [anglicanprayer.org](http://anglicanprayer.org).

The Ven. Paul Feheley, the national director of AFP, welcomed attendees with these words: "As we gather today, we are invited into a pilgrimage – an ancient journey that stretches back through the centuries. This is no ordinary journey. It is a journey of spiritual renewal, a pilgrimage into the tenderness of Christ."

Unlike traditional pilgrimages that require travel by foot or plane, this spiritual pilgrimage took place in the contemplative stillness of homes, churches and quiet spaces. In many parishes, groups gathered around the computer to share the pilgrimage and its learnings together. Participants were invited to walk inward, not with feet, but with soul, mind and heart.

The virtual event was structured with great intentionality. Each session began and ended in prayer, reinforcing the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer's central mission to enable and encourage the ministry of prayer. Throughout the day, participants preserved a shared sense of reverence and focus, emphasizing that every moment of the pilgrimage was to be grounded in prayer.

Dean Richard Sewell, the day's spiritual guide, is no stranger to the transformative power of pilgrimage. As Dean of St. George's College in Jerusalem, he serves as both a pastoral leader and a steward of spiritual formation for countless pilgrims who visit the Holy Land. With more than two decades of ordained ministry, Dean Sewell brought to the session a deep well of experience, compassion and wisdom rooted in both scripture and life in Jerusalem.

The first video began on the Mount of Olives, with Dean Sewell sharing a vision of the Holy City. He descended the mount to show the Garden of Gethsemane and the gate through which Jesus likely entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In the



Some of the holy sites visited by Dean Richard Sewell in his pilgrimage videos. Clockwise from top: the Garden of Gethsemane; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the Mount of Olives.

second video, he led the pilgrims on the Via Dolorosa, the way of the cross within the old city arriving at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where, according to traditions dating back to the fourth century, the two holiest sites in Christianity are: the place where Jesus was crucified and the empty tomb of the resurrection.

Throughout the sessions, Dean Sewell drew from both ancient Christian traditions and his own lived experiences in Jerusalem, offering insights into how prayer shapes identity, mission and the



rhythms of daily life. In inviting people to embark on a spiritual journey, he emphasized that pilgrimage is as much about transformation as it is about destination. He spoke tenderly of the inner landscapes that believers must traverse – the valleys of doubt, the mountaintops of joy, and the winding paths of surrender and trust.

"Pilgrimage is about allowing ourselves to be remade by God," he said. "It is an invitation to open our hearts, to soften the places we've hardened and to step forward in faith, even when the way is unclear."

The day was in every sense, a pilgrimage – a sacred movement of the heart toward God.

Those who participated felt drawn together in what one attendee described as "a communion of longing and belonging."

As the final prayers of the day echoed across time zones of Canada and the U.S., there was a profound sense that something holy had happened in the hearts of all who had gathered to journey together on the eve of Passiontide.

Staff

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## Teen organizes environmental expo 1

VICTORIA - Church of the Advent, Colwood hosted an environmental expo in January, but the idea for the event started in the brain of youth member Taylor Gossman. Ms. Gossman, a senior in high school, is a passionate environmentalist. She plans to go into environmental science for her post-secondary education and hopes to make a career out of it.

"It's something I'm very passionate about, and I think (the expo) really stemmed from me wanting to do something," she says. "I'm a teenager and there's not a lot I can do. But I knew that using the church would be a really good way to do something impactful in my community."

The expo featured 15 local organizations and farms that focused on environmental sustainability. Each group hosted a table, and attendees could talk with leaders and volunteers to learn more about achievable actions they could take to help the environment. There were also presentations from speakers.

Ms. Gossman single-handedly organized the event, including marketing it. She put up posters around the community and posted about it on the church's website and Facebook groups. The Rev. Ingrid Anderson, incumbent, also lent a hand by mentioning the event at services and encouraging parishioners to spread the word.

Their efforts paid off as the event attracted more than 150 people. Attendees were a mix of church members and citizens of the local community, including several teens and children.

Ms. Gossman says the event achieved its goal. "I think the biggest thing with the environment, and environment anxiety, is the fact that people really don't know how they can get involved and how they can help the environment in their own community. So, giving people this opportunity to donate or to volunteer their time or to just learn about what's happening and things they can do, I think was really impactful."

*Faith Tides*

## Man caught trying 2 to steal copper

KELOWNA - An attempted theft of copper cladding from the steeple of St. Andrew, Trail took place just before midnight last November. The church's watchman had heard strange noises coming from the belfry and called the police.

When officers arrived, they discovered a man on the roof. According to churchwarden Marnie Jacobsen, the officer checked to see if the climber was safe.



The man was taken into custody. Finding no immediate damage, the church decided not to press charges, even though the congregation was left with a costly repair bill. The next day, church members noticed that a section of copper cladding on the steeple was dangling precariously, alongside on what appeared to be a rope.

According to RCMP, metal theft, fuelled by high global demand and rising prices, is a growing problem. Thieves target everything from catalytic converters and boat propellers to streetlamp wires and, as seen in Trail, copper cladding on a church steeple. These crimes often cause more financial damage than the value of the stolen metal. The church must first get insurance approval, which requires a crane to assess the damage. Even with approved coverage, the church faces a \$2,500 deductible. Thieves are often driven by drug addiction. A moral question for the church.

*The Highway*

## Milk bags make 3 a difference

OTTAWA - What do you do with your milk bags? Do they have a use before going to the landfill? In the parish hall of All Saints, Greely about 1,500 milk bags are diverted from the landfill each Tuesday evening. They are woven into sleeping mats and sitting cushions, providing a bit of comfort and dryness to those living in difficult situations.

As of April, 319 large sleeping mats and 316 sitting cushions have been shared with outreach organizations in the Ottawa area. The agencies hand them out where needed.

On Tuesday evenings, about 15 people are in the hall, preparing or weaving the bags. "Tuesday evenings are filled with non-stop chatter, sharing, laughter and often support for one another," writes Grace Jones. "Everyone is welcoming, non-judgemental and keen to reduce waste in the landfill and help others. Life-long friendships have been made."

The items make a difference, she writes. "Streetsmarts (an outreach organization) told us about giving a mat to someone who was so excited to go home, throw out his bed and replace it with a milk bag mat, as his building was ridden with bedbugs and the bugs do not like plastic. Someone who received a mat from Ottawa Inner City Ministries told them: 'I love this. It's so warm. I won't freeze tonight.' The mats have also been seen lining a tent to provide some insulation from the cold. A mat was also given to someone who was newly housed but didn't have a real bed yet."

*Perspective*

## Rolls of Honour 4 find new home

FREDRICKTON - When a church is de-consecrated, along with the inevitable feeling of loss, there is a lot of work to do. One of those tasks is finding a new home

for so much that's accumulated over the decades.

One highly valued item in many New Brunswick churches is the Roll of Honour – the framed list of parishioners who answered the call to go to war. Such pieces of history have been a part of churches for decades or even a century or more.

Now, the New Brunswick Military History Museum has a special place for them. It is developing a Quiet Room as part of its expansion and welcomes Rolls of Honour from New Brunswick churches. It already has one roll – from St. James in Saint John – and would like to have more.

The museum is located at CFB Gagetown in the town of Oromocto. It is more than 50 years old and houses an impressive collection that tells the story of the province's military history, from the 1600s to the present day.

The Rev. Peter Gillies, an avid student of history, found out about the museum's plans for a Quiet Room during a visit last fall. "I was taken with the small collection of the Rolls of Honour they had mounted on the walls. After some discussion, I agreed to pursue reaching out to churches, so here we are."

He sees the room and its eventual contents as the perfect solution to the quandary of where to send items when a church is closing. "Ecclesiastical things might be a bit easier to pass on, but things like memorials must truly be a problem and a concern," he said.

*The New Brunswick Anglican*

# SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!

*The Anglican* will not be published in July and August.  
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We wish you a peaceful and enjoyable summer.



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IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Benjamin Gillard, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Aidan, Toronto, April 27.
- The Rev. Daniel Graves, Regional Dean of Holland Deanery, May 1.
- The Rev. Glenda Burk, Deacon, St. George, Haliburton, May 24.
- The Rev. Rajini Lyman, Assistant Curate, St. George Memorial, Oshawa, June 1.
- The Ven. Theadore Hunt, Incumbent, Christ Church, Brampton, June 15.
- The Rev. Don Beyers, Priest-in-Charge, Grace Church on-the-Hill, July 14.
- The Rev. Denise Byard, Assistant Curate, St. Luke, Peterborough and St. John, Ida, Aug. 1.
- The Rev. Carol Shih, Associate Priest, St. John, Willowdale, Aug. 1.

Vacant Incumbencies

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

Bishop’s Direct Appointment Process

- (receiving names): shop’s Direct Appointment Process - (receiving names):
- Christ Memorial, Oshawa
- Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River
- Parish of Churchill and Cookstown
- Parish of Campbellford, Hastings and Roseneath
- Redeemer, Bloor St. (Associate Priest)
- Parish of Fenelon Falls and Cobocnk
- St. Paul, Uxbridge
- St. Mark, Midland
- Parish of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene
- St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South)

Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names): N/A

Second Phase - (receiving names via Bishop): N/A

Third Phase - (no longer receiving names):

- St. George on-the-Hill

Other Process

- Huronia Regional Ministry (Associate Priest). Contact Bishop Riscylla Shaw.

Ordinations

- The following individuals were ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on May

- 4: the Rev. Michael Brain; the Rev. Denise Byard; the Rev. Rajini Lyman; the Rev. Tiffany Robinson.
- The Rev. Amy Pauley was ordained a priest at All Saints, Collingwood on May 2.
- The Rev. Glenda Burk was ordained a deacon at St. George, Haliburton on May 24.
- The Rev. Mackenzie Wolf will be ordained a priest at St. Bride, Clarkson on June 4 at 7 p.m.
- The Rev. Becca Whitla will be ordained a priest at St. Stephen in-the-Fields on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.

The following individuals will be ordained deacons at San Lorenzo-Dufferin on June 1 at 1 p.m.: Monica Bustamante, Juan Iglesias, Marco Suarez.

Celebration of New Ministry

- The Rev. Rory Honeyghan, Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul, Newmarket, June 6 at 7 p.m.

Conclusion

- The Rev. Rebecca Bridges concluded her appointment as Incumbent of St. Aidan, Toronto on April 30. She has taken up an appointment with the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee.

Retirement

- The Rev. Debbie Dennis’s last Sunday as Incumbent of St. Paul, Innisfil will be June 29.

Death

- The Rev. Joan Waters-Garner died on March 26. Ordained deacon in 1983 and priest in 1984, she served as assistant curate of Trinity Church, Barrie, incumbent of the Parish of Penetanguishene, incumbent of St. Andrew, Scarborough and regional dean of Huronia and Scarborough. After retiring in 1995, she served as interim priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Scarborough and St. Saviour, and honorary sssistant of St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff. Her funeral will be held on July 3 at 1 p.m. at St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff.

Commissary

Bishop Andrew Asbil is on sabbatical and summer vacation until Sept. 2, briefly returning in June for Synod Council and General Synod. Bishop Kevin Robertson has been appointed commissary while Bishop Asbil is out of the diocese. During Bishop Robertson’s summer holidays, Bishop Peter Fenty will serve as commissary. For matters requiring the commissary, please contact the Bishop’s Office, 416-363-6021.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR JUNE

1. The Diocese of Jerusalem
2. Ascension, Port Perry
3. Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa
4. St. George Memorial, Oshawa
5. St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)
6. St. John, Whitby
7. St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)
8. Bishop’s Committee for Intercultural Ministry
9. The Synod Office Staff of the Diocese of Brasilia
10. Social Centre and CASA A+ Projects (Brasilia)
11. Mary Magdalene Mission, Ceilandia (Brasilia)
12. Christ the Redeemer Mission, Palmas - the Rev. Magela (Brasilia)
13. Mother of God Mission – the Rev. Lucia Borges (Brasilia)
14. Mission of Reconciliation (Brasilia)
15. Our Companion Diocese of Brasilia – Bishop Mauricio Andrade
16. Cathedral of the Resurrection – Dean Tatiana Ribeiro (Brasilia)
17. Parish of the Holy Spirit – the Rev. Rodrigo Espiuca (Brasilia)
18. Parish of St Philip, Goiania – the Rev. Izaias Torquarto (Brasilia)
19. Parish of the Holy Trinity – the Rev. Denilson Olivato (Brasilia)
20. AURA - The Anglican United Refugee Alliance
21. The Rev. Leigh Kern, Right Relations Coordinator, and ministries for reconciliation
22. Oshawa Deanery
23. St. Martin, Courtice
24. St. Matthew, Oshawa
25. St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering
26. St. Paul, Uxbridge
27. St. Peter, Oshawa

28. St. Thomas, Brooklin
29. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
30. Members of the General Synod from the Diocese of Toronto

FOR JULY

1. The Acting Primate, Archbishop Anne Germond
2. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
3. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
4. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
5. The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
6. Toronto East Deanery
7. Resurrection
8. St. Aidan, Toronto
9. St. Barnabas, Chester
10. St. Bede
11. St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese
12. St. John the Baptist, Norway
13. Regionalized ministries of the Diocese
14. St. Luke, East York
15. St. Matthew, First Avenue
16. St. Monica
17. St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff
18. St. Saviour, Toronto
19. Huronia Regionalization
20. Huronia Deanery
21. Christ Church, Waubaushene
22. Good Samaritan, Port Stanton
23. Parish of Elmvale
24. Parish of Penetanguishene
25. St. Athanasius, Orillia
26. St. David Anglican-Lutheran Church, Orillia
27. Giving With Grace – The Anglican Appeal
28. St. George, Fairvalley

29. St. James, Orillia
30. St. John, Waverly (Parish of Elmvale)
31. St. Luke, Price’s Corners

FOR AUGUST

1. St. Mark, Midland
2. St. Paul, Washago
3. The Compass Rose Society
4. The Community of Deacons (Archdeacon Kyn Barker)
5. Christ Church, Bobcaygeon
6. Diocesan Staff
7. Christ Church, Cobocnk
8. St. George, Haliburton
9. St. James, Fenelon Falls
10. Victoria & Haliburton Deanery
11. St. James, Kinmount
12. Bishop’s Youth Ministry Committee
13. St. John, Dunsford
14. St. John, Rosedale
15. St. Luke, Burnt River
16. Diocesan Girls’ Choir School
17. The Reconciliation Land Tithe Committee
18. St. Paul, Beaverton
19. St. Paul, Lindsay
20. St. Paul, Minden
21. St. Peter, Maple Lake
22. The Bishop’s Committee on Discipleship
23. The Chapel of St. James, West Brock
24. Bishop Riscylla Shaw, Suffragan Bishop
25. The Chapel of St. Margaret, Wilberforce
26. Christ Church, Bolton
27. Christ Church, Brampton
28. Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton)
29. St. Hugh and St. Edmund
30. Anglican schools in the Diocese of Toronto
31. Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care

LOOKING AHEAD

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

**MAY 31** - Lift Up Our Hearts, a special service of spiritual renewal for all Anglicans in the diocese, 2 p.m., All Saints, Whitby. The Rev. Gerlyn Henry to preach. The service will include music, a lay witness talk, an opportunity for prayer and anointing and a reception with delicious food afterwards.

**MAY 31** - Voices Chamber Choir performs “Psalms to Songs,” a journey of psalms and songs over five centuries with accompanist Conrad Gold and conductor Ron Cheung, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$25 adults; \$20 students/seniors; free for children 12 and under. Cash only.

**JUNE 7** - St. Martin in-the-Fields neighbourhood fun fair with games, a bouncy castle, face painting, a scavenger hunt in the church, hot dogs and a prize for every child, all for free, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake

Ave., Toronto.

**JUNE 7** - Annual community yard sale and bake sale with vendors from the community, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Saviour, Don Mills, 1 Laurentide Dr., North York.

**JUNE 14** - Spring parking lot sale with over 25 vendors, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Luke, East York, 904 Coxwell Ave. There will be a pancake breakfast from 9-10:30 a.m. and a barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature church raffles, clothing, books and more. In case of rain, the event will be postponed to June 21.

**JUNE 15** - “Jazz, Jesus and Justice” featuring Kalabash, a jazz band, and the Choir of St. James leading a special evening of jazz and gospel music, 4:30 p.m., St. James Cathedral, King and Church streets, Toronto. The evening will include scripture and secular readings, a brief reflection, and music that will bring concerns for peace and justice into sharp focus.

**JUNE 20** - Family fun night, a free,

fun activity for the whole family with the theme, “End of school year beach party,” 6 p.m. at St. James Cathedral, King and Church streets, Toronto. RSVP to Karyne Whalen, Children’s Minister, at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca.

**JUNE 22** - Snell Lecture to celebrate National Indigenous Day of Prayer and National Indigenous History Month, St. James Cathedral, King and Church streets, Toronto. A wonderful opportunity to engage with important themes and deepen our understanding of Indigenous history and spirituality. Speaker: the Most Rev. Chris Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of Sacred Circle. Eucharist starts at 4:30 p.m. followed by reception at 5:30 p.m. and Snell Lecture at 6 p.m. RSVP at https://stjamescathedral.ca/june-22-snell-lecture.

**SEPT. 27** - Lift Up Our Hearts service, 2 p.m., St. James, Orillia, with the Rev. Dr. Rob Hurkmans preaching.

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# LIFT UP OUR HEARTS

Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m.

**MARCH  
22**

## **St. James Cathedral**

The Rev. Molly Finlay, preacher

**MARCH  
29**

## **Trinity Church Streetsville**

The Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas, preacher

**MAY  
31**

## **All Saints, Whitby**

The Rev. Gerlyn Henry, preacher

**SEPT  
27**

## **St. James, Orillia**

The Rev. Dr. Rob Hurkmans, preacher

**OCT  
25**

## **St. Paul's Bloor Street**

The Rev. Dr. Alvarado Adderley, preacher

Come together as the Diocese of Toronto to **worship God** in wonderful music, inspirational preaching and the witness of God's people.

