Installation begins new era

Bishop Asbil becomes chief pastor

BY STUART MANN

With three knocks on the door of St. James Cathedral with his crozier, Bishop Andrew Asbil ushered in a new era in the Diocese of Toronto. Admitted into the cathedral by the assembled clergy and laity, Bishop Asbil was then installed as the 12th Bishop of Toronto, making him the chief pastor of Canada’s most populous Anglican diocese.

The cathedral was filled to capacity for the two-hour service, held on Jan. 13. It was streamed live on the internet and watched by people across the diocese and around the world.

During the investiture, held near the beginning of the service, Bishop Asbil received the diocesan crozier. He then placed his hand on a Bible and made a solemn promise and declaration to fulfill the responsibilities and obligations of the office of the Bishop of Toronto and to be a faithful shepherd to the flock of Christ.

He was then escorted to the cathedra, the seat of the bishop, and installed there. Afterwards, he was presented to the congregation, which responded with sustained applause.

Archbishop Anne Germond, the metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and the Bishop of Algoma, was the presiding celebrant. Archbishop Colin Johnson, the 11th Bishop of Toronto who retired on Dec. 31, participated in the service, as did the diocese’s four suffragan bishops. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, and other bishops also took part.

After Bishop Asbil’s investiture and installation, the service continued with readings, prayers and the celebration of the Eucharist. At the end of the service, Bishop Asbil returned to the cathedral’s doors to bless the City of Toronto and the diocese.

One of the themes of the service was inclusion. The Indigenous land acknowledgment was said in Cree by the Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley, and prayers were offered in Cantonese, French, Swahili and Spanish.

Bishop Asbil spoke about inclusion in his sermon. “In a time of transition, you’re probably thinking will there be room for me, will there be a place for me, if I am part of the LGBTQ2 community, if I’m progressive, if I’m evangelical or conservative, if I’m an Anglo-Catholic, if English is not my first tongue? Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. My pledge as your bishop is to walk with you, not some of you but all of you… We need all to be a part of this journey.”

He ended his sermon by speaking about baptism, transformation and change, encouraging churches to “knock on doors” and be present in their neighbourhoods, trusting that God will provide. “My brothers and sisters, walk with me and I will walk with you. And let us together walk with the one who created us, redeemed us and sets us free.”

After the sermon, liturgical dancers and four people brought water from the traditional four directions and the diocese’s four episcopal areas to the baptismal font for the asperges, the rite of sprinkling the congregation with holy water in renewal of their baptismal covenant.

The asperges was accompanied by “Wade in the Water,” a moving spiritual song. The music during the service ranged from traditional to spiritual to rock. The music was provided by the cathedral’s choirs, musicians from Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., and the Nathaniel Dett Chorale of Toronto.

Clockwise from top: Bishop Andrew Asbil receives the diocesan crozier from representatives of Synod; water from the diocese’s four episcopal areas is poured into the baptismal font; Bishop Asbil blesses the city and the diocese; Bishop Asbil hugs Bishop Kevin Robertson, Bishop Riscylla Shaw and Bishop Jenny Andison after the service. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON
Portrait, anthem among surprises at celebration

BY STUART MANN

On the walls of the Diocesan Centre in Toronto are pictures of all the Bishops of Toronto since Bishop John Strachan, the founder of the diocese. A new addition to this select group is a painted portrait of Archbishop Colin Johnson, who retired on Dec. 31. It is the first painted portrait of a Bishop of Toronto since Bishop Derwyn Owen in 1977.

The portrait was unveiled at a retirement celebration for Arch Bishop Johnson at St. James Cathedral on Dec. 15. Anglicans from all parts of the diocese joined Toronto Mayor John Tory and other dignitaries at the event to express their thanks and appreciation to him.

Archbishop Johnson said the portrait took him totally by surprise. “It was painted from a photograph, so I had no idea that it was being done,” he said. “It’s a beautiful representation and I am happy the artist generously carved off a few pounds!”

The portrait, showing Archbishop Johnson in a relaxed and approachable pose, was painted by Gregory Furmanczyk, a noted Canadian artist whose works hang on Parliament Hill and in Queen’s Park. It was a gift from Alison Knight and Rod Barr, long-time friends of the diocese and life members of the Bishop’s Company. Ms. Knight was the diocese’s chief administrative officer from 2003 to 2009 and the donation was made in memory of her father, Donald Knight, who died last year.

The painting now hangs in the Diocesan Centre and I am happy so I had no idea that it was being done,” he said. “It’s a beautiful representation and I am happy the artist generously carved off a few pounds!”

The portrait’s unveiling and the announcement of the new anthem were just two of many surprising and delightful moments at the three-hour celebration, which included a reception line, a cake in the shape of the cathedral and reflections by Mayor Tory, Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Deputy Premier Christine Elliott and Thomas Cardinal Collins of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Mayor Tory praised Archbishop Johnson for his advocacy on behalf of the poor and marginalized, saying, “You have had a tremendous impact, here in Toronto a better place to live. Your advocacy has been exemplary—quiet, respectful and informed.” He added, “I have respected the diversity of this city, focusing on making it inclusive.”

Ms. Elliott echoed his words: “You’ve planted seeds of love and hope in your advocacy to which we can all aspire,” she said. “You’ve performed your service joyfully and faithfully. Your advocacy for the marginalized demonstrates your commitment to helping our most vulnerable.”

Bishop Andrew Ashby, who became the Bishop of Toronto on Jan. 1, reflected on how the portrait showed various sides of Archbishop Johnson. “If you hold it in a particular light, you might just see the patience of a man who has tried to keep the Church together—deeper still of a shepherd who has created a gracious pasture for a flock to dwell in, so that our differences do not consume us but make us better; deeper and richer. If you hold it in a different light, it speaks of a man with deep faith, leading in a time when it’s hard to find faith. If you hold it in a different light, you can see the whimsy and the humour and the good nature, but also a man who deeply loves this Church.”

He added, “We are so grateful to you. The shoes you have left behind are massive. I will do my very best to fill them.”

Archbishop Johnson was joined by his wife Ellen and their three grown children and grandchildren at the celebration and the Evening Prayer that followed. Archbishop Johnson’s brother and his wife also attended, along with many close friends and colleagues. Clergy, lay people and staff also attended.

“I am incredibly honoured by the gifts I’ve received today, but what I’m most deeply grateful for is your presence,” he said. Many came to express their thanks and appreciation. “I think what Archbishop Johnson has done for the diocese is beyond measure,” said the Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark, the incumbent of the Parish of Minden-Kinmount. “He’s a brought a very diverse and

With the newly unveiled portrait are, from left, artist Gregory Furmanczyk, Chancellor Clare Burns, Archbishop Colin and Ellen Johnson, Alison Knight and Rod Barr. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUSON

I don’t think I would be as happy. After 41 years, I would do this all over again. The joy in ministry is profound and deep, and while there are occasions when I pull my hair out and get frustrated, I remember that initial call of joy and gladness, to be able to serve the people of God in such a huge range of ways.”

He said he was humbled that people had given up their Saturday afternoon, often travelling many miles, to attend the celebration. “I am incredibly honoured by the gifts I’ve received today, but what I’m most deeply grateful for is your presence,” he said.

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February 2019
ARCHBISHOP’S RETIREMENT

FESTIVE OCCasion

St. James Cathedral was the setting for Archbishop Colin Johnson’s retirement celebration and a service of Evensong that followed. Clockwise from top left: Bishop Philip Poole speaks from the cathedral’s pulpit; Archbishop Colin and Ellen Johnson with a grandchild; Bishop Andrew Asbil reflects on Archbishop Johnson’s portrait; Ellen Johnson receives flowers and applause; Mayor John Tory; a cake in the shape of the cathedral; Archbishop Johnson with well-wishers during the receiving line. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ARCHBISHOP’S RETIREMENT

February 2019

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HANDEL & HAYDN!

Continued from Page 2

Archbishop thanked for service

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Continued from Page 2

multicultural city together, staying graceful and poised as he works among the disadvantaged. He’s always making his clergy and the people around him feel they are the most important people to him. He always remembers your name, who you are and how you are doing. His words of encouragement have always been an inspiration to me.”

Joanne Colbourne, ODT, a parishioner of All Saints, Kingsway who has served on diocesan boards and committees, said he has a “heart of gold” in terms of thinking of others. “He’s a most humble but gracious minister of the faith, and it’s been a privilege to have him as our leader,” she said.

In an interview after the celebration, Archbishop Johnson said he was leaving the diocese in good hands. “I’m very, very hopeful for the future of the diocese. I think Bishop Asbil will be brilliant as our diocesan bishop. The College of Bishops is strong and the clergy and laity are enormously gifted. God has truly blessed this diocese.”

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Words of gratitude, wonder and hope

February 2019

Bishop’s Diary

By Bishop Andrew Asbil

must have been steeped deprived, bewildered and bewildered their own lives, how their hearts had expanded with love in ways they had not imagined. By the 40th day, it all begins to break in. By the 40th day, you discover how a newborn can render it and how to lay it down. Simeon and Anna, named Anna have longed for this moment. Whispers of the Spirit are the same...
Let’s reimagine how we use God’s house

I n the interest of stewardship, is it time to rethink how we use our buildings? After salaries for clergy and administrative support, the upkeep of buildings is usually the biggest expense for our churches. In fact, deferred maintenance hangs like a millstone around the necks of many church leaders. Whether it’s replacing the roof, making the building barrier-free, repaving the parking lot or renovating the kitchen, the costs of maintaining our physical plants are huge and becoming more pressing.

Most of our churches are single-use facilities, and Sunday is their peak day for usage. During the rest of the week, the church hall and meeting rooms may be used for Bible studies and service group gatherings; the Chancel Guild comes in on Saturday to prepare for the Eucharist; and the choir can be counted on to meet for practice on Thursday evening. The majority of our churches are fitted with pews that are bolted to the floor, and the altar is in a fixed location. Except for the music ministry – not including organs, mind you – very little is portable in the main worship space.

Church design has been remarkably static for generations, if not centuries. But is it still practical? Our use of pews makes it virtually impossible to employ the nave for anything but worship. It might be available for community prayer during the week if our church doors were open, but most are locked; the risk of theft or vandalism prohibits access; and if a volunteer or staff person is present.

The time has come for us to think long and hard about how we use our buildings, with whom we share them, and the frequency with which we use them. For all intents and purposes, a building that experiences the bulk of its traffic only on Sunday is not practical, especially in an era of declining attendance and increasing capital expenditure. Can we find a better way to be good stewards of them?

By reusing or reimagining the use of our church buildings, I am not suggesting that we convert churches into conference rooms or theatres. My point is that we should be maximizing the use of our buildings to better proclaim the gospel and engage with our community. Church of the Redemser, Bloor St., for example, operates a meal kitchen throughout the week that attract hundreds of needy people. This outreach effort strengthens the church community, helps define the parish’s mission and provides a valuable ministry to people in need.

Can we imagine our churches as multi-use facilities? Parts of our buildings could be used as theatres, libraries, offices, space, health centres and so on. We might tell ourselves about Facebook and Instagram, to name a few, has become the look-out for the clever observation, “That’s where the young people are,” while we busy ourselves about how we use our building space.

That’s where the young people are,” we tell ourselves about Facebook and Instagram. “We need to be relevant” we say, so we post pictures of ourselves and our parishes and our diocese to show how busy and engaged we are, both to those who are in our pews and those who aren’t. We start to count “likes” and comments and followers, and believe we are being missional in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ (or, at least, the good news about ourselves and our ministry).

I’ve done it – in spades. Personally, I’ve known what it is like to constantly be on the look-out for the clever observation or the witty remark that I could post on Facebook, and then taken not-so-secret delight as the likes and comments have piled up. Once I even posted a photo of myself slacking on a public run in clerical collar, cassock and biretta, on the dare of a friend who said that I wouldn’t. And I’ve also rushed home after church to post dozens of pictures of something that has happened in my parish that morning. It was fun, exhilarating and satisfying.

But I’ve stopped. In fact, I’ve left Facebook altogether. (Truth be told, I never did tweet, and my Instagram account is followed by exactly five people: my mother, my wife, my two daughters and a first cousin.) I quit because something was nagging at me, and that something was what the message of the medium was and what it was becoming – at least for me. It was becoming “look at me” and “look at what I’m doing” and “look at what I’m willing to share.” The scientists who talk about the dopamine hit that comes with each “like” are right: it is satisfying. It’s great for the ego. It’s a rush.

I also stopped because of what I was seeing of the Church. It wasn’t generally positive, but it was something I cared about. I saw falling into the “look at me” trap: it was my Church friends and acquaintances who were doing it along with me. Sometimes it felt competitive. “I’ll match your cute children’s pageant with my even cuter children’s pageant.” “I’ll match your full pews with my stuffed, full pews.” I could feel the devil lurking at me, and that something was what the message of the medium was and what it was becoming – at least for me. It was becoming “look at me” and “look at what I’m doing” and “look at what I’m willing to share.” The scientists who talk about the dopamine hit that comes with each “like” are right: it is satisfying. It’s great for the ego. It’s a rush.

Let’s imagine that parish council meetings are not consumed by conversations about declining revenue and increasing costs for church maintenance. Let’s imagine doing new ministry and new outreach without worrying about having to replace the boiler or put a new roof on the church. These are possible if we re-imagine how we use our church buildings, establish new congregations or contemplate how we will connect with our communities.

It is not far-fetched to think that a sanctuary can house three denominations, that basketball courts be set up outdoors on church property, that the hall is rented out as office space during the week and that a blood donor clinic uses the choir loft.

Let’s imagine that God’s church is more than what we do on Sunday mornings, that we use our buildings to communicate to the world, and to ourselves, of the Church. It wasn’t generally positive, but it was something I cared about. I saw falling into the “look at me” trap: it was my Church friends and acquaintances who were doing it along with me. Sometimes it felt competitive. “I’ll match your cute children’s pageant with my even cuter children’s pageant.” “I’ll match your full pews with my stuffed, full pews.” I could feel the devil lurking at me, and that something was what the message of the medium was and what it was becoming – at least for me. It was becoming “look at me” and “look at what I’m doing” and “look at what I’m willing to share.” The scientists who talk about the dopamine hit that comes with each “like” are right: it is satisfying. It’s great for the ego. It’s a rush.

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Peter Misiaszek is the director of the diocese’s stewardship development department.

What are we really communicating on social media?

BY THE REV. CANON DAVID HARRISON

T he medium is the message,” Cana- dian philosopher Marshall McLuhan famously said. By which he meant that any new medium (or “exten- sion of ourselves,” as he defined the word) ends up having unintended consequences that go beyond whatever message we are trying to convey.

Prof. McLuhan, who died in 1980, wrote long before the advent of social media and the internet, but I suspect he would have a lot to say about these technologies and how the medium of social media in its myriad forms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, to name a few) has become the message itself. Or to put it another way, what the “message” is that we send when we use social media to communicate to our friends and strangers alike.

In churchland, it has become standard practice for dioceses, bishops, parishes and clergy to use social media to commu- nicate what they are up to. The audience is both internal and external, with the emphasis usually placed on the external.

“For example, I am a great believer in the idea of ‘letting the world know how we use our buildings’ – in other words, simply broadcasting the fact that we are using our buildings. The question is: What are we using them for? The answer is: Everything!

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The Anglican    5
The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over the years. The Order recognizes dedication to the parish, community, and diocese, as well as service in a variety of capacities. The award is given in recognition of commitment, skill, and understanding of roles, particularly for his work in managing the rebuilding of the parish after the devastating fire in 2008. His commitment to the community and beyond, his leadership, and his dedication to the church are eternally grateful.

The following are the recipients of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto for the year 2019:

**Roy Allam, ODT**
All Saints, Whitby
Mr. Allam was nominated by All Saints, Whitby, for his unwavering service in a multitude of roles, particularly for his work in managing the rebuilding of the parish after the devastating fire in 2008. His commitment to the community and beyond, his leadership, and his dedication to the church are eternally grateful.

**Ann Abraham, ODT**
St. James Cathedral, Toronto
Mrs. Abraham was nominated by the Archbishop for her long-standing dedication to the church as a parishioner and member of the diocesan board. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Awareness Foundation, which provides education support primarily to Christian children and youth in Syria and Iraq and promotes better understanding of Middle East issues in the West. Currently, she is a churchwarden at Grace Church on-the-Hill and a member of the select vestry at St. Peter on-the-Rock, Stony Lake.

**Rosemary Ahtron, ODT**
St. George, Vaughan
Ms. Ahtron was nominated for her 65 years of dedication to her parish. She has served on the ACW, the altar guild, the parish executive, the church council, the churchwarden, the finance committee, and the diocesan board. She has served as a member of the executive and as a member of the diocesan board. She has served both the parish and the diocese. As the parish FaithWorks coordinator, she has provided stability, direction and encouragement to both the parishioners and the incumbent.

**Brendan Caldwell, ODT**
Messiah, Toronto
Mr. Caldwell was nominated for his generous and sacrificial service to his church community and beyond. He leads a rich and engaging Sunday School program, has pioneered a program for taking kids’ spiritual questions seriously – and gives generously of his time, talent and treasure to support youth. A recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for his philanthropy and volunteer service. Loves the community on school boards, including The Bishop Strachan School and Wycliffe College, and the Caldwell Foundation’s efforts to improve the lives of children in India.

**Mary Charbonneau, ODT**
Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
Ms. Charbonneau was nominated for her steady example of humble service to her parish and to people in the neighbourhood who are vulnerable or fighting to survive. Within the parish, she provides loving pastoral care and a listening ear in her anointing ministry to people who have suffered loss and who may be struggling in their life of faith. A founding member of a L’Arche community in Ottawa and a learner of Jean Vanier, she was drawn by the spirit of inclusion at Trinity-St. Paul and strives to direct parish resources to the community’s deepest needs.

**Famele Chiu, ODT**
St. Elizabeth, Mississauga
Ms. Chiu was nominated by St. Elizabeth, Mississauga for her commitment and dedication to the parish ministry. She has served in various capacities in the parish and has been a steady presence in the life of St. Elizabeth. She is one of those who are eternally grateful.

**Gretchen Dewhirst, ODT**
Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto
Ms. Dewhirst was nominated for her 60 years of service, her dedication to her church, and for her work in a number of important roles, including church extension and a generational transition in leadership. Her leadership provided stability, direction and encourage to both the parishioners and the incumbent.

**Peter Davidson, ODT**
St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)
Mr. Davidson was nominated for his faithful service to God within his parish and the diocese. As the parish FaithWorks coordinator, he has helped make St. Martin’s one of the diocese’s most generous donors. He has served both the parish and the diocese in so many capacities that the true extent of his dedication is known to God alone.

**Joan Doedchenko, ODT**
St. Paul, Etobicoke
Mrs. Doedchenko was nominated by St. Paul, Etobicoke for her 65 years of active ministry. An enthusiastic four-term churchwarden and altar guild director since 1991, she also supports outreach and recently worked towards the founding of the Uxbridge Gay-Straight Alliance. A treasure to St. Paul’s, her positive and active work ethic is exemplary to all.

Shirley Fraser, ODT
Mrs. Fraser was nominated for her commitment to both the parish and to outreach ministries within the Anglican community and beyond. Faith has guided her as a member of Anglicans in Mission in Al-halabah, India, and to making clients feel welcome at the Deacon’s Cupboard Food Bank. When not on a committee, you can find her on the third Friday of the month celebrating fellowship at Soup at Noon, an event she spearheaded.

Johan Garby, ODT
Mr. Garby was nominated for her dedicated service to St. James, Orillia as chair of the worship committee, ACW executive and minister-taker for a variety of committees. Fellowship is very important to her, and she always makes sure that events are not only planned but are fun. Given her lengthy service, she is one of those people who are foundational to the church because she knows the past well and is able to express hope for a future.

Geraldine Patricio (Trie) Glover, ODT
Mrs. Glover was nominated by St. Francis of Assisi for her spiritually thoughtful and caring leadership. She has served over 35 years in many roles, highly values relationships and demonstrates concern for the sake of others, especially through the...
Carolyn Kearns, ODT
Christ Church, Deer Park
Ms. Kearns was nominated by Christ Church, Deer Park for her valued service in faith as a member of the management team and stewardship committee, and for her contributions as chair of parish selection committees. Her leadership and facilitation skills ensure that the best involvement from all members is received, recognized and contributes to great choices for the parish’s ministry. As a long-time volunteer leader at the wider Church and community.

Marilyn Kellar, ODT
St. Peter, Oshawa
Ms. Kellar was nominated by the Archbishop for her decades-long active service to St. Peter, Oshawa. She has been part of the sanctuary guild, Sunday School ministry, hunchas and cookie sales, and the parish food bank that serves the whole community, in addition to being the envelope secretary. Open-minded and open-hearted, she is a welcoming and refreshing presence for everyone at St. Peter’s and in the community of south Oshawa.

Beth Kinghan, ODT
St. Paul, Caledon
Mrs. Kinghan was nominated by the Archbishop for her decade of faithful ministry as a lay member of the Postulancy Committee, and for the gifts of wisdom, insight and discernment she brings to that work. As a clergy spouse, she knows both the joys and challenges for clergy families and has been a role model and mentor for others, particularly the partners of postulants, ordinands and clergy.

Penelope Laity, ODT
St. Timothy, Agincourt
Ms. Laity was nominated by the Archbishop for her outstanding and faithful work to the people of her parish as a former churchwarden, security officer, small group member and envelope secretary. She has served the greater community through her outreach to homeless guests at the weekly breakfast program. She now encourages and motivates others to cultivate these gifts of the spirit at St. Timothy’s and beyond.

Murray MacAdam, ODT
St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough
Mr. MacAdam was nominated by the Archbishop for his decades of work in social justice and advocacy in both Canada and the Global South. He worked as the PWRDF information resources officer and the Diocese of Toronto’s social justice and advocacy consultant and was the editor of Catalyst, the publication of the Christian social activist organization Citizens for Public Justice. An author and educator on Public Justice. He has also given much of his time and treasure.

Joy Packham, PMP, ODT
St. Margaret, Barrie
Ms. Packham was nominated by the Archbishop for her service to the diocese as a skilled volunteer. She has been a member of the Fiscal Framework and Budget working groups, the York Rectory Commissioners and the Project Enabling and Monitoring Group, a coach for Growing Healthy Stewards and a Bishop’s envoy. Recently, she assisted as a Synod scribe at the November 2018 Synod.

Stephan Powell, ODT
St. George Memorial, Oshawa
Mr. Powell was nominated by the Archbishop for his music ministry, spanning more than 44 years at St. George’s. As organist, pianist and choir director, in addition to his full-time profession as a high school teacher, he has creatively built teams and happily donates his time to other ministry areas. He has made a difference over the years, as he has displayed his numerous gifts on a regular basis with humour and sensitivity, as well as outstanding ability as a musician.

Eric Preston, ODT
Holy Trinity, Thornhill
Mr. Preston was nominated by the Archbishop for his long-standing dedication as a churchwarden and advisor to clergy, and his commitment to improving the physical, financial and fellowship well-being of his parish community. He serves the wider Church as a member of the diocesan Budget Working Group and Project Evaluation and Monitoring Group, guiding parishes to implement initiatives. He is also recognized for his ministry in the marketplace, contributing to the mental health and justice systems throughout the province.
Bishop Andrew Ashb leads the applause as the newly appointed members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto stand after the presentation of the Order's medallions, shown at right. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Mary Watson, ODT
Christ Church, Roches Point
Mrs. Watson was nominated by the Archbishop for her long and distinguished service role in the parish. She can handle many different things at the same time – outreach events like parish bazaars, liturgical assistant in services, ACC treasurer, churchwarden – and is known as a “total volunteer” to her parish. She is a living hymn; in the words of St. Augustine, she teaches us, she delights us, she moves us.

Jack White, MD, ODT
Grace Church, Markham
Mr. White was nominated by the Archbishop for a lifetime of Christian service beginning in the 1950s. He has served as churchwarden and cemetery trustee, and at age 86 still organizes most of the events in Grace Church’s very active parish hall. In retirement, “Doc White” was acclaimed for his community service on CBC Radio. If you see smiling, laughing folks enjoying themselves, “Smilin’ Jack” is surely nearby.

Evadne Wilkinson, ODT
St. Paul, Blosser Street
Ms. Wilkinson was nominated by the Archbishop for her long, gracious and faithful service to her parish and to the wider community of black Anglicans in the diocese. She served for many years on St. Paul’s outreach committee, helped raise significant funds for the Diocese of Kaduna in Nigeria, and serves with the All Saints Cafe at St. Stephen, Downsview. She has also been involved with the diocese’s annual celebration of Black History Month for many years.

Antoinette Williams, ODT
St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)
Ms. Williams was nominated by the Archbishop for her faithful services at St. George’s, where she has been a member for over 18 years, serving as a Sunday School teacher and deputy churchwarden, as well as being involved in the finance and fellowship committees. In addition to being the wife of a police officer and a mother, she runs her own business and volunteers in her local elementary school and with the Navy League. She is deeply appreciated by her parish family for her quiet wisdom, determination and dedication to St. George’s, especially during times of upheaval and transition.

Don Reid, ODT
St. George, Fairvalley
Mr. Reid was nominated by the Arch- bishop for being a dedicated member of St. George, Fairvalley and the community for over 55 years. He has served on the parish, vestry, governing body, advisory board, Ushuaia Cluster Ministry, cemetery board, Christmas parade commit- tee, Men’s Guild and more, and has supplied any heavy equipment when needed. As a full-time farmer, he has also been a dedicated volunteer with the Coldwater Fall Fair and is a man of amazing understanding of God’s good earth.

Nora Robinson, ODT
St. Leonard, Toronto
Mrs. Robinson was nominated for her trailblazing leadership as a woman in the Church, serving as St. Leonard’s first female churchwarden. She is a tireless worker who ensured that people who could easily be forgotten continued to be invited back into the life of the parish. Whether welcoming the Primatic or the widow and orphan, she reminds her parishioners constantly that all are welcome at the heavenly banquet.

Peter Schloen, ODT
St. Thomas, Brooklin
Mr. Schloen was nominated by the Archbishop for being a faithful member of his parish for six and a half decades. A long-time churchwarden and treasurer; he found the time to volunteer to be building manager when the parish undertook a major building expansion project in 2006. As the go-to guy for any child care centre issues, while managing the leasing of the facility and the in-house parish calendar, he is always giving his time, talent and treasure for the betterment of his parish.

Sheila Thomas, ODT
St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, Bloom Street
Ms. Thomas was nominated by the Archbishop for her faithful service as long-time parishioner and member of St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle. She has served on the altar guild, hospitality team, in the church office and as a link to the community with the Reaching Out Through Music program. Her care for others is an outward and visible sign of her Christian faith, which she lives out day by day.

Diane Toynen, ODT
Trinity, Streetsville
Ms. Toynen was nominated by the Archbishop for her years of dedicated and Christ-centred service at Trinity, Streetsville. She was the executive administrator of Trinity for many years and, among many other things, helped to develop the highly effective newsmen’s ministry that welcomed many people into the life of the parish.

Rosalinda Trotter, ODT
St. Timothy, Agincourt
Ms. Trotter was nominated by the Archbishop for her faithful and compassionate service to St. Timothy’s as a churchwarden, treasurer, altar guild member, social convenor and co-chair of the Our Faith Our Hope committee. Her financial background and expertise continue to be invaluable, as she created a counter’s manual that is now used in many parishes throughout the diocese. Instrumental in obtaining financing for the parish when a new addition was added, St. Timothy’s is so grateful for her love and dedication to serving with her God-given talents.

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February 2019

INTERVIEW

TheAnglican

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I’ve loved every moment of it

Ginnie Wong is the children and youth coordinator at St. John, Willowdale. She also participates in various ministries with the church’s English-speaking congregation.

I’m really excited for season two of our softball ministry. We started this ministry this spring and it has been a huge blessing to many of the people from the various churches that have participated, specifically families. I can’t wait to see how God moves for season two! I’m also excited about the various catechesis programs we have ongoing, and the ones for the future. We’re hoping to have more family-oriented programs so children and parents can grow together in the faith.

The best part of my job is being invited into people’s lives and witnessing God’s faithfulness. Our God is good! I always feel I can be doing more. It’s been a continuous lesson to learn the importance of the Sabbath. I’ve been learning the truth that the Sabbath is really for us. Resting helps reorient us and learning the truth that the Sabbath is really important of the Sabbath. I’ve been excited, specifically families. I can’t wait to do more by becoming more involved in the clubs that I am already invested in. Toronto is a great city and it has so much potential in leading the way in protecting the most vulnerable who dwell in it.

My favourite passage of scripture is Hebrews 12:1 because I have been formed by so many faithful saints who have been older than me throughout my life. It’s so special because it reminds me of how small I am compared to the saints. God’s grace and love is above all our brokenness, as we have been made saints through Him and by Him. I also love this verse because I was told by a family member how my great-great grandmother in China prayed for the generations that would come after her, that they would know and love Christ. I’ve never met her, but I can’t wait to meet her in glory!

New anthem available to choirs

“Stronghold for Jesus,” the new anthem by Matthew Larkin commissioned in honour of Archbishop Colin Johnson, is available free to choirs in the diocese for their own use in worship. Based on Archbishop Johnson’s episcopal motto, “For the least of these,” the anthem is written for SATB choir and organ. Visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, to download the sheet music.

Cathedral hosts ecumenical service

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place Jan. 18-25. This is an annual ecumenical celebration that invites Christians around the world to pray for the unity of all Christians, reflect on scripture together, participate in ecumenical services and share fellowship. An ecumenical service sponsored by the Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches will be held on Jan. 27 at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral. All are invited. Leaders from churches across Toronto will be present.

Unwavering Support.

To help people with complex mental health challenges get back on their feet, recover dignity, leave homelessness behind, it only takes two things: unwavering support and hope.

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Toronto, ON M5C 2E3

www.loftcs.org
Levee rings in new year

The annual Bishop’s Levee was held at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1—the first for Bishop Andrew Asbil as the diocese’s new Bishop of Toronto. The event included a Eucharist, a ringing of the cathedral bells and an opportunity to share New Year’s greetings with the diocese’s bishops and chancellor and their families. The receiving line was followed by festive music, a choral Evensong and the presentation of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (see pages 6-8).
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**Bishop Robertson married at cathedral**

The Diocese of Toronto congratulates Bishop Kevin Robertson and Mohan Sharma, who were married on Dec. 28 at St. James Cathedral in the presence of their two children, their families and many friends, including Archbishop Colin Johnson and Bishop Andrew Ashil. Bishop Robertson is the area bishop of York-Scarborough.

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**Music & Worship**

**JAN. 27 -** Sing and Joyful Bel, a Christmas featuring the music of the Sacred Harp (shape-note-singing), 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**FEB. 3 -** Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**FEB. 17 -** Rock Eucharist, The Music of Taylor Swift, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**FEB. 12 -** Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Redeemer, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**March 12 -** Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Redeemer, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

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**Workshops & Gatherings**

**FEB. 1 -** Canfield Communion at 6 p.m. followed by lunch and a talk by Dr. Marilou Taylor (Professor of Old Testament at Wycliffe College) on current research on the many brilliant women who interpreted the Bible, All at St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

**FEB. 19 -** Choral Evensong for the Queen’s Accession at 4 p.m., followed by Royal Festive Tea during which the choir’s director, Clement Carelse, examines the life and research on the many brilliant women who interpreted the Bible, All at St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

**March 5 -** The choristers of St. Peter, Erindale present a pancake supper at 6 p.m. in St. Peter’s church hall, 301 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street, Mississauga.

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**January and are $20 in advance, (some available at the door). For tickets, contact the church office at 416-283-1844. Visa accepted.**

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**TO PLACE AN AD CALL 905.833.6200 ext. 22 OR EMAIL ANGLICAN@CHURCHADVERTISING.CA**
To spread its spirit of giving to the neighbourhood, St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto has installed a Blessing Box and Little Library on its property, in a spot easily accessible to the community. The Blessing Box contains non-perishable food items, common household items and, for the winter season, hats, mittens, gloves and warm socks for those in need. The Sunday School has decorated magnets that are affixed to the box and free for anyone to take, containing the church’s contact information as well as the children’s art. The installation has been sponsored by the parish’s Missional Team, but all parishioners are encouraged to bring donations. The Blessing Box was blessed by Bishop Jenny Andison on a visit to St. Martin’s in December.

Standing with clothing donations are men’s group members, from left, Ken Armes, George Csilhas, Neil Liedeman and Rob Semple. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALL SAINTS

FOR the fifth year in a row, the All Saints Church Men’s Group in Whitby is supporting local shelters with clothing donations throughout the year.

When the group was first formed in November 2014, the men discussed what they wanted to accomplish together. Knowing another cold Canadian winter was just around the corner, they decided to collect warm winter clothing for men in need in the community. They christened the program “Staying Warm Together.”

From this simple beginning, the program grew quickly and now collects clothing for all seasons for men, women, youth and children. Donations are sorted and bagged monthly, then delivered to charities in the surrounding area, including Gate 3:16 Outreach Centre in Oshawa, Horizon House in Ajax, Joanne’s House in Ajax, the Muslim Welfare Centre in Whitby and MacKay House in Whitby.

Since the group’s inaugural meeting, the men have gathered each month for a communal breakfast and presentation on a topic of interest. This has fostered a spirit of friendship and togetherness among the men at All Saints, and they’ve been able to share that warmth with the greater community through their outreach program.

Play about churchwarden

A play about a former churchwarden of St. Clement, Ridgetown, is being performed at Toronto’s Campbell House Museum for three weeks, beginning on Jan. 30.

The play is about Esca Brooke-Daykin, a churchwarden at St. Clement’s from 1916-17. A devoted member of the church until his death in 1953, Mr. Brooke-Daykin was a successful businessman, avid gardener and family man. He was also the son of the Rajah of Sarawak (now part of Malaysia). Mr. Brooke-Daykin’s story is told in Canadian Rajah by Dave Carley, a playwright and a member of St. Paul, Bloor Street. For tickets and more information, visit www.canadianrajah.com.

SPECIAL GUEST

Local Anglicans have their picture taken with Archbishop Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury (front centre), at the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship, held Nov. 11-13 at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto. Archbishop Williams was one of the keynote speakers at the gathering, which provided lectures and workshops on preaching and opportunities for networking and fellowship.

CITY SINGING

Members of St. Barnabas, Chester sing Christmas carols to passersby on Danforth Avenue in Toronto on Dec. 23. Many pedestrians stopped to listen and received hot apple cider and candy canes as well. PHOTO BY HELEN TAYLOR

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