

**Mission calls  
for volunteers**

**Service marks  
homeless deaths**



**PWRDF rep  
visits Africa**

# The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

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APRIL 2019

## Bishop to hold town hall meetings

All invited

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

**BISHOP** Andrew Asbil is holding five town hall meetings in early May to hear from lay people in every episcopal area about their hopes, fears and dreams for their parishes and the diocese. With clergy gathering in late May at their Clergy Conference, Bishop Asbil says he wants to have a similar chance to get to know the laity.

“It’s an opportunity for me as the new Diocesan to just be able to say words of encouragement and ask questions of the community of leaders, and for leaders to be able to voice where their hopes and aspirations are, as well as their anxieties,” he says. “Large crowds and small crowds are settings that I find really encouraging and give a lot of energy.”

The first meetings will take place on Wednesday, May 1, with one session at 2 p.m. at St. James Cathedral, Toronto and a second session at 7 p.m. at St. Bride, Clarkson. The third town hall will take place on Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough.

The final meetings will be held on Saturday, May 4, when Bishop Asbil will visit St. Paul, Newmarket at 10 a.m. and St. Paul, Uxbridge at 2 p.m.

With no formal agenda or concrete objectives, Bishop Asbil says his goal is simply to have an open dialogue. “It’s not a legislative time. It’s not about necessarily setting all the courses and charts of where we’re going exactly. It’s really an opportunity for me just to be able to listen very carefully,” he says.

In that way, he’s framing the town halls as an extension of the conversations he’s been having in parishes across the diocese on Sunday mornings. “What I find really helpful is engaging in conversation with people who are living their faith every single day in their

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Canon Mary-Anne Nicholls with boxes of records in the diocese’s Archives. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## ‘I’m grateful for a job I’ve loved’

Diocese’s archivist retiring after long career

BY STUART MANN

**CANON** Mary-Anne Nicholls, the diocese’s first full-time Archivist, is retiring on March 31 after 35 ½ years of service.

“It’s been great,” she says, looking back on her long career. “I’m so grateful – for the people I’ve worked with and the support I’ve received along the way. People tell me I’ve got the best job, and in many ways it’s true.”

When Canon Nicholls started in 1983, the diocese’s Archives were housed next to the Diocesan Centre’s boiler. The work area was the ACW’s old “baling room,” where shipments of clothing were prepared for Canada’s north.

Since then, the Archives have grown, both in size and scope. The department now has a modern office space, a specialized storage

area and a dedicated staff of two full-time employees and volunteers who offer a multitude of services to parishes, the diocese and the public.

Much of the growth has been due to Canon Nicholls’ hard work and leadership, although she is quick to give credit to others who have helped her over the years. These include David Ptolemy, ODT, who was the diocese’s secretary-treasurer from 1976 to 1994. Mr. Ptolemy hired Canon Nicholls and gave her the support to modernize the Archives; he has been a volunteer in the Archives since his retirement. Canon Nicholls also credits long-time volunteer Dorothy Kealey, ODT, and the past chairs of the former Archives Committee for making the Archives what they are today.

Another reason for the department’s growth is Canon Nicholls’ passion for keeping archives. She

believes they are essential for any organization, large or small. “It’s everything – their life, their presence, their history,” she says. “You just couldn’t operate without that essential record.”

The diocese’s Archives are the official repository for the records of the diocese’s Synod and its officials, clergy, parishes and organizations. They provide safe storage for non-current parish records such as baptism, marriage and burial records, vestry minutes, financial and property records, architectural drawings and photographs. About 90 per cent of the diocese’s parishes keep their former records here – a valuable resource to draw on when they need to refer to previous decisions and commitments.

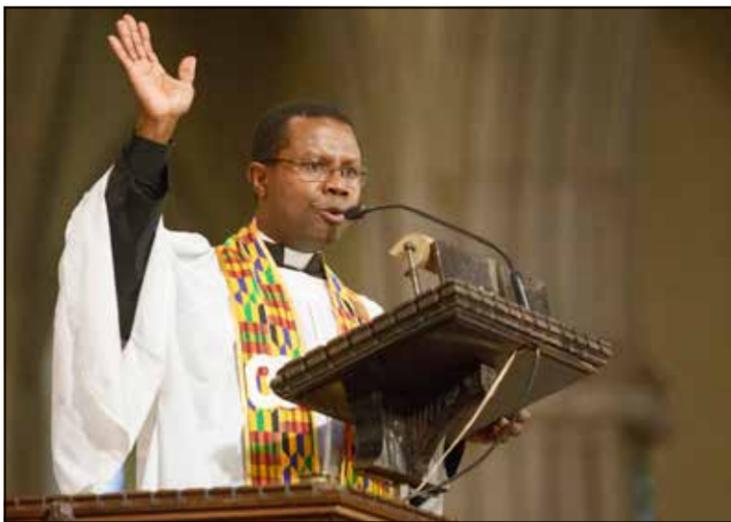
Archives also collects and maintains the diocese’s current and former files. These include everything

from the minutes of the 2017 Synod to the letters patent for the diocese in 1839 – a vast trove of correspondence, decisions, lists, contracts, appointments, agreements, budgets, manuscripts and notes that touch on every aspect of the diocese’s life since its earliest days.

In addition to collecting and storing records, Canon Nicholls and her staff help parishes, diocesan departments, committees and the public find information, whether it’s a marriage record to help a widow or widower who is seeking spousal benefits or a church that needs architectural drawings to undertake a renovation.

“You never know what you’re going to do on any given day,” she says. “There can be a lot of time spent doing the research to find

Continued on Page 5



**CELEBRATE**  
 The diocese's 24th annual black heritage service, 'Journey into Light, Giving Thanks for Our Ordained Ministers,' is held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Feb. 24. Clockwise from top left: the Rev. Ian LaFleur gives the sermon; members of the Ghanaian Anglican Church of Toronto's choir sing; flags are carried around the church during the playing of the black national anthem, 'Lift Every Voice and Sing'; the St. Michael and All Angels dancers perform; enjoying the service; Jan Morgan plays a trumpet solo; Bishop Riscylla Shaw and members of the congregation share the Peace. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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**LAY ANOINTERS TRAINING WEEKEND**

Offered by The Diocese of Toronto –  
 The Bishop's Committee on Healing (BCH)  
**Date: Friday May 24, 2019 7:00 pm – Sunday May 26, 2019 1:00 pm**  
**Location: The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (SSJD), 233 Cummer Ave, North York, ON M2M 2E8**

This training weekend is for individuals to be trained and equipped for the ministry of lay anointing in the Parish. Supervising clergy attend for approximately two hours on the Saturday afternoon. Registrants may register as a commuter (lunch but no accommodation) or register to stay in the SSJD Guest House for the weekend which includes accommodation and meals. A limited number of rooms are set aside at SSJD in the Guest House so early registration is encouraged. On line registration on the Diocese of Toronto website for attendees and supervising clergy will close Tuesday, May 7. A clergy letter of support for the participant is to be sent in advance to The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger, Chair, BCH at j.billinger@rogers.com Clergy considering introducing the ministry of lay anointing in the Parish who would like more information about the ministry are welcome to contact the Committee through The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger at j.billinger@rogers.com.

# Mission to seafarers needs volunteers

## Changes planned for Toronto

BY STUART MANN

**THE** Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario is sending out an SOS – for volunteers.

As the shipping season prepares to get underway in late March or early April, the mission needs volunteers for its stations in Oshawa, Toronto and Hamilton.

“Our people were doing double and triple duty at the Oshawa mission last season because ships were coming in so frequently,” says the Rev. Judith Alltree, the mission’s executive director and senior port chaplain. “It was great for the seafarers, but we’re going to need a lot more people.”

The mission opened the Terry Finlay Seafarers Centre in the Port of Oshawa in June 2017 and it has been busy ever since, she says. The station was named after the late Archbishop Terence Finlay, a former diocesan bishop of Toronto and a long-time supporter and advocate of seafarers.

She says volunteers serve in a number of ways. Some are trained to go on the ships to visit the crews.



The Rev. Judith Alltree stands outside the Cruise Ship Terminal building, behind her on left, in Toronto’s harbour. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Others staff the stations, making sure they’re open and hot coffee and free WiFi are ready for the seafarers when they come off the ships. Others drive the seafarers

into town so they can shop and do some banking if necessary.

Most importantly, the volunteers are there to listen to the seafarers and help out when necessary.

“That’s a really important aspect of our mission work – actively listening to what’s going on in the lives of these folks,” says Ms. Alltree. “They’re really grateful for that.

It’s very touching.”

There are about seven active volunteers at the Oshawa station but that needs to increase to 12-15 to keep up with the demand, she says. The mission is open from 3-9 p.m. during shipping season and volunteers regularly work in three-hour shifts.

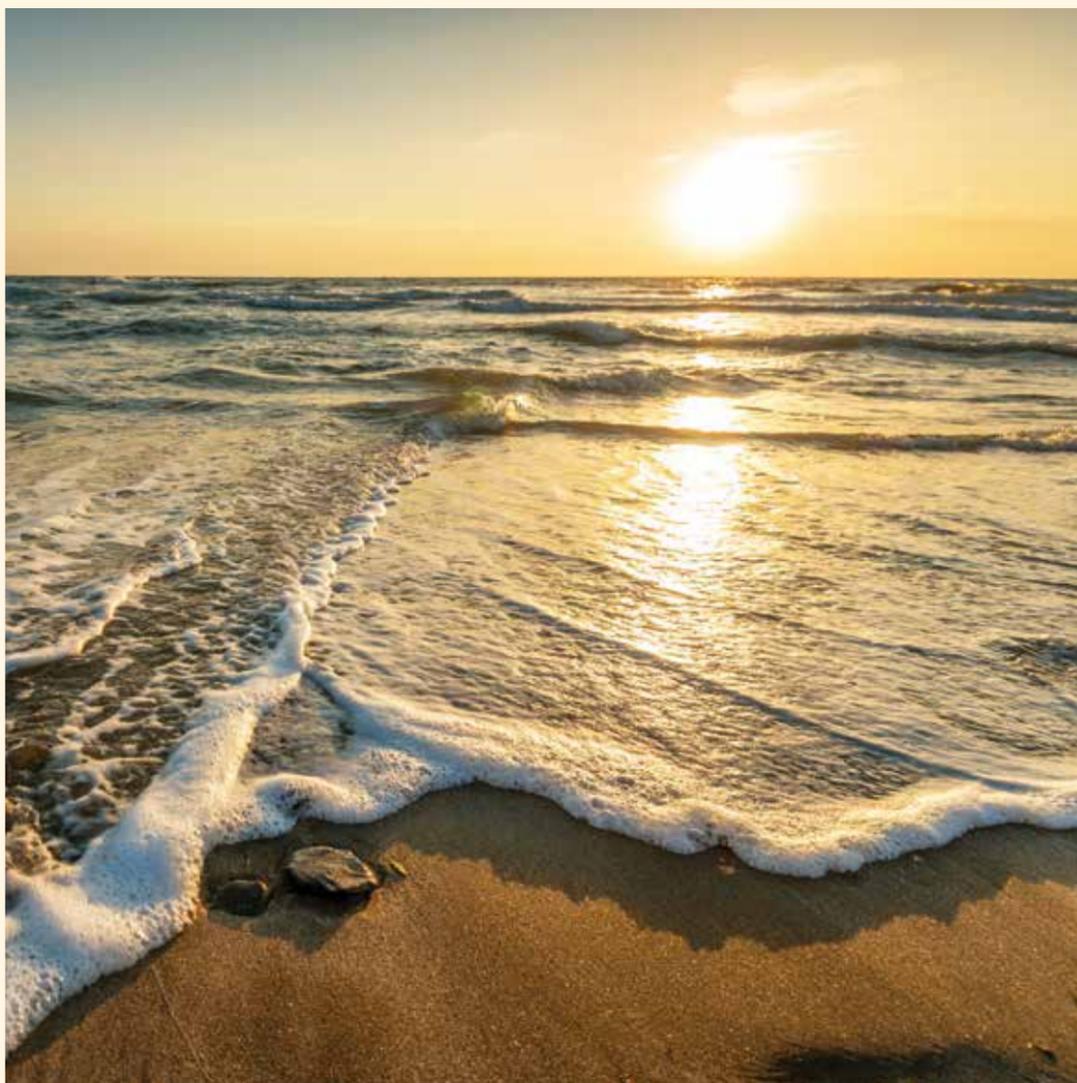
Volunteers are also needed at the Toronto mission, which is moving from its former building on Pier 51 to new space in PortsToronto’s Cruise Ship Terminal, formerly the International Passenger Terminal, also located on Pier 51.

Ms. Alltree says the mission’s board of directors decided to make the move after determining that the old building was too costly to maintain and needed extensive repairs. The number of seafarers visiting it had dropped by about 90 per cent, she says.

The mission, which relies entirely on donations and grants, was unable to sell or move the building and the decision was made to vacate it. During a cold snap on Jan. 30, frozen water pipes led to a flood, making the building currently uninhabitable.

“It was an iconic building, but we have a moral obligation to the people who support the mission with their donations and financial sacrifices to steward those resources

Continued on Page 9



## Filled with Hope and Joy

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation wishes you and your loved ones a blessed Easter Season as we celebrate the promise of new life.

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# It's time to find our gardening tools



Things tend to happen in the garden.

Our story of faith begins in the garden.

The garden was verdant, lush, brimming with life. The soil, streams, rain and sun provided perfect conditions for growth. It was home for plant and animal, winged bird and fish in the waters. And it was home for humanity, paradise for Adam and Eve. A sacred place where God walked, holy, safe and secure. We knew ourselves to be loved. We knew our place. However, we have this tendency to over-reach, to take too much before our time, to grasp for a little more. The conditions were right for that, too. A serpent, the tree, the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. We took a taste and then we tried to cover up. We pointed fingers to deflect blame, but no matter, we left the garden – or was it more that the garden left us?

Things tend to happen in the garden.

On the first day of the week, while it was still dark, (according to the Gospel of St. John) Mary Magdalene went to the garden. Perhaps she went to grieve, to make some sense, to be as close to him as possible. To her horror, she discovered that the tomb was open; the stone was rolled away. It must have been a frightening scene. Was it grave robbers, mischief-makers or authorities trying to erase the evidence? What she could not see, at first, was that the open grave would become our doorway back to the garden. Stooping to look in through her tears, the linens that once lay near his head and his feet had become angels. Why are you weep-

## BISHOP'S DIARY

By Bishop Andrew Asbil

ing? they asked her. She was still so stuck in Friday that she could not see Sunday dawning. The same question was asked again, by the one she thought was the gardener: Why are you weeping?

My very first job was cutting grass and tending gardens. I was in Grade 8. My older brother and I had started our own business, but then he quit when a better job offer came along. He was in Grade 10. So, I hired my younger brother, Mark, who was in Grade 5. We had 20 regular customers. We had our own lawnmower, garden implements and tools. We were busy that summer. We cut grass, trimmed hedges, and dug up and weeded gardens. Cutting grass was the easy part but tending the gardens – that was a different enterprise altogether. We really didn't know what we were doing. Sometimes weeds looked a lot like some perennials.

We took instructions from our customers – what to prune, what to weed and not to weed, what to trim and what to leave. Even with good directions, we didn't always get it right. If the truth be told, we kind of messed up sometimes – okay, I messed up. Like the time I lopped off sprouting peonies, thinking them to be dreaded weeds. When I recognized my mistake, I tried to find a way to reattach the stem, to no avail. I tried plunking the cut pieces into the soil, shoring up the stems with earth to make them look good, but the stems wilted in the midday heat. It was better to confess than to cover up.

She thought he was the gardener and she was not wrong. After all, it was the familiar sound of the gardener's footsteps that Adam and Eve heard when they took cover in the garden. And it would be the gardener who would restore life on Easter morning. Like the living creatures being named in the garden so long ago, she would experience the resurrection when she heard him call her name, Mary! The cover-up, the hurt, the brokenness, the separation, the grief, the sorrow, the pain and the disbelief evaporated with her simple confession: Rabbouni!

Things tend to happen in the garden.

And now, it is the very garden that is under threat. Our over-reaching and grasping ways, our neglect and cavalier attitudes have put such a strain upon creation. As temperatures continue to rise, weather patterns shift, species once named so long ago slowly disappear. Some make predictions, some deny and some believe, some downplay while others wring their hands. And what about us? How do we as a people of faith respond?

The last question that is put to us in the Baptismal Covenant in the Book of Alternative Services is: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth? We respond by saying, I will, with God's help. It's time to find our gardening tools, to take instructions from scientists and climatologists, mystics and children, farmers and monastics, Indigenous elders and theologians. It's time to tend the garden with all our might, to avoid the moment when, try as we might, we cannot reattach the stem to the root. After all, when we confess that God is our helper, anything is possible. Christ is Risen!



## TheAnglican

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**In the Diocese of Toronto:**  
A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

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The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil

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The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison

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# Canterbury experience was remarkable



Programs for new bishops are sometimes referred to with some cheek as "Baby Bishops' Schools." Since my consecration, I have had the opportunity to attend two such programs for "baby bishops,"

one offered by The Episcopal Church and the other offered by the Church of England. The English program is based in Canterbury, which I attended in February.

The experience of being in Canterbury was remarkable. Twenty-nine bishops from around the Anglican Communion gathered for 10 days of prayer, study and fellowship. Most days were spent at Canterbury, though we also had a road trip to London, with trips to the Anglican Communion Office and Lambeth Palace. I am still reflecting on this profound experience, but I want to share a few things I took away with me:

**1. Our Communion is wonderfully diverse.** The 29 bishops in the program came from six continents and represented more than a dozen linguistic groups. Certain bishops served some of the wealthiest dioceses in the world, and others served some of the poorest. One bishop arrived late to the program because he was burying one of his priests who had just been murdered in the ongoing civil conflict in South Sudan. Another was the first bishop of a brand new diocese in Brazil, and she was creatively figuring out how to lead something so nascent and ripe with possibilities. Another bishop spoke of

## BISHOP'S OPINION

By Bishop Kevin Robertson

the real fear that the effects of climate change will wipe out entire islands near his home in Melanesia.

**2. Yet we are the same.** In spite of our many differences, and the rich diversity of our Communion, what a privilege it was to share stories that spoke of our common fellowship. All of us shared the joys and struggles of trying to proclaim and live the gospel in a diverse world. For some African bishops, their ministry takes place in areas where Islam is growing much faster than Christianity. For other bishops, ministry is set in the midst of an increasingly secular society. For all of us, there was recognition that ministry must be adaptable and contextual, so that the gospel can continue to speak to the changing needs of a changing world. On a more personal level, all of us expressed the importance of balancing the demands of episcopal ministry on the one hand, with the needs of family and friendship on the other.

**3. It's about Jesus.** One of my enduring memories of our time together was our last day, gathered in the chapel of St. Augustine's Abbey, not far from Canterbury Cathedral. This was the place where Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, prayed when he came as a

missionary to England from Rome in the late 6th Century. For 15 centuries, Christians have gathered there to pray, break bread and study. In that same place, we also prayed, sang and exchanged gifts – all in the name of the same Jesus who was worshipped and proclaimed by St. Augustine all those years ago. Regardless of our differences in language, culture, theology or politics, we were united in our praise and thanksgiving to God, and in our confession of Jesus Christ as "the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church and the author of our salvation."

**4. We are all in this together.** Before I left for the U.K., some people predicted that bishops from other parts of the Communion wouldn't want much to do with bishops from Canada and the U.S., given the current disagreements within the Communion. I was pleased that nothing could be further from the truth. There was an earnest desire to talk openly about some of the challenges we face, but there was also recognition and appreciation that the work of the gospel might look very different across the various provinces and dioceses of our Church. As we prepared to return to our homes, we committed to continue working and praying together, to discover new ways to give leadership to God's Church in all its wonderful diversity and complexity. In that mutual commitment, we have sought to respond faithfully to the prayer of Jesus, "that they may all be one." (John 17:21)

# Observe a green Lent with these resources

BY ELIN GOULDEN



Lent is traditionally a time for turning to God in self-examination and repentance.

It is a time for adopting practices that draw us closer to God while curbing our tendencies to self-indulgence, and for turning toward others in solidarity and generosity.

A faithful response to the groaning of creation in our time calls for the adoption of these Lenten practices of self-examination, repentance, self-restraint and generosity, while seeking to follow more closely the way of Christ. The growing crises of climate change and plastic pollution, threats to water quality and species at risk, testify to human greed, callousness and love of ease and convenience superseding God's command for humankind to care for all members of the created community.

Lent offers us the opportunity to examine our lifestyles and practices, both personal and corporate, and find ways to live that honour our interdependence with creation and our dependence upon the Creator. This year, Earth Day (April 22) falls on Easter Monday, which makes observing a "green Lent" a timely preparation for the celebration of Earth Sunday in Eastertide. To that end, the diocese's Creation Matters committee has prepared a Lent calendar that guides individual Anglicans through reflection on scripture, learning about environmental issues, practical tips for reducing one's own environmental footprint, invitations to community action, calls to advocate for stronger environmental policy, and opportunities to share our wealth with those who bear the disproportionate burden of climate change and other environmental threats. The calendar is available at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/environment](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/environment).

One of the actions called for in the Lent calendar is to participate in the annual "Give It Up for the Earth!" postcard campaign by Citizens for Public Justice. This ecumenical coalition of Canadian churches has run the campaign since 2017, inviting Canadian Christians to pledge to reduce their own carbon footprint during Lent while calling on the federal government to implement a robust climate

policy. This year's postcard urges the Prime Minister to end public subsidies on fossil fuels, which amount to about \$1.4 billion annually. At the time of writing, 250 postcards have been distributed to a dozen parishes in our diocese. To order more, or to sign the pledge online, please visit [www.cpj.ca/fortheearth](http://www.cpj.ca/fortheearth).

It has been our practice in this diocese over the last decade to observe Earth Sunday on the Sunday nearest to April 22. This year, that would be Easter Sunday, so we anticipate that many clergy will prefer to transfer Earth Sunday to April 28, the Second Sunday of Easter. In addition to the Lent calendar, the Creation Matters committee has compiled a number of other resources to aid parishes in celebrating Earth Sunday. These include reflections on the lectionary for both Easter Sunday and the Second Sunday of Easter, an Earth Sunday Prayers of the People, and a list of suggested hymns.

In addition, the Creation Matters Working Group of the Anglican Church of Canada has also shared resources produced by other dioceses for Lent and Earth Sunday. The Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, with the assistance of photographer Donna Giles, has created a series of reflections called "Stations of Creation" that invite participants to reflect on scripture, a brief meditation and a photograph at each station. Sue Carson, from the Diocese of Niagara, offers a reflection on the popular hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful." Links to these resources can also be found on the Environmental Resources page of our diocese's website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).

While the season of Lent calls us into repentance for the ways in which we have caused creation to groan, the celebration of Easter reminds us of the promise of what John Wesley called "the general deliverance" – that glorious reconciliation and restoration of all creation through the death and resurrection of Christ. Let these seasons draw us more deeply into God's love for all that God has made, and teach us to live in right relationship with what Indigenous tradition recognizes as "all our relations."

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



Canon Mary-Anne Nicholls with parish records in the diocese's Archives. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## Archivist worked with parishes, developed diocese's privacy policy

Continued from Page 1

that info, but I personally love that."

Canon Nicholls visits parishes to help them with their own archives, and parishes contact the Archives regularly about depositing records. She says meeting and working with parish archivists and volunteers is one of the highlights of her job. "Almost every parish has someone who is interested in records and collecting and looking out for things, and it's great to see the results of their work. I'm very grateful for the faithful and dedicated parish volunteers who know, love and maintain the records of their story."

In addition to being the diocese's Archivist, Canon Nicholls is the diocese's Privacy Officer, a role that was created in 2002 in response to government legislation. As the Privacy Officer, she developed a policy that outlines how the diocese handles personal information, how

long it will keep it, how much can be shared with the public and other matters. The policy has become an important document in the life of the diocese.

Throughout her career, Canon Nicholls has served on church and secular archivist groups and boards. In 1990, she coordinated a project that published a guide to the holdings of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. To honour her achievements, the diocese awarded her a Certificate of Merit at Synod in 1995. In 2013, Archbishop Colin Johnson made her a canon of St. James Cathedral – a rare honour for a lay person.

Bishop Andrew Asbil praised Canon Nicholls for her work over the past three decades. "The people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years to gain their memory to step into the Promised

Land, and Mary-Anne has helped us find our way for 35 years. That has been such a treasure and a gift."

He added: "We often underestimate the importance of keeping records, memories and information. These things help us every day, not just to weave together the stories of our parishes but to help the diocese conduct its ministry."

As she approaches retirement, Canon Nicholls admits she has no definite plans for the next stage of her life. "I just want to catch my breath and see what else is out there," she says.

In the meantime, she is grateful for a long and fruitful career. "I'm most grateful for having a job that I loved, that had variety, that was important, and had the support of a wide circle of clergy, parish staff and volunteers, and diocesan staff," she says.

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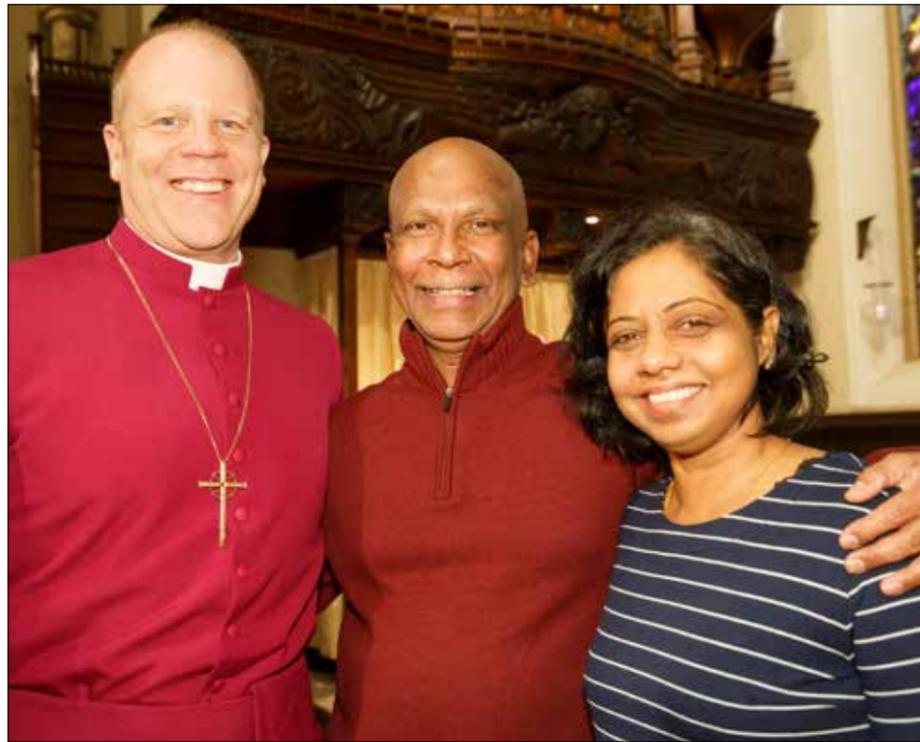
# Cricket was a great escape for me

Ranil Mendis is a member of the Anglican Church Cricket Festival's organizing committee and a parishioner of St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South. This year's tournament will be held on June 15 at Creditview Sandalwood Park in Brampton.

The Anglican Church Cricket Festival (ACCF) provides an opportunity for parishioners of Anglican churches across the GTA to get to know each other and to build relationships with our community at large. ACCF uses cricket to give our parishioners an enjoyable day out, with food, fun and good Christian fellowship. Women, men, children of all ages, seasoned cricket players as well as absolute beginners are given the opportunity to try this sport. Bishop Jenny Andison described the event beautifully in a thank-you letter to the committee: "The event builds community amongst the parishes and creates a space for the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of young and old, church and unchurched, skilled cricketers and enthusiastic amateurs."

Cities in the GTA have experienced growth as a direct result of immigration, and it is important to recognize the implications of these settlement patterns and how they shape local needs and desires with respect to recreation. Cricket is a regular topic of conversation when Peter Marshall, an avid cricket fan from Yorkshire, England, and I meet during the coffee time at St. Thomas's. Apart from teasing Peter about how the Brits invented cricket but the South Asians perfected it, Peter and I first talked about the idea of a friendly cricket encounter back in 2015. I had taken part in a number of inter-church cricket tournaments in Sri Lanka, and we knew that cricket, being a globally popular sport, was a common thread that could bind our diverse church communities together.

The best part about holding the festival is that it's an opportunity to meet and bring together Anglicans from across the GTA, and also to receive the support of Bishop Jenny and the Diocesan Centre. The worst is that we have no control over one of the key factors for a successful event – the weather! This reminds me of what my mother used to say: "Man proposes, God disposes."



I have served on the boards of a number of government agencies that deliver social services in the GTA and currently serve on the board of Toronto Grace Health Centre, a public hospital run by the Salvation Army. As a board member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), I have had the great privilege of leading the CIMA Mayor's School Cricket Program, providing over 6,000 school children in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area with opportunities to play cricket. I also led CIMA's cricket scholar-

Ranil Mendis and his wife Chandanie greet Bishop Andrew Asbil at the Bishop's Levee in January. At left, Mr. Mendis and Peter Marshall present the Most Valuable Player trophy to Nikhil Josh at the 2017 cricket tournament. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ship program, where young cricketers were given the opportunity to represent Toronto overseas as part of the Toronto Mayor's Youth Cricket Team.

I was born in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and am the third in my family of seven.

Moratuwa is a city that has produced some of Sri Lanka's top national cricket stars. My father worked for the Gal Oya Development Board, one of the largest rural irrigation projects in Sri Lanka, and I have fond memories of living and going to school up to Grade 5 in a village amidst thick jungle. Moving back to our hometown of Moratuwa as a 10-year-old, I was fascinated by the activities going on next to my ancestral home, "Mendis Villa," where a group of youth had built a clubhouse for their community cricket club. I used to join them as a young kid and be on the cricket field watching and admiring the big boys play cricket. Thus the seeds

were planted in my mind to follow this fascinating sport for a lifetime.

With the death of my father when I was 12, cricket – played with friends under coconut trees – was a great escape for me throughout my childhood; it was part of my routine practically every day after school. I went on to play cricket for my school. I played club cricket and represented my employers during my 10-year working career in Sri Lanka. Moving to Canada in 1987, a country where I had no close friends or family, it was a cricket match that I attended in Mississauga, the day after arriving in Canada, that helped me build my network of friends here. Five months later, my future wife Chandanie migrated to Canada and we got married at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton. Accompanying the Toronto Mayor's Youth Cricket Team on tours annually for over a decade to England, Sri Lanka and Trinidad, and being invited to ring the starting bell at the home of cricket – the Lord's Cricket Grounds in London, England – during our visit in 2011 are the highlights of my cricket career.

My siblings and I were lucky to have parents who instilled in us the importance of daily family prayers during our formative years, and my mother, having to raise seven children on her own, made sure that the Sunday service followed by Sunday School became part of our lives growing up. The great Sunday School program at Holy Emmanuel Church in the Diocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka is where we were rooted in the Word of God. We were altar servers and members of the choir, and my younger brother, the Rev. Nirmal Mendis, served in the Diocese of Colombo; he is now with the Diocese of Niagara. My wife and I made sure that we passed on our faith to our children and that they understood the values and virtues of scripture.

My favourite passage is Isaiah 40: 28-31. I have had to face more than my share of storms in life, all the way back to my childhood. This passage speaks to the importance of waiting on the Lord when your faith is challenged in the face of adversity. Those experiences have shown me, and continue to teach me, the promise of renewing and regaining new strength through Him.

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Clockwise from top left: the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave, incumbent of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, lights a candle at the vigil to remember people who have died without a home; people walk from the church to city hall; Cathy Crowe, a street nurse, shows photos and videos of homeless shelters outside the mayor's office; a sign inside the church; the Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley smudges to begin the service. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



# Memorial service fills church, spurs call for change

BY ELIN GOULDEN

NEARLY 150 people filled Holy Trinity, Trinity Square in Toronto on Feb. 12 to celebrate, mourn and honour eight individuals who died without a home in the first few weeks of 2019.

While the Toronto Homeless Memorial service has taken place on the second Tuesday of every month since 1998, February's gathering was especially large due to the number of deaths and the publicity surrounding two of them.

Those who had died in the city in 2019 were named at the service: Chris Saboyard, Crystal Papineau, Tabitha Lewis, Hang Vo, James Young, Leonard Sisson and two men identified only as "John Doe." The name of William Easter, an advocate who had experienced homelessness and addiction and died Feb. 3, was also added at the request of his partner.

(Seven more individuals, six identified as "John Doe," were added to the total for 2018 from data recently released by the city on deaths within the shelter system.)

Rachel Robinson, a peer worker at Sisting, an agency for precariously housed women, remembered Crystal Papineau as a "gem," a woman of "quick and incisive wit" who was always ready to offer a hug. Ms. Papineau died in a clothing donation bin on Jan. 8. Tabitha Lewis was remembered by a worker from the George Street respite facility as a "radiant, kind and crea-

tive" young woman, a "refreshing presence" who hoped to be reunited with her nine-year-old son. One man who had experienced homelessness spoke of how he had slept on the same grate where Hang Vo, 58, lost her life after being crushed by a garbage truck on Jan. 15.

The Rev. Maggie Helwig, incumbent of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, remembered Leonard Sisson, whom she had known for over a decade, as a cheerful, upbeat person who tried to spread positive energy wherever he went. She encouraged all in attendance to work toward a society where everyone can live – and die – with dignity, respect and care.

Rabbi Aron Glasreich of Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto spoke of the ancient sage's response

when asked at what time one should say morning prayer: "At the hour when you are able to see the face of another." He urged those gathered to resist the temptation to become blind to the suffering of others, but rather to recognize the humanity of each person.

Finally, volunteer Rayna Slobodian read the names again, her voice breaking on the long list of John Does.

Street nurse and advocate Cathy Crowe said that she had not seen so many names added to the Toronto Homeless Memorial at one time in its 20-year existence. The memorial, located outside the church, remembers those who have died in

the city as a result of homelessness.

After the service, Ms. Crowe and some 60 people headed through the gathering snowstorm to Toronto City Hall under the banner of the newly formed Shelter and Housing Justice Network. Several representatives were admitted to the mayor's office to present a letter to one of his staff outlining their concerns over the increasing need for emergency shelter and affordable housing in the city. At the time of writing, there has been no response to the letter.

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



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# Journey through Uganda

## Local writer finds food security projects taking root

BY JANICE BIEHN

In his 1908 book *My African Journey*, Winston Churchill dubbed Uganda the Pearl of Africa for its rugged natural beauty and fertile land. More than 100 years later, the moniker is still worn with pride. But the land is not as productive and parts of the country experience food insecurity.

Aggrey Nshekanabo of Send-a-Cow Uganda says that, in theory, Uganda should be able to feed the world. But climate change has done a number on small-holder farmers, whose harvests supply about 65 per cent of the country's food.

"The seeds and soil are tired," he says. "It's the end of February but where are the rains? They should have started already. We don't have the knowledge to adapt." Uganda has the world's youngest population, so providing enough food will be a challenge for years to come.

I am in Uganda representing The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) with other communications professionals from member agencies of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The group is made up of Becky Longhurst of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Jon Self of World Renew, Samantha Burnside of Emergency Relief and Development Overseas and Shaylyn McMahon and Musu Taylor-Lewis of the Foodgrains Bank. We will also be joined by Nyambura Githaiga, a peace-building and crisis specialist with the Foodgrains Bank, and Edward Echwalu, a Ugandan freelance photographer formerly with Reuters.

Over the next week, we will visit three food security projects that are supported by our agencies and implemented by these Ugandan development partners: the Anglican Diocese of Nebbi, which for three years has been training rural families about conservation agriculture, empowering women with a savings and loan cooperative and training men and women on the importance of sharing household responsibilities; the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Arua, which has been delivering a nutritional supplement to vulnerable South Sudanese refugees in Rhino Camp, as well as women's sanitary kits and psychosocial support; and the St. Jude's Family Project in Masaka, which for 20 years has been training local people to feed their families using farming techniques such as permaculture.

We know we have come to hear people's



**Clockwise from above: Judith and Moses with their baby Emmanuel in Nebbi; Daniel points to an aquaculture pool in Masaka; Olivia speaks at the co-op presentation in Nebbi; Janice Biehn with Sarah Adjonye, a churchwarden of Bethlehem Anglican Church at Rhino Camp. PHOTOS BY JANICE BIEHN**

stories and share them with our respective churches, but we don't yet know how inspired we'll be by the people we meet.

### Diocese of Nebbi, Nebbi

Clusters of one-room brick buildings with sloped thatched grass roofs dot the landscape in the rural outskirts of this northwestern town. Towers of hand-made bricks are stacked to form their own kiln, and huge bundles of grass lean against the trees. Goats, roosters and pigs forage about. Children walk home from school in long lines, turning to wave and smile at our party. Women peel cassava or husk cowpeas in the shade while the men lay bricks or tend the fields. Some houses have small solar panels propped up on the ground, for if there is one thing Uganda has a lot of, it is sunshine. We are acclimating to the 35°C heat.

The development staff takes us to meet two separate savings-and-loan co-ops. In my group, 14 women gather on a tarp laid out beneath the shade of a tree. Plastic lawn chairs are set out for us and we are welcomed with singing and dancing. One by one, the women rise to tell us how this program has transformed their lives.

The women do the bulk of the farming, but with the increasing rate of climate change, the work takes longer and produces less. They have learned conservation agriculture techniques such as planting more than one type of seed at a time (to be less vulnerable to a bad crop), mulching (to retain moisture), and planting in rows (to make weeding easier). Soon their harvests were yielding enough food to feed their families and sell the surplus.

Once the men saw the increased yields and what the women were learning, couples began to work together as partners, sharing not only the farming workload but household and parenting duties as well. Gender workshops were also organ-



ized for both men and women.

Judith and Moses invite us into their home. They have a 14-year-old son, a nine-year-old daughter and a two-month-old son. Moses holds baby Emmanuel with ease but says (through an interpreter) that he would have never done this with his first-born son. With profits from selling her produce, Judith was able to purchase the decorative curtain that hid the bed behind them, as well as plates, cups and chairs. To not be able to demonstrate hospitality is a shameful thing to a Ugandan, we learn.

### Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Rhino Camp

Pentecostal Assemblies of God staffers Sheshmond Esalu, Simon Ekadu and Andrew Ogwang accompany us on the two-hour drive from Arua to Rhino Camp. Almost 100,000 people live here, mostly South Sudanese. Some have been here since 2016, unable to return home, as the conflict in South Sudan continues. There are 13 refugee settlements in Uganda, hosting 1.2 million refugees, the highest in Africa.

The camp is divided into six sub-camps, which are further divided into zones. We are visiting Ofua Camp, zones two and four. Many of the brick and thatched roof houses are wrapped in the tent material of the UN Refugee Agency. The chaos of the early days is gone, yet the challenges remain.

Our intrepid driver, Patrick Nseroko, expertly navigates the treacherous roads until we arrive at the church – a long mud-covered building with a grass-



thatched roof. As we file into the building, we are greeted with singing, clapping and dancing. By the time the song is over, the church is full and children poke their heads in the gap between the walls to watch.

We learn that each zone is governed by a Refugee Welfare Council made up of refugee leaders who interact with the NGOs. Each leader stands up and introduces themselves. The people are grateful for the support they have been given but they are growing frustrated. Monthly food rations last only 20 days. There is no way to make an income to buy more food for the remaining 10 days or to buy uniforms so their kids can go to school. The corn-soya nutritional porridge that the Pentecostal Assemblies of God provides to 2,500 vulnerable people in Ofua has been delayed at the Kenyan border for a month.

The next day we meet refugees in Zone 4. We speak with a group of breastfeeding or pregnant women who have been receiving the fortified porridge. They sit close together on a bench, two of them holding their babies on their laps. All but one attend Bethlehem Anglican Church, the large building behind us. Sarah Adjonye, who sits at one end, is a churchwarden there. She patiently translates each woman's names and ages, and their harrowing stories of how they arrived here, mostly on foot with only the clothes on their backs. "God must have a reason for putting us here," she says. "It's not normal for people to live like this." Then the words seem to catch in Sarah's throat and she brings the back of her hand to her eyes. Quietly, she says, "We must have really sinned for God to punish us like this." Afterwards, she tells me she is praying for help to start a small drugstore business. I tell her I will pray for her, too.

Continued on Page 9



# Justice walk turns 40

## March bears witness to society's wounds



Walkers gather in front of Toronto's Old City Hall last year during a stop on the route. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

TORONTO'S Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice is celebrating its 40th anniversary. This year's walk will be held on Good Friday, April 19, beginning at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square at 2 p.m. The theme will be "For the Sake of the World: 40 Years of Hopeful Persistence."

The first walk, held on April 13, 1979, was organized by a group of Catholic teachers, Teachers for Social Justice of the Metropolitan Separate School Board. The theme was "Witness to Hope: Contemporary Way of the Cross," and began at the Newman Center at 80 St. George St. with more than 100 participants. There were five stations – for the wounds of Christ on the cross – and everyone was invited to meditate on five contemporary wounds of the suffering Body of Christ. The stations focused on the hazards of nuclear waste, abortion, refugee policy, exploitation in the sugar industry, and justice for striking workers in a seven-month lockout in Sudbury.

"The purpose was not to lay blame, but to acknowledge everyone's participation in oppressive structures and everyone's need for repentance," explains the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave, incumbent of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square. The first walk concluded at Nathan Phillips Square.

Over the decades, the themes of the stations have responded to a wide range of issues, from human trafficking to the commodification of water to climate change. The themes of the stations on the 2019 walk – homelessness, refugees, Indigenous and environmental justice – have been addressed on



previous walks.

"Forty is a long time to persist, but it took William Wilberforce 40 years of offering his private member's bill to abolish slavery before Parliament took action to do so," says Mr. Hesselgrave.

This year's walk concludes back at Holy Trinity with a simple supper.

# More cruise, cargo ships expected in Toronto port

Continued from Page 3

in the best way we can," she says. "Like many charities, we've seen a drop in our donations and we're working hard to rebuild relations and resources. When we looked at what it cost us to operate the building and how it was being used, we had to make the right decision, and I believe we have."

Ms. Alltree says the mission's new space in the Cruise Ship Terminal will be ideally situated to serve the cruise ships, especially their crews. Toronto is becoming a major destination and point of departure for cruise ships on the Great Lakes, with about 43 dockings expected this summer.

"Crews on cruise ships are here for hours, not days," she explains. "They usually need to make connections with chaplains when they're here. The office building will be right at the foot of the gangway."

More cargo vessels are also expected to dock at Pier 51 this summer, creating a need for volunteers who will visit the crews and drive them to shops and services in the city. "Shipping is coming back to the city, which is very exciting, but we're going to need people to help out," she says.

The Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario was formed in 2014 when the individual missions in Oshawa, Toronto and Hamilton

amalgamated. "We're stronger together because of the connections between the three," says Ms. Alltree. "They've all grown and the need for the mission is greater than ever in all three places."

This spring, the mission is rolling out a new program called "Critical Incident Crisis Management" in the Oshawa and Toronto ports. If a traumatic event happens, Ms. Alltree or a member of her team will visit the location as soon as possible to provide counselling and follow-up support to those affected. "We want to ensure that the person's post-traumatic stress response does not turn into post-traumatic stress disorder," she says. The mission began the program last October in Hamilton and it has proven to be successful.

Ms. Alltree thanks the mission's supporters in the Diocese of Toronto. "We are grateful for the people who continue to care about us," she says. "We look at every donation as generosity from people who care, and the seafarers are so grateful, especially when they come into a cold port and there's a warm welcome."

For more information about the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario, visit its website, [www.mtsso.org](http://www.mtsso.org) or email the Rev. Judith Alltree at [glutenfreepriest@gmail.com](mailto:glutenfreepriest@gmail.com).

# Projects help transform lives in Uganda

Continued from Page 8

## St. Jude's Family Project, Masaka

On our last day, we head west to Masaka. Founder Josephine Kizza Aliddeki greets us with enthusiasm. The 22-year-old organization has grown to include modern offices and classrooms, dormitories and a cafeteria for instruction in permaculture. PWRDF has been supporting St. Jude's for the past year and a half, training 210 women farmers, building 210 water tanks for rainwater harvest, establishing tree and vegetable nurseries and more.

Josephine's son Daniel recently completed a Master's degree in Oklahoma and is excited to show us the new demonstration garden. "We built it on the side of a hill to show farmers that an area that seems inhospitable can still grow food," he says. The garden includes irrigation tunnels that run down the hill and feed into three aquaculture pools where fish are farmed. There is eggplant, tomatoes, banana trees, heaps of grass compost, chicken coops and pig stys. "Permaculture is all about using the soil to feed you, but also feeding the soil," says Daniel. He explains that farmers learn to continuously plant so there is no "season." Plants are harvested in turn and carefully chosen to also return nutrients to the soil.

We take a short drive to the home of Emily, 52, who is disabled. She leads other vulnerable people in caring for a tree nursery, making soap, breeding pigs and chickens and collecting rain water. She tours us around her home and shows off her new higher-efficiency wood-burning brick stove, one of 120 in the community.

PWRDF has supported St. Jude's in



From left, Janice Biehn, Becky Longhurst, Shaylyn McMahon, Samantha Burnside, Musu Taylor-Lewis and Jon Self in Uganda. PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE BIEHN

planting more than 10,000 trees. When crops are not turning a profit, many people cut down trees to burn and make charcoal to sell, but the cost to the soil and air quality is far greater than the short-term gain.

When we return to the main building, the community is waiting to meet and

thank us. They have written a song about how their lives have changed. Josephine translates: "It is through the Canadians that we can reach higher and higher," the song goes. "We've been able now to improve our lives because St. Jude came to work with us."

Mission accomplished.

Janice Biehn is the communications coordinator for PWRDF and a churchwarden at St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto. She will be presenting an illustrated talk about her trip on May 19 during coffee hour after the 10:30 service. All are welcome.

# Discipleship program making inroads

## Busy lay leaders brought closer to God

BY STUART MANN

A discipleship program for lay leaders that was pioneered at Trinity Church, Aurora is starting to be used by other parishes in southern Ontario and the United States, with positive results.

Thirteen parishes in the Diocese of Niagara and one in the Diocese of Toronto are running Revive, a program that helps churchwardens, committee members, Sunday School teachers, property managers, volunteers and others draw closer to God – something they don't always have time for in their busy lives.

Clergy who are running the program say it is giving participants more confidence and enthusiasm to talk about and share their faith. They say it is also deepening relationships in their parishes.

Revive invites lay leaders to journey with their clergy for a year. The program starts with an opening retreat followed by three modules, each lasting about six weeks. In the first module, participants learn several different types of prayer. They develop a prayer practice for themselves and feel confident about praying in public. In the second module, they learn about scripture and how to lead a small Bible meditation group. The third module is about orienting their ministry toward call and vocation, rather than just doing a job.

Up to 12 people and their priest journey together from October to early June, taking a break during the Christmas and Easter seasons. They usually meet one night a week for about two hours. At the end of



Participants in the Revive program discuss forms of prayer. PHOTO BY NICHOLAS BRADFORD-EWART

the program, they attend another retreat and adopt a Rule of Life, a way for them to carry on their life and ministry in a new way.

The Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic is co-leading the program for 12 lay leaders at St. George in St. Catharines and says it is having a remarkable effect on the group. "It was like people had been waiting their whole lives to be asked this stuff. The floodgates just opened. They seemed to relish the opportunity to speak about these things in a way that was safe."

She says the program is having an impact on the rest of her parish as well. "It's almost like there is a permission in the parish now for others to be talking openly about their spiritual stories. Anglicans can be pretty polite about their religion and reserved in terms of how they talk about their relationship with God, and this seems like we're moving the dial just a little bit in terms of that culture."

As group members form a closer relationship with God and become more confident in their faith, their ministry deepens, she

says. "That communicates a really important message about who the church is and what we're called to be – that all we do is rooted in our relationship with God. I think that revitalizes a parish, and I can see, just halfway through the program, how that revitalization has already happened here."

The Rev. Sheilagh Ashworth is running Revive for eight people in the Parish of Loydtdown, which comprises Christ Church, Kettleby and St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg. She says the program is giving group members the confidence and experience to lead in worship settings, something that has practical implications in her parish.

"In our multi-point church, we need lay readers to lead morning prayer on occasion, and it's been helpful for that," she says. She's hoping members of the group will lead the parish's Bible study during Lent.

She is impressed with the program's resources, including videos that can be used to facilitate the discussions. "The workbooks are well laid out, thoughtful and easy to use. As a package, it works very well. It's

empowering."

The Rev. Canon Cheryl Palmer, the incumbent of Christ Church, Deer Park in Toronto, found the program helped her get to know some members of the congregation when she started there last January. Christ Church was one of 10 parishes in Canada and the United States that took part in a pilot project to test the program.

"Right away, there was a little group of people with whom I suddenly had a relationship," she recalls. "We were delving into deeply spiritual things, so we connected with each other from the start."

She says the first module on prayer and different types of prayer had a powerful impact on the group. "It was a huge hit with people. We all have in our minds what prayer is supposed to be, but then along comes someone who says you can pray this way and that way – it all depends on who you are and what's going on in your life. People were receptive to that and it unfolded in a beautiful way."

She recalls a moment that illustrates how the program can instill confidence in those who take it. One morning before the start of a service, she couldn't pray with the choir downstairs because she had to be welcoming people to the church upstairs. In the spur of the moment, she asked one of the Revive group members to lead the prayer for the choir. "She looked at me, and then smiled and said, 'Yes, I can do that.' It's a small thing, but it's indicative of the freedom that people were given as a result of engaging with the program."

Revive, officially launched on Jan. 7, is offered by RenewalWorks, a ministry of Forward Movement, an arm of The Episcopal Church that is dedicated to reinvigorating the Church. The program was created a few years ago by the Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis when she was the incumbent at Trinity, Aurora. She is now the Faith Formation Coordinator for the Greater St. Catharines Area and the Diocese of Niagara.

## BRIEFLY

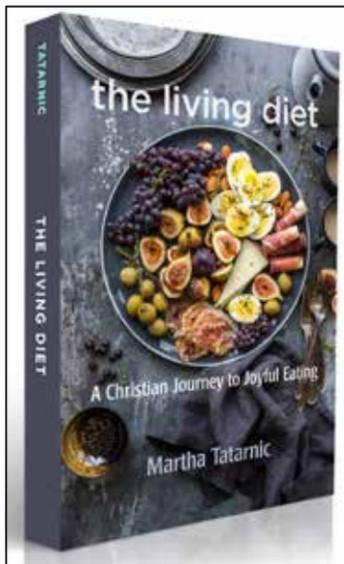
### Workshops help parish leaders

The diocese is holding half-day workshops for parish leaders, especially those new to their positions. The workshops are for churchwardens, deputy churchwardens, parish administrators, treasurers, administrative staff and clergy. The purpose of the workshops is to provide parish leaders with the information, resources and support needed to help them do their jobs. Two workshops were held on March 23. Two more workshops will be held on April 6, the first at St. John, East Orangeville in the morning and the second at Christ Church, Brampton in the afternoon. For more information, visit

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

### Priest writes book on joyful eating

The Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic, the former incumbent of St. David, Orillia and now the incumbent of St. George in St. Catharines, has written *The Living Diet: A Christian Journey to Joyful Eating*, a new book that offers a hopeful perspective on how to understand our relationship with the food we eat and the bodies in which we live. In *The Living Diet*, she focuses on how the teachings of Jesus offer a different perspective on healthy bodies and healthy food, rooted in eating as an act of relationship. "We know the aphorism, 'You are what you eat,'" she says. "But Jesus also proclaims that we are how we eat. How we eat communicates much about what we value, who we value, and indeed who



we are." *The Living Diet* will be published on April 17.

### Parish nurses invited to education day

The Canadian Association

for Parish Nursing Ministry is holding a church health education day open to all nurses, health care providers, faith leaders and anyone interested in faith community health. It will take place on May 24 from 1-5 p.m. at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre in London, Ont. For more details and to register, email [capnm.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:capnm.secretary@gmail.com).

### ACW holds annual general meeting

The diocesan Anglican Church Women's annual general meeting and luncheon will be held on April 27 at St. Timothy, Agincourt with guest speaker Alexandra Shimo, author of *Invisible North: Life Lessons from a Troubled Reserve*. All are invited. Tickets are \$35. For more information, call 416-363-0018 or email [acw@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:acw@toronto.anglican.ca).

### Head of refugee alliance retires

Ian McBride, the long-time director of the Anglican-United Refugee Alliance (AURA), retired at the end of January. Mr. McBride worked in the area of refugee sponsorship and resettlement on behalf of the diocese for many years, beginning on the board of what was then called the Working Group on Refugee Resettlement in 1996, and becoming executive director in 1998. "Those of us who have been involved in refugee sponsorship either in diocese or through our home parishes can attest to Ian's passion and dedication to this work, and how well he has equipped parishes throughout our diocese to live out Christ's call to 'welcome the stranger,'" says Elin Goulden, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

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## Bishop plans town hall meetings in May

Continued from Page 1

own context, who are able to speak with a sense of passion of where their hopes and dreams are. When I leave a parish hall, I'm taking their voices with me," he says. "I get to dwell with that, and they get to dwell with what I have to say, as well. So there's kind of this mutual conversation that we're having."

Bishop Asbil says he wants to hear from a wide range of people and is encouraging "anybody and everybody" to attend, whether they're new to the Anglican Church or have been in parish ministry for decades. "Folks who just want to come and listen themselves, people who want to be able to voice their own opinions and insights. Everybody," he says.

The town halls will also give lay people the opportunity to receive encouragement and insights from Anglicans in other parishes. "I hope that they walk away with a sense

of, 'I've been heard. I have been hearing. I understand that I'm not alone in this, that my parish may be in a very similar place as a lot of other parishes,'" says Bishop Asbil. "I'm living with questions about the future, but I'm also encouraged about it."

As he navigates his first year as diocesan bishop, he says these meetings will begin the conversation about where Anglicans believe God is calling the diocese to go. "It's not, for me, about solving all the issues. It's not about diagnosing all the problems," he says. "My intent is really about saying, how do we actually fill the space with all sorts of opportunities and words that are going to help us move forward?"

Those planning to attend the town hall meetings are asked to register through the diocesan website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

### PRAYER CYCLE

#### FOR APRIL

1. St. John, Rosedale
2. St. Luke, Burnt River
3. St. Margaret, Wilberforce
4. St. Paul, Beaverton
5. St. Paul, Lindsay
6. St. Paul, Minden
7. The Religious Communities of the Diocese: SSJD & OHC
8. Provincial Synod Council of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario
9. St. Peter, Maple Lake
10. The Chapel of St. James, West Brock
11. St. Anne, Toronto
12. St. Chad, Toronto
13. Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale

14. Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

15. Monday in Holy Week
16. Tuesday in Holy Week
17. Wednesday in Holy Week
18. Maundy Thursday
19. Good Friday
20. Holy Saturday
21. Easter Day
22. St. George by the Grange, Toronto
23. St. Hilda, Fairbank
24. The Fresh Start Program
25. Jeremiah Community, Toronto
26. St. John, West Toronto
27. St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto
28. Parkdale-West Toronto Deanery
29. St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto
30. Diocesan Regional Deans

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### IN MOTION

#### Appointments

- The Rev. Murray McColl, Interim Priest-in-Charge, the Parish of Apsley, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Alison Hari-Singh, Assistant Curate, St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon Barbara Hammond, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul, Newmarket, Feb. 5.
- The Rev. Leigh Kern, Coordinator of Indigenous Ministries and Reconciliation Animator, March 1.
- The Rev. Molly Finlay, Associate Priest, Christ Church, Deer Park, May 1.
- Mr. Orvin Lao, Assistant Curate, Trinity East, May 1.
- Mr. Benjamin Gillard, Assistant Curate, St. John the Baptist, Norway and St. Monica, Toronto, May 1.
- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd, Priest-in-Charge, St. John, Bowmanville, May 1.

#### Area Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- St. Hilda, Fairbank
- St. John, West Toronto
- St. Peter, Oshawa

#### Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese

7 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person (VISA accepted). All seats reserved (none at door). For tickets, call the church office at 416-283-1844.

**MAY 24-26** - Lay Anointers Training Weekend offered by the diocese's Bishop's Committee on Healing, 7 p.m. on May 24 to 1 p.m. on May 26, St. John's Convent of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, 233 Cumber Ave., North York. This training weekend is for individuals recommended by their clergy to be trained and equipped for the ministry of lay anointing in the parish. Supervising

with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe.

#### First Phase - Parish Selection Committee in Formation (not yet receiving names):

- Bishop Strachan School Chaplaincy
- Christ Church, Stouffville
- St. Margaret in-the-Pines, Toronto
- St. Martin, Bay Ridges
- Parish of Fenelon Falls

#### Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):

- Redeemer, Bloor St.
- St. Andrew by-the-Lake (Half Time), Toronto Islands

#### Third Phase - (no longer receiving names):

- St. James Cathedral

#### Ordinations

- Elizabeth Cummings was ordained a Deacon at St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto on March 3.
- The Rev. Johanna Pak will be ordained a Priest at St. Timothy, Agincourt on April 7 at 4:30 p.m.

### LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Music & Worship

**MARCH 30** - Voices Chamber Choir presents A Journey of Faith, music from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, featuring Theodore Dubois's The Seven Last Words of Christ, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors.

**MARCH 31** - Rock Eucharist: The Music of Imagine Dragons, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**APRIL 3-MAY 29** - Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30-1:15 p.m. on select Wednesdays, All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. April 3, Thomas Fitches; April 17, John Laing; May 1, Andrew Adair; May 15, Mark Himmelman; May 29, Richard Spotts.

**APRIL 14-21** - Holy week services at St. Olave, Swansea, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto. Visit www.stolaves.ca.

**APRIL 14** - The choristers of St. Peter, Erindale present a concert featuring John Stainer's Crucifixion on Palm Sunday at 7 p.m. The church is located at 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street. Admission \$20.

**APRIL 14** - Bach vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor

Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**APRIL 27** - Healey Willan Singers present Reimagined, music rearranged for women's ensemble, featuring Mozart's Missa Brevis in C "Spatzenmesse" with chamber orchestra, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors.

**APRIL 28** - The St. Peter's Handbell Choir presents its spring concert at St. Peter, Erindale, 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street, at 4 p.m. Also performing are the Ontario Male Chorus and the Boys in B. Donations in the \$10-\$20 range would be appreciated and put to good use to provide more music.

**MAY 5** - "Car Karaoke Classics" featuring handbell ringers, band, choir and audience participation, 2 p.m., St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Proceeds aid Sleeping Children Around the World and St. John's. Tickets for adults are \$15; children, \$5. Call 416-225-6611, visit www.sjym.ca or email musicfest@sjym.ca.

**JUNE 8** - Voices Chamber Choir presents Handel and Haydn, music by Michael and Joseph Haydn, featuring Handel's Four Coronation Anthems, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors

### Sales

**APRIL 6** - Spring rummage sale, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Holy Trinity, 140 Brooke St., Thornhill. Clothing, linens, household items, games, toys and jewelry. Call 905-889-5931.

**APRIL 13** - Spring rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Household items, clothing, linens, books and toys.

**MAY 4** - Spring market bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Brooklin.

**MAY 4** - Daffodil tea, 1:30-3:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Norway, 470 Woodbine Ave., Toronto. Enjoy a beautiful tea, white elephant sale, prizes, books and bake sale. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

**MAY 5** - Art fair and bake sale in the garden, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto, in support of the Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre's music program. The centre provides services to community members who may be dealing with issues such as homelessness, addiction, mental health and poverty.

### Workshops & Gatherings

**APRIL 27** - Spring fair, barbecue, baking, books, kids' activities on the green and more, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Cuthbert, 1399 Bayview Ave., Toronto.

**MAY 4** - "Saturday Night at the Movies," accompanied by featured organist Thomas Gonder, 7:30 p.m., St. Matthew, Islington, 3962 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke. Admission \$10 at the door. Refreshments provided.

**MAY 11** - St. Dunstan of Canterbury's 35th anniversary celebration at Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility, 2700 Audley Rd., Ajax, featuring Toronto All-Star Big Band, entertainment and dancing. Cash bar and cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at

clergy attend for approximately two hours on the Saturday afternoon. For registration information, contact the Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger at j.billinger@rogers.com.

**JUNE 19** - Strawberry social, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., St. John the Evangelist, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. This event supports the many outreach projects contributed to each year. In addition to strawberries, cake and ice cream, there will be music from John Earnshaw at the piano in the afternoon and the Peterborough Concert Band in the evening.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The Rev. Canon Philip Der (far left), incumbent of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill, stands with the Toronto Si-Zhu Chinese Music Ensemble during the church's Chinese New Year celebration on Feb. 16. About 70 people took part in the celebration, which included traditional games and entertainment. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S



**WARM HEARTS**

Walkers gather at St. Barnabas, Chester during the "Coldest Night of the Year Walk" on Feb. 23. The walk, held at 131 locations across Canada, raised money for local agencies that provide services to the homeless, the lonely or the needy. More than 100 walkers set off from the church at 5:15 pm.; most walked the 5 km route along Danforth Avenue while others walk 10 km. Funds from the walk went to Kennedy House Services in Toronto, which supports youth who find themselves in need of a place to sleep or a meal. Next year's walk will be held on Feb. 22. PHOTO BY HELEN TAYLOR



**SNOW NIGHT**

Youngsters and leaders in York-Simcoe take part in a fun evening of snow tubing at Snow Valley Resort in Barrie, followed by a sleepover in the sanctuary at St. Paul, Innisfil. About 50 youth and leaders took part. PHOTOS BY NANCY HANNAH



**WELCOME**

All Saints Church-Community Centre, Toronto welcomes its new priest-in-charge, the Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, at a Celebration of New Ministry service on Feb. 24. PHOTO BY EUGENE FARRUGIA



**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

The Rev. Christopher Dow, the new priest-in-charge of St. James, Caledon East, his wife Amy Dow and their children join Bishop Jenny Andison at his Celebration of New Ministry at St. James on Feb. 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JAMES



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