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# The Anglican

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## Diocese casts net for new vision

‘We need to rediscover how to sing together again,’ says bishop

BY STUART MANN

**THE** diocese is embarking on a new visioning process to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next five years.

“After more than two years of pandemic, we need to rediscover how to sing together again,” says Bishop Andrew Asbil, diocesan bishop.

The name of the visioning process, Cast the Net, comes from John’s and Luke’s gospels. “Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.” (John 21)

Bishop Asbil says the gospel story speaks to Anglicans as they consider how the pandemic has changed the Church and begin to discern what the future holds. “After the disruption of Easter, the disciples’ instinct is to return to the familiarity of fishing. But everything has changed, and the old way of doing things doesn’t work,” he said. “Our



instinct, too, may be to go back to what’s comfortable – what we know we’re good at. But God is calling us to do things in a new way. What will happen if we cast our nets on the other side of the boat?”

Synod Council approved Cast the Net at its May meeting and allocated money from the residual funds of the diocese’s Our Faith-Our Hope campaign to support it.

In June, Synod Council met the Very Rev.

Peter Elliott and Canon Ian Alexander, who will develop and lead Cast the Net’s consultation and development process. Dean Elliott is the former Dean of New Westminster in Vancouver and Canon Alexander is a consultant for the national church and a former CBC executive. In addition to Dean Elliott and Canon Alexander, additional consultants/researchers will be engaged to round out the facilitation team. One of these individuals is Dr. Anita Gittens, ODT, who was a member of the steering committee for the previous diocesan strategy initiative.

The process will take place over the next 18 months, with recommendations and calls to action coming to Synod in 2023.

The Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, incumbent of All Saints, Sherbourne St., and Dave Toyce, ODT, a member of Synod Council and a parishioner of Trinity, Streetsville, are co-chairs of Cast the Net. A steering committee has been formed: the Rev. Alvaro Adderley (incumbent, Parish of St. James, Fenelon Falls), Cormac Culkeen (director of children, youth and family ministry at All Saints, Peterborough), the Rev. Dr. Alison

Falby, the Rev. Andrew Federle (incumbent, St. Clement, Eglinton), Tina George (lay member, St. Bede, Scarborough), Mr. Toyce, Eirene Wee (lay member, St. Paul, Bloor St.) and the Rev. Deborah Wilson (chaplain, Bishop Strachan School).

Cast the Net will be made up of four key elements:

**Discern.** This begins with listening deeply to one another and being conscious of working in a liminal time as the diocese emerges from the pandemic.

**Diversity.** This means being committed to finding ways to hear the voices from the margins; to resist the urge to rush to manufactured consensus; and to actively seek to add another consultant to the team.

**Dream.** This means to have a visionary perspective while keeping eyes on practicalities, resource requirements, availability and achievable steps.

**Develop.** This means a new, ongoing process for diocesan life; moving seamlessly and effectively from planning to implementation; and being a basis of a “case for support” for

Continued on Page 4

### CHILLIN’

All Saints, Sherbourne St. staff Fey, Rachel, Radhika, Erika and Shea enjoy a moment at the ice cream truck during the church’s 150th anniversary celebrations in June. The festivities included a worship service and a community barbecue. The church provides a drop-in and other services to some of Toronto’s most marginalized people. For more photos, see Page 15.  
PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON





# Conversations provide food for thought

## Panelists share ideas, stories of ministry

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

**THE** ideas shared in a series of conversations among ministry leaders in the diocese are still sparking the imaginations of participants weeks later. Tending the Soul wrapped up on May 26 after nine hour-long sessions, each featuring a group of lay and ordained panelists talking about a topic in ministry. The conversations were all live streamed to Facebook and YouTube, with viewers asking their own questions along the way.

Janet Marshall, the diocese's director of Congregational Development, was part of the group that started considering how to capture and share some of the creative ministry parishes have been doing during the pandemic. "It started as a conversation with Bishop Andrew, Peter Misiaszek and me. We wanted to tap into people's imaginations and the sense of hope we were seeing," she says. "We started brainstorming topics. Anything we had heard people talking about, within the diocese or nationally, went on the list."

That list was narrowed down to nine topics, and Ms. Marshall and Mr. Misiaszek, the director of Stewardship Development, began to look for ministry leaders in a variety of contexts to share their experiences. Tending the Soul launched on March 10 with a look back at the past two

years and the ways in which church life has changed over the course of the pandemic. That was followed by conversations about visioning in transition, stewardship, and pastoral care. "I was really inspired by the early sessions. I think there was a profound sense of hope," says Ms. Marshall.

Denise Byard, the lay pastoral associate for missional outreach and discipleship at Holy Trinity, Guildwood, agrees. She was a panelist during a later session on the Church as a safe place for questions, and she also watched the other conversations online. "Almost every session I got something from. I'm borrowing different things to include in my own ministry," she says. "It was a great forum to hear what other people are doing and wonder whether we could possibly do something like that."

As a panelist, Ms. Byard was clear that she wanted to represent her parish's experiences, not just her own. "I really wanted to share what my parish was doing," she says. "There have been a few things we've tried that haven't worked as we'd hoped, and we just try to do what we can. God is good – we're doing some of the right things."

There were so many ideas exchanged and stories shared that the conversations often had to be cut short. "I was surprised at how easy it was to talk for the hour, and



Denise Byard (top left) participates as a panelist during Tending the Soul, alongside (clockwise) Bishop Kevin Robertson, Cormac Culkeen, the Rev. Dr. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson and Peter Misiaszek.

at how deep the conversations got. There are quotes and thoughts that I'm still returning to and digesting," says Ms. Marshall.

Ms. Byard admits she was disappointed that her own session ran out of time to take up some of the questions asked by viewers on Facebook and YouTube. "There were some excellent questions that came in and we didn't have time to address them," she says. "I wonder if there's a venue where we can address these questions again."

While participants exchanged valuable tips and ideas for ministry, the series also brought together Anglicans from all corners of the diocese who have had few opportunities to meet during the past two years. "I hope people realized that they're not alone in any of this. We know much of what you're going

through, and we feel it too," says Ms. Marshall.

Ms. Byard says that sense of solidarity was an important aspect of Tending the Soul for her. "The joy of being Anglican is we're not in this by ourselves. We are a family. I liked that perspective very much: as a unit supporting each other, working together," she says.

That camaraderie may be more important than ever as parishes and the diocese consider what's to come in this next stage of pandemic. "The pandemic forced the Church into the future rather more quickly than we might otherwise have gone. It will take time to understand where we are now and how the landscape has changed," says Ms. Marshall. She says she's encouraging parishes to consider what it means to gather as commu-

nity, mindful of the vital role digital ministry now plays in the Church. "We'll need to think through the possibilities. How do we move people from spectator to participant?"

Though Tending the Soul has ended, Ms. Byard isn't finished with it quite yet. She plans to watch all the conversations again as she continues to think about what the next months hold for Holy Trinity. "We're trying to harmonize so many things; this is what we parishes need to do to refresh and re-energize in this trans-pandemic time," she says. "Any opportunity where we can connect with each other and share and learn is always appreciated."

All nine conversations from Tending the Soul can be viewed on the diocese's YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/tordio135](http://www.youtube.com/tordio135).

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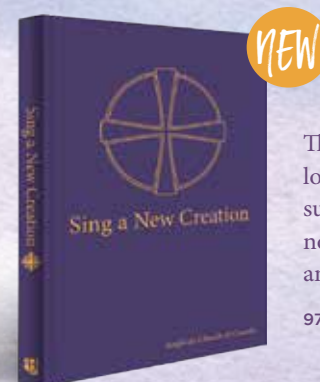
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# Program helps clergy rest

TO help the clergy rest after the stresses and strains of the COVID-19 pandemic, the diocese has established the Mini Sabbatical Program.

Bishop Andrew Asbil announced the program in a letter to the diocese in June. "Rest is one of the first things we sacrifice when crisis strikes," he wrote. "We become so caught up in dealing with the emergency that we put our own needs on hold and focus on the needs of the moment, of others. Never was this more in evidence than amongst our clergy over the past 27 months."

He thanked the clergy for their "super-human efforts" during the pandemic. "I have said it before and I will say it again: to my beloved priests and deacons, thank you. Thank you for your sacrificial care of your church families, gathering the faithful in prayer and creating community in whatever ways and means you could – even learning

Continued on Page 5



## SPIRITED DONATION

The Parish of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene donates \$10,500 to the Spirit Garden, a monument planned for Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto to honour the survivors and those who died at Canada's Residential Schools. Presenting the cheque to Bishop Andrew Asbil on June 26 at All Saints, Penetanguishene are, from left, Anna Beach and Kathryn Knowlton of All Saints and Doreen Jones and Peter Davis of Christ Church, Waubaushene. The money came from individual donations and the parish's 'God Only Knows Fund.' Anglicans across the diocese are being encouraged to give to the Spirit Garden, which is a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #82, which calls for the installation of monuments to the legacy of the Residential Schools in each provincial capital. At left is an artist's impression of the Spirit Garden. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PARISH OF PENETANGUISHENE AND WAUBAUSHENE

## REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

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an evening of online inspiration and music

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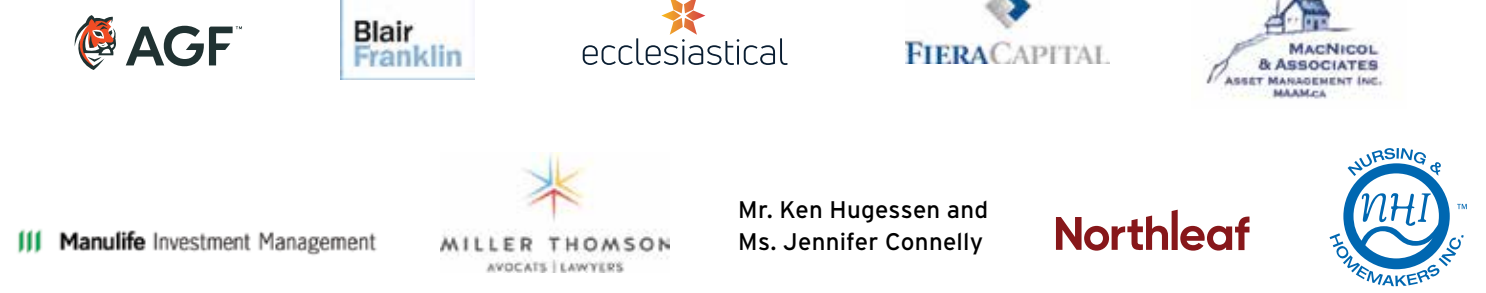
For registration or for more details, go to [bishopscompanytoronto.ca](https://bishopscompanytoronto.ca)

All are welcome to this free event. Bringing our Diocese together for an evening of hope and community in its third year. An offering will be requested during the presentation.

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# Outreach conference points toward right relationship

## Bishop keynote speaker

THE diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee will host its annual Outreach & Advocacy Conference on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. As has been the case in recent years, the conference will be held online, via Zoom, with separate sessions for the opening plenary, morning and afternoon workshops, and the closing plenary discussion.

The theme for this year's conference is "Pointing our Feet Toward Right Relationship," a phrase that emerged out of a conversation between Elin Goulden, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, and Bishop Riscylla Shaw, who will be the keynote speaker at the event.

"As a Church, we've started to make some progress toward reconciliation and right relationship," says Ms. Goulden. "Between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a lot of dedicated work at both the national church and diocesan levels, most Anglicans are now aware of the Church's role in running residential schools, and a growing number are becoming more deeply aware of other justice issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada. But we are still just in the beginning stages of what it would look like to walk together in right relationship. There's a lot more work to do."

Bishop Shaw agrees. "The work of untangling the Church in Canada from the colonial project is complex and requires long-term commitment. Yet our feet have been set on a new path and are pointing in a new direction, toward the shalom God means for all of us. We just need to keep walking on that path."

With Métis family roots, Bishop Riscylla Shaw grew up on a small

Poster for the outreach conference.

farm, learning from the land. Her ministry has been inspired and informed by the work of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Before her ordination as bishop, she served as a witness and ambassador for the Anglican Church of Canada at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. She was a member of the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice, which produced the award-winning documentary *Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts*, and currently serves on the Jubilee Commission to propose a just, sustainable and equitable funding base for the self-determining Indig-

enous Anglican Church in Canada. Bishop Shaw is also a contributor to the publication *Decolonizing Discipline – a call to implement TRC Call to Action 6*.

The theme of moving toward right relationship will be carried into several of the workshops to be offered at the conference. Staff from Toronto Urban Native Ministry will discuss how they confront Canada's colonial legacies on a daily basis in their ministry with urban Indigenous people. Dawn Maracle, a Mohawk educator and organizer and the interim Reconciliation Animator for the Anglican Church of Canada, will present a workshop on "The Myth of Canada the Good: Why we all need to understand

the Indian Act." As Ms. Maracle points out, "Residential schools are only a small part of the story: the Indian Act is a piece of colonial legislation that continues to shape Indigenous realities to this day."

Other workshops will explore the concept of right relationship more broadly, taking a deeper look at the systemic injustices that affect prisoners and ex-prisoners, people experiencing homelessness, those who are precariously employed and people with disabilities. As Deacon Claudette Taylor, a member of the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, points out, "God calls us to shalom – to seek right relationship with all. The theme of 'pointing our feet' suggests movement that may be a bit hesitant at first, but has the potential to become dynamic."

As of mid-July, a few workshops had remained to be confirmed, but it was hoped that there would be at least eight options available (at least four in each of the morning and afternoon sessions) when registration opens in September. Since each workshop, as well as the opening and closing plenary sessions, will be offered as a separate Zoom event, registration is required for each separate session. Generous breaks will be built into the day to prevent "Zoom fatigue." For each session, a moderator will assist with timekeeping, technical assistance and keeping track of participants' questions. The closing plenary will offer a chance for participants to reflect together on what they have learned, and what they have been challenged or inspired to do differently going forward.

Registration will open after Labour Day. There is no cost to attend; however, donations to assist with the cost of honoraria will be gratefully received via the diocese's website. (Donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt.) All are welcome to attend – for the entire day or only a part! Visit [www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference) for more details and to register.

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# Vision consultations planned for fall

Continued from Page 1

a major diocesan capital campaign. Consultations have already begun with Synod Council and area councils and will continue and expand over the next several months. "We want to hear the voices of not just church leaders but as many Anglicans in the diocese as possible," says Canon Alexander.

The consultations with Synod

Council and area councils have included an evaluation of Growing in Christ, the diocese's strategic plan that ended in 2021. Feedback is being received and synthesized by Dean Elliott and Canon Alexander and will inform future discussions. They have also spoken to the chairs of the focus area working groups for the previous strategic exercise.

Additional conversations for Cast the Net will take place in the fall, starting with in-person consultations with clergy in September. Active clergy are expected to attend one of two gatherings: on Sept. 14 at St. Mary, Richmond Hill or Sept. 29 at St. James Cathedral's Snell Hall.

In October and November, dean-

ery and parish consultations will start to take place. More information about dates and times will be shared in the late summer and early fall.

Updates on the progress of Cast the Net will be provided monthly to Synod Council, and will be shared at the diocese's next Synod, which will be held online on Nov. 17-19, 2022.

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# Why give? Here's what the Bible says



**O**ur understanding of stewardship as a way of life is based in scripture. The first chapter of Genesis tells us that God created all things and created us to be the stewards of all creation. Being good stewards involves protecting our environment, as well as being concerned about the welfare of our fellow human beings. As stewards, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God. We are responsible to tend our gifts, to nurture them and then to share their abundance with all.

The Bible specifies two main reasons for Christian giving:

First, Christians should provide for the needs of fellow Christians who are experiencing financial hardship. For example, while Barnabas and Saul were ministering in Antioch, there was a severe famine in Judea. Members of the community

## THE STEWARD

By PETER MISIASZEK

decided to send whatever they could to help their fellow believers in Judea. They collected the offerings and sent the money to the Church elders by Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11:27-30).

Later in Paul's ministry, he gave instruction to other churches that they also should give to the poor in Jerusalem. He wrote: "Now, concerning what you wrote about the money to be raised to help God's people in Judea. You must do what I told the churches in Galatia to do. Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what you have earned, and save it up, so that there will be no need to collect money when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

A second reason for Christian giving is to support Christian leaders. Paul

wrote to the Corinthians that "those who preach the gospel should receive their living from it" (1 Corinthians 9:14). To the Galatians, he wrote: "Anyone who is being taught the Christian message should share all the good things they have with their teacher" (Galatians 6:6). Note that these Christians encouraged supporting those who lead them both in their local community and beyond.

The final question remains: how much should Christians give? Each Christian "should give, then, as they have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). No set amount or percentage of income is dictated; rather, "if you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don't have" (2 Corinthians 8:12).

In summary, Christians are not restricted in their giving to the Old Testament understanding of tithing. Instead, they are to be challenged by New

Testament guidelines which describe giving as:

- Proportional to one's income (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:12).
- Consistent (1 Corinthians 16:2).
- Sacrificial (Mark 12:43-44; 2 Corinthians 8:2-3).
- Cheerful/Joyful (2 Corinthians 9:7).

We Christians should live open-handed and generously, acknowledging that we are merely stewards of God's creation and that all things come from God. The Bible provides powerful consistency in its messaging: giving helps model our life on that of Jesus and it is essential for those who choose to follow him. As Jesus was a gift to us – bringing heaven to earth – we are a gift to one another in our actions, words and lifestyle.

*Peter Misiaszek is the diocese's director of Stewardship Development.*

# Seeing God amidst the bleakness



BY MURRAY MacADAM

**A**re we entering an age of discouragement?

The evidence is compelling. A Statcan poll showed that the percentage of Canadians who viewed the future optimistically has dropped from 75 per cent in 2016 to 64 per cent today. On one level, it's not surprising. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives dramatically; it has isolated us and still poses a threat. Climate change threatens life as we know it, and is causing hardship across Canada and the world. War rages in several nations, and we see the suffering it causes in nightly newscasts. Paying the bills has become tougher for many people due to rising prices. Our nation seems more fractured politically than ever. All in all, a lot seems to be going against us.

That mood of discouragement can also be seen in Ontario's recent provincial election, with its shockingly low voter turnout rate of only 43 per cent. In some parts of our diocese, barely more than one

person in three participated in this basic exercise of our communal life. If you don't believe that government – any government – can take positive action to deal with the challenges we face, then why bother voting?

On a personal level, this mood of discouragement can filter down from the broader society to affect each of us as individuals.

The fact is, discouragement and disappointment are a part of life, of our human experience. We need to acknowledge that. Jesus and his disciples certainly experienced a lot of discouragement in their lives. Jesus was burdened over people's failure to repent and turn to God. In his final hours before being arrested, he cried out, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" (Mark 14:34).

How can we respond to discouragement? Part of the answer is in how we see people, how we regard them. As Ronald Rolheiser notes in his book, *Against an Infinite Horizon: The Finger of God in Our Everyday Lives*, "Faith is a way of seeing things. It is meant to change our eyesight, to take the reality of our lives...

and set these against the horizon of the eternal and the infinite. What faith does is give us a double vision: When we have the eye of faith, we see a certain divine glow shimmering within the ordinary."

If we only look at people from a human point of view, then it's all too easy for the human flaws we have, and that so often come into play, to dominate our emotions. That can lead to discouragement.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth that we can see everyone as God sees them. If anyone is in Christ, they are new and embraced by God. Paul urges us to become "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

What an intriguing invitation! What could it mean in practice? An ambassador works for positive outcomes, to bring people together and to make reconciliation a reality. An ambassador works to make real the famous Quaker belief that "there is that of God in everyone." That belief can strengthen our commitment to realize how we all belong to one another and can lift each other up – including when we're feeling discouraged. In my experience, there's a huge difference between feeling discouraged and alone, as opposed to

knowing that people are standing with me as I struggle with discouragement.

I teach memoir classes, and in her powerful memoir, *Run Towards the Danger*, actor and director Sarah Polley outlined that as an anxious expectant mother with a high-risk pregnancy, she joined a support group with other pregnant women. At first, they all seemed so different from each other. Yet they all shared the same fears, and some faced incredible challenges in their lives. Realizing this made a big difference for Polley. The surface differences melted away. It helped her deal with her own situation.

Yes, the challenges we face as a society and as individuals can seem daunting. But when we fail to raise our voices to point out that by acting together we can make a positive difference, we only deepen the forces of pessimism and disenchantment. And God is with us, through it all. As the Iona Abbey Worship Book says, "God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands."

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

# Mini Sabbatical Program helps clergy rest

Continued from Page 3

new skills to do so. Thank you for sustaining this Church through the darkest of days and the deepest of challenges. You have been simply wonderful, and we as a Diocese would not be where we are today without your faithfulness. But while your efforts have been tireless, I do know that you are tired. Deeply tired. You deserve and need a rest."

In the Mini Sabbatical Program, every cleric (priest or deacon) who served in an appointment

for a minimum of one year during the pandemic, and is currently in an appointment in the diocese, is entitled to one 10-day mini sabbatical, including one Sunday, with pay, for rest and restoration. This policy lasts from July 1, 2022 to and Aug. 31, 2023.

"We're trying to make this policy as generous, as flexible and as simple as possible," wrote Bishop Asbil. "We hope that parishes will receive it and enable it in that same spirit of generosity and

gratitude. We hope that clergy will take advantage of this opportunity without feelings of guilt and responsibility for the days, including the Sunday, that they will be off."

The 10 days may be taken consecutively or divided up. They may stand alone or be added to other holiday time or a study week. The Sunday must be taken when the liturgical colour is green – in "ordinary time." Clergy will continue to receive remuneration and benefits from their paying source

at their usual rate, uninterrupted. Parishes will be billed as usual.

On the Sunday that the cleric is away, congregations can worship in a number of different ways. Deacons or lay leaders may officiate at Morning Prayer; a simple rite has been created for this situation. Worshipers can tune in to the live stream from St. James Cathedral or watch a video sermon by Bishop Asbil on the subject of sabbath rest.

"Now that I have started attending parishes in person again, I've

heard from every congregation that I've visited the words of appreciation for their clergy who have shepherded church families through the last two years," wrote Bishop Asbil. "It is time to honour that hard work and dedication with thanksgiving to God."

For more information on the Mini Sabbatical Program, visit the Clergy Leaves page of the diocese's website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).

Staff





# Bishop was administrator, pastor

## Bishop helped steer diocese through time of great change

BY STUART MANN

In 1985, the Anglican Church of Canada published the *Book of Alternative Services*. Bound in a distinctive green cover, the book became the primary worship text for many churches in the Diocese of Toronto and across Canada.

At the same time, another green book was in use in the Diocese of Toronto. Known simply as the Green Book, it was a directory of the diocese's policies and guidelines. While it wasn't as elegant as the *Book of Alternative Services* – it was a large green binder – it was considered by many to be no less valuable, helping church leaders and administrators make decisions in an increasingly complex world.

The creator and compiler of the Green Book, Bishop Douglas Blackwell, died in May in Ajax at the age of 83.

"It was extremely helpful," says Archbishop Colin Johnson, who referred to the Green Book many times when he worked at the Diocesan Centre. "Douglas provided the infrastructure that allowed the diocese to function and flourish."

Bishop Blackwell was born in Toronto and was a graduate of Wycliffe College. Ordained a deacon in 1963 and a priest a year later, he served in the dioceses of Calgary and Saskatoon before returning to Toronto in 1974 to take up the position of assistant director for adult education at the Aurora Conference Centre. In 1977 he became the executive assistant to the Bishop of Toronto, Lewis Garnsworthy, and took on the additional role of director of Communications. He was made a canon of St. James Cathedral in 1978 and was appointed Archdeacon of York in 1987. He was elected suffragan bishop in 1988 and served as the area bishop of Trent-Durham until his retirement in 2003. In retirement he served as interim priest-in-charge of several parishes and was an honorary assistant of St. Thomas, Brook-

lin. His funeral was held at St. Thomas's on June 2.

"He was funny, thoughtful, innovative and conservative," recalls Archbishop Johnson, who succeeded Bishop Blackwell as area bishop of Trent-Durham before being elected diocesan bishop. "He was an amazing administrator but at the same time a very fine pastor."

As the executive assistant to the Bishop of Toronto and then a bishop, Bishop Blackwell helped steer the diocese through a time of immense changes in the Church. Issues of the day included the introduction of communion for children, the introduction of new baptismal rites, the publication of the *Book of Alternative Services*, the development of the Cursillo movement, the ordination of women, the expansion of lay ministry and the creation of the College of Bishops and the episcopal area system.

"Douglas had a hand in all of that and more," recalls Archbishop Johnson. "The Church he entered was not the Church he left."

Among his major contributions was the programming that took place at the Aurora Conference Centre, an overnight retreat centre that was owned and operated by the diocese. Working with the Rev. Canon Graham Tucker, he helped to provide innovative programs and training in congregational revitalization, a subject that he was passionate about.

Along with Canon Tucker and Georgi Doyle, Bishop Blackwell wrote the report that led to the creation of the diocese's College of Bishops and the episcopal area system in the 1980s. As executive assistant to Bishop Garnsworthy, Bishop Blackwell became the secretary of the College and was instrumental to its ongoing progress and carrying out its decisions.

"Lewis really depended on Douglas," recalls Archbishop Johnson. "Lewis was an ideas person and Douglas put it into practice. He was the implementer."



Bishop Douglas Blackwell and his wife Sandra at the Bishop's Company Dinner in Toronto in 2005. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

As executive assistant, Bishop Blackwell chaired the committee that produced the Bishop's Papers, a series of educational publications that contained leading-edge ideas. Published in the diocese, the papers were read across Canada and the United States. A paper on volunteer management, written by Suzanne Lawson, ODT, was seminal in the development of lay ministry in the diocese.

Bishop Blackwell played an integral role in the establishment of the diocese's Logos program, a Christian education course for adults that was initially led by the Very Rev. Peter Elliott and Dr. Walter Deller.

Archdeacon Paul Feheley, who served as a parish priest and regional dean in Trent-Durham when Bishop Blackwell was the area bishop, recalls a strong and compassionate leader. "Douglas allowed people to grow and function within their own ministry," he says. "If you were a cleric, he would appoint you, you'd be in place, he'd check with you, and then he'd let you be. You knew he was there to support you, but he wasn't an overseer who had to micro-manage everything. The freedom to be able to do your ministry, knowing you had the bishop's support, was huge."

Archdeacon Feheley, who went on to become the principal secretary to the Primate and is now the priest-in-charge of St. Michael and All Angels in Toronto, says Bishop Blackwell believed in the episcopal area system and worked hard to make

sure that Trent-Durham functioned to the best of its ability. Regional deans' meetings with Bishop Blackwell were held all over the area, creating a sense of balance and fairness in the area, he adds.

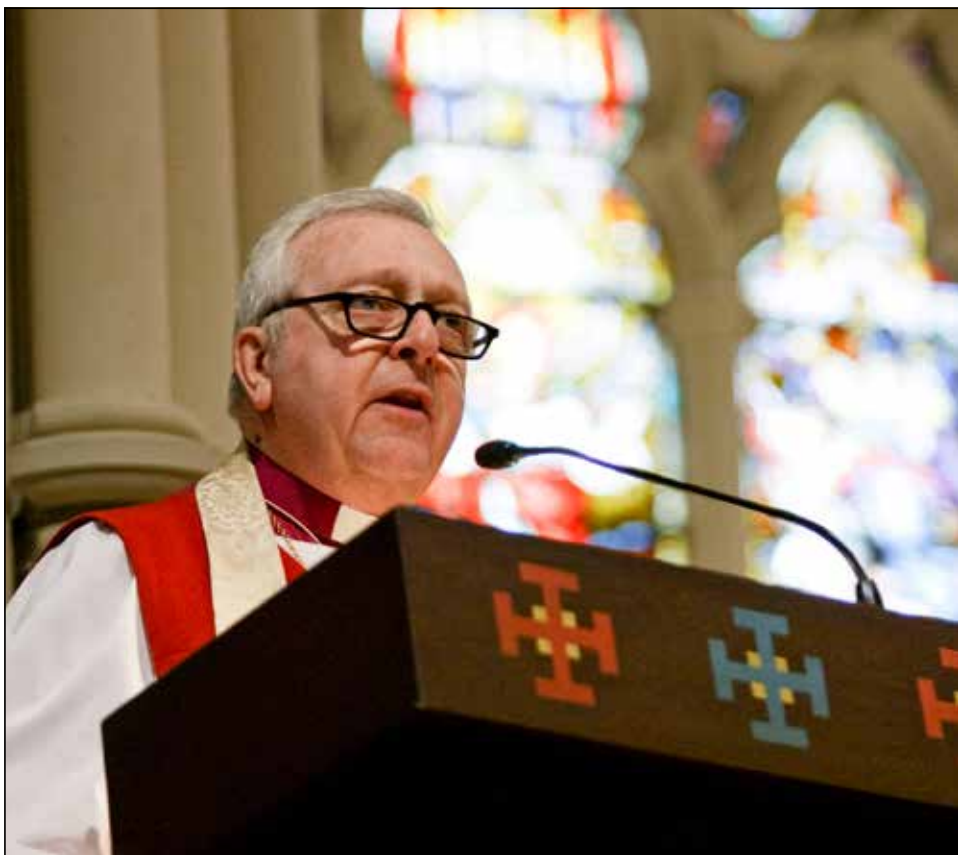
"He had a wonderful sense of meeting people where they were, which of course was also part of Jesus' ministry," he says. "He would often use meals as opportunities for conversation, learning and teaching."

After his retirement as the area bishop of Trent-Durham, Bishop Blackwell served as an interim priest in several parishes. It was a ministry that he enjoyed and excelled at.

"He went into parishes essentially as a parish priest, often in places that were difficult and challenging, and he not only kept them going but renewed them," says Archbishop Johnson. "He preached well, he administered faithfully and he was very pastoral."

In addition to his preaching, Bishop Blackwell was a popular after-dinner speaker, often keeping his audiences in stitches with his dry sense of humour. Archbishop Johnson recalls listening to him at a dinner in 1990. "I was bowled over. It was funny and thought provoking."

Bishop Blackwell was assisted throughout his ministry by his wife Sandra, who worked for a time at the Diocesan Centre and then became his secretary when he became a bishop. He is survived by Sandra and their three children, Deborah, Kate and Mark, and grandchildren.



Bishop Blackwell preaches at the consecration of Bishop Patrick Yu at St. James Cathedral in 2006. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON



# We are challenged to listen, act

BY THE REV. SUSAN SPICER

Running Sept. 1 to Oct. 4, the Season of Creation is a global ecumenical movement that invites Christians “to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment... to prayer and action for our common home.” An ecumenical steering committee provides resources to support the movement in churches around the world. The theme chosen for 2022 is “Listen to the Voice of Creation,” and the symbol is the burning bush encountered by Moses in the wilderness. As the resources for Season of Creation 2022 state, “The prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.”

Creation’s voice is urgent and distressed, because the sound we are hearing is the fires burning across the world. As I write this, the people of Lytton village and Lytton First Nation are once again under threat of evacuation as fire encroaches on their communities. In Europe, the vulnerable are dying in their homes and alpine ice fields are melting under an unprecedented heat wave. People across our diocese continue to clean up shattered trees in the wake of May’s derecho, one of the most destructive storms in Canadian history.

There is another aspect of fire in the story of Moses’ encounter – the fire that burns but does not consume, the fire of God, who hears the cries of the distressed and acts. “I know their sufferings,” God says, “and I have come down to deliver them.” What Moses struggled to understand and accept was that God was sending him to be the prophet; it was through his speech and his action that God would bring justice to the distressed. Moses resisted because he was afraid, because the task was overwhelming. But God convinced him with a promise: “I will be with you.”

We as the Church need to hear that voice, too – the voice that says, “I am sending you and I will be with you.”

There are global resources available



A common yellowthroat sings. PHOTO BY PATRICE BOUCHARD/UNSPLASH

at [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org) to help you plan your worship, learning and prophetic action in this Season of Creation. Individuals and communities are invited to think in terms of prayer, sustainability projects and advocacy. For example: host an ecumenical prayer gathering that unites us as Christians to care for our common home; lead a cleanup project that helps creation thrive; raise your voice for climate justice by participating in an ongoing campaign, such as the fossil fuels divestment movement.

The Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care has also prepared resources for use in our diocese, including a guide to outdoor worship, hymn suggestions and notes on the lectionary readings for each Sunday. The Lent curriculum “Ecological Grief and Creational Hope” can also be adapted for use during the Season of Creation. You can find all these resources at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/creationcare](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/creationcare).

In this Season of Creation, the burning bush calls us to listen to the voice of creation in its groaning. May our ears be open and our hearts moved to take action, knowing that God goes with us to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

*The Rev. Susan Spicer is the incumbent of St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) and one of the volunteer co-chairs of the Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care.*

## Hear the voice of creation

BY SYLVIA KEESMAAT

At first it was song of the yellowthroat, rising out of the marsh. Then the notes of the swamp sparrow rose on the evening air, followed by the sound of the marsh wren. Juncos, veerys and willow flycatchers added their voices to the wonderful chorus singing its praise to Creator as the sun sank closer to the horizon. Bugs darted over the water and frogs jumped as my feet came near. All this busy, vibrant life hummed with praise. It seemed like all of creation was raising a song of praise to the Creator who had given them life.

Unless, of course, one listened a little more closely to some of the songs. The marsh wren, for instance, was not singing a song so much as calling out a warning, crying out in alarm. I had stopped too close to her nest and she was afraid of the damage that I might do, crying out because of my presence. The voice of creation is sometimes a voice of alarm.

Sometimes that alarm has been silenced. The far end of the marsh is owned by an aggregate company. There, the water no longer teems with life: it lies dank and still. The nearby plants droop with dust, unable to breathe. Insect life is

quiet, and birdsong is absent. How do we listen to the voice of creation when it has been silenced?

Scripture describes this silence as creation mourning, lamenting the loss of song and life (see Hosea 4.1-3). So how do we listen to this mourning, how do we listen to the silence? And what does it tell us when we listen? What do we do when the one we love is too broken to give praise, too traumatized to sing?

Perhaps we do for creation exactly what we would do for a child whose cries we have heard, or who is too traumatized to speak. Perhaps hold creation tenderly, provide it with loving attention, carefully seek out and nurture its gifts, use all of our cunning and imagination to coax it back to health. And perhaps we cry as well, in mourning for all the innocence and beauty that has been lost.

Weeping, tender holding, loving attention, caring nurture, careful coaxing back to health – all of this, so that once again when we listen to creation, we will be truly hearing a chorus of praise.

*Sylvia Keesmaat is one of the volunteer co-chairs of the Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care and the founder of the learning community Bible Remixed, [www.bibleremixed.ca](http://www.bibleremixed.ca).*

## Church hosts events on climate crisis

**WHAT** if we dared to imagine that, individually and collectively, we could tackle the climate crisis? And what if we truly believed that our efforts would make a difference? Could we imagine our descendants being grateful that we took the climate science seriously; resolutely participated in activities to raise awareness among our fellow citizens; pressed our local, provincial and federal government representatives to make the difficult decisions to mitigate climate change impact;

and sacrificed our individual and corporate way of life to ensure a future for their descendants?

Designed to inspire, challenge and fuel our imaginations is EarthSong, which will be held on Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. This will be an in-person and live-streamed service of readings, music, prayer and an address by Elizabeth May, MP Saanich-Gulf Islands on the territory of the WSÁNEĆ Nation and the current parliamentary leader of the Green Party of Canada. Ms.

May, an Anglican, environmental activist, author and politician, will address the question, “What if the churches truly took the climate crisis seriously?”

As a follow-up to Ms. May’s address, Bishop Andrew Asbil will chair a panel discussion, also in-person and live-streamed, on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. The panel will respond to a more pointed question: What if the churches in the Diocese of Toronto took the climate crisis seriously? Panelists will include the Rt.

Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, the 26th Governor General of Canada and an active Anglican; Paige Souter, a member of the Bishop’s Committee on Creation Care; and the Rev. Alison Hari-Singh, adjunct lecturer in the faculty of divinity of Trinity College.

We heartily welcome Anglicans from across the diocese to participate in EarthSong as well as the panel discussion. A reception will follow each event to continue the conversation. To give us an indica-

tion of numbers, please register to attend, in person or on Zoom, at [www.theredeemer.ca](http://www.theredeemer.ca).

Church of the Redeemer is located at the corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road in Toronto, across from the Royal Ontario Museum. Subway stations are nearby and parking is available on Cumberland Street or on Bedford Road in the Green Plot.

*Submitted by Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St.*

Visit our website at [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)





PROUD ANGLICANS

Anglicans walk and ride in Toronto's Pride Parade on June 26 after a two-year, pandemic-induced hiatus. Tens of thousands of people lined the parade route along Bloor and Yonge streets. About 100 Anglicans from across the diocese took part in the parade. Bishop Julio Martin of the Diocese of South-East Mexico joined them and also walked with trans Anglicans in the Trans March on June 24. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Walkers cool off with water in front of St. Paul, Bloor Street as they wait to join the parade.



An electric bus is a float in the parade, transporting Anglicans who have limited mobility.



A St. Margaret, Barrie parishioner shows her colours.



A banner says it all.



Ryan Ramsden, ODT, of Grace Church, Scarborough enjoys the moment.



Members of St. Peter, Oshawa proudly display their banner.



The Rev. Jeff Nowers of St. Aidan, Toronto with friends and family.



# I was a stranger and you welcomed me

## Refugees, volunteers grow food together on farm

BY STUART MANN

In March 2020, when businesses were shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jamie Richards went into his greenhouse to pray.

Mr. Richards, who runs a market garden near Orangeville, didn't know whether to close his farm or stay open. There was a lot of uncertainty at the time and he didn't want to risk any of his employees becoming infected with the virus.

"I went out to pray in my greenhouse, which seems like an odd spot to go but that's what farmers do," he recalls. "I asked God, what should I do? And the message came through: your job is to grow food."

He kept his farm open, not only selling food to drive-by customers and local restaurants but giving away tons to a local foodbank and a school breakfast program.

This past spring and summer, Mr. Richards, a member of St. John, East Orangeville and a retired high school teacher, took God's call to grow food one step further. He and a group of volunteers helped newly arrived refugees to Orangeville grow their own food on his property.

The innovative program, called Trust Yourself to Garden, was held on Mr. Richards' Am Braigh Farm from late May to the middle of August. Over seven evenings, the refugees planted, weeded, harvested and learned how to pickle and preserve their food. The program finished with a celebratory meal at the farm.

Mr. Richards says the experience affirmed God's call to him. "Every morning when I wake up and watch the sun come up, it is like watching a re-creation, so I've always felt that's where my ministry would be," he says. "If I'm going to help people, that's where it is. And it feels like this is where God is calling me to be. To grow food."

Trust Yourself to Garden grew out of a conversation that Mr. Richards had



Participants work their individual plots on Am Braigh Farm. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

with two parishioners during St. John's Christmas food drive last December. They mentioned how wonderful it would be if the parish could provide food to one family that used the foodbank, similar to programs that exist to provide food to children. "I thought this idea would work really well, bringing people together to mutually address food issues with our

garden classes," he says. "It would be a way to balance the relationship between those who are helped with those who are helping."

With the support of St. John's priest-in-charge, Archdeacon Elizabeth Hardy, he and two other church members formed a small committee to move the project forward. They contacted other churches and agencies in the community that worked with refugees, to see if they would be interested in participating.

The response was encouraging. Several groups, including St. Mark's Anglican Church, Westminster United Church and Compass Community Church, all in Orangeville, said they would like to help. "We found that there are tons of organizations, particularly churches, who are bringing in refugees," says Mr. Richards. Since the Syrian civil war in 2015, about 50 new refugee families have arrived in Orangeville.

With the help of volunteers from the various organizations, six refugee families took part in the program – three from Eritrea, two from Afghanistan and one from Syria. They were given small allotments of land and communal plots in which to grow vegetables, including eggplant, onions, tomatoes and kale. Mr. Richards provided instruction when necessary, but the emphasis was on learning through doing.

"The obstacles they face here in

Canada are unbelievable, but they were so enthusiastic about it," he says.

The volunteers served as coaches to the refugee families, driving them to the farm, providing tools and helping with other tasks. Audi Geadah-Ogley, a parishioner of St. John's who speaks Arabic and French, provided translation. She came to Canada in the 1980s to escape the civil war in Lebanon. Her dedication to the program was one of the keys to its success, says Archdeacon Hardy. "She is a selfless and tireless worker in every aspect of the church's ministry."

Although the goal of the program was to grow food, it had a spiritual dimension as well, says Mr. Richards. "It taught us about the bounty of creation. We also got to experience community – people from very diverse backgrounds coming together. And there was personal transformation as well. When you learn a new skill, you feel a bit better about yourself."

Archdeacon Hardy, who retired at the end of July, says Trust Yourself to Garden was the best initiative she had been part of in 36 years of ordained ministry. "We truly welcomed people," she recalls. "The refugees, the volunteers, the different churches and organizations – it didn't matter who you were or where you came from, you were invited to take part. It was an amazing experience. We truly lived out Jesus commandment, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.'"



Jamie Richards in the garden.



Audi Geadah-Ogley (in blue standing on right) gives Arabic and French translation for members of the group.



# Pair evaluates governance changes

## Pilot project underway

BY STUART MANN

**TWO** laypeople who have served the Anglican Church with distinction are evaluating the diocese's new governance pilot project.

Joy Packham, ODT, a member of the regional ministry of St. Margaret, Barrie, Trinity, Barrie and Good Shepherd, Stayner, and Robert Hart, ODT, a member of St. James Cathedral, are surveying groups and individuals and will report on their findings in September. They were appointed by Synod Council in June.

The governance pilot project was implemented in January 2022 with the first meeting of the newly constituted Synod Council, an amalgamation of the former Diocesan Council and the former Executive Board. The group provides strategic direction for the diocese between Synods.

Synod Council is chaired by the diocesan bishop and currently has 25 members, both clergy and lay, from across the diocese. It has five committees: the Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the Property Committee, the Human Resources Committee and the Risk and Governance Committee. The committees are responsible for making decisions and recommendations within their remit.

The goal of the new governance structure is to facilitate and streamline decision-making, allowing more time for thorough discussions, says Canon Rob Saffrey, the diocese's executive director. "The main question we get from parishes and others is: how do we move this forward? The governance pilot will make getting approval for a new building, for example, more streamlined, and it will make this question easier to answer."

Ms. Packham and Mr. Hart have extensive volunteer experience in the diocese. Ms. Packham, a retired municipal IT manager with a professional designation in project management, has served the diocese in the areas of congregational development, finance and stewardship. Mr. Hart, a retired high school principal, has held a number of leadership positions at the cathedral and is a member of the diocese's Volunteer Corps.

For the evaluation, Ms. Packham and Mr. Hart are interviewing a cross-section of people, from those who are involved in or affected by the diocese's governance structure on a regular basis to those who may have only a passing experience of it.

"For us, we see the evaluation process as having two groups – what we're calling the inside group and the outside group," explains Mr. Hart. "In the inside group are Synod members, Synod Council or committee members or anybody who works at the Synod Office whose life is being impacted by the new model. The outside group is made up of people who are coming to Synod Council for business, to see from them how they find the process. We're especially interested in talking to people who previously had to work with the old model – if they see the new model as more efficient, easier to navigate, more user friendly and equitable."

By early July, they had surveyed Synod Council members and committee chairs, and planned to send a slightly different version of the survey to people who have represented groups that have made presentations to the committees or Synod Council itself.

They are both keen to make the evaluation process as transparent as possible and have an email address where they can



Joy Packham



Robert Hart

be reached: [governancereview@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:governancereview@toronto.anglican.ca). "If anybody has a question or comment or concern about the new governance structure, they can communicate that to us," says Mr. Hart.

The pair will report their findings to the Risk and Governance Committee and Synod Council in September. The findings will help those groups assess if the governance changes have been successful and if follow-up action is required.

"We're basically trying to find out if the new structure is efficient – is it working," says Ms. Packham.

They emphasize that their job is not to pass judgement on the changes or make recommendations; rather, it is to collect feedback and data.

Synod Council has been meeting monthly since January. At its February meeting, it approved a policy that defines the decision-making authority of Synod Council and the authority that it delegates to its committees. The policy gives a committee the ability to approve certain items, recommend them for approval or report up to council.

"All of the committees are up and running and have held several meetings," says Canon

Saffrey. "They have reviewed their terms of reference documents and developed annual work plans. Committee chairs are reporting regularly to Synod Council."

The constitutional and canonical changes required to carry out the pilot project were first considered at Synod in 2019; following that, some amendments were made, discussed at diocesan "town hall" meetings and then approved at Synod in 2021. The constitutional and canonical changes included an amendment stipulating that elections to Synod Council take place at Synod, rather than at area Pre-Synod meetings, to ensure a robust voting process. Another amendment stipulated that the nominating committee for Synod elections consider the geographical, gender, age, theological, racial and ethnic diversity of the diocese to ensure a diverse slate of candidates and that Synod Council is representative of the diocese.

The pilot project will last until late 2023, when Synod will vote on whether the changes should be made permanent or the diocese should revert to the old structure. An update on the project will be sent to the next regular session of Synod, which will be held online Nov. 17-19, 2022.

# Committee makes progress on environmental motions

**IN** 2019, Synod approved two motions relating to creation care: Motion #10 encouraged parishes and individual Anglicans to curtail their use of single-use plastic products, while Motion #15 urged the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop a diocesan environmental plan that would address such matters as diocesan spending practices, travel policies, land use and development, helping parishes reduce their carbon footprint, helping clergy buy or lease zero-emission vehicles, developing modules for formation on the connection between creation care and the gospel, and

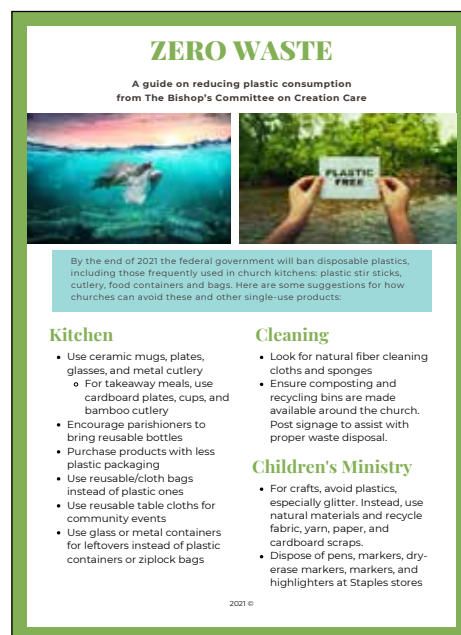
promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian rule of life.

While the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care reports to Bishop Andrew Asbil rather than to Synod, it has made the following progress on these motions in 2021-22:

Concerning Motion #10 and single-use plastics, the committee has produced a colour poster suggesting alternatives to single-use plastics commonly used in parishes, especially in the kitchen, children's ministry, and cleaning and waste management. This poster can be found on the Practical Greening page of the diocesan website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca/creationcare](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/creationcare).

Regarding Motion #15, the committee has focused primarily on promoting community gardens using the community garden toolkit it created in 2021; creating educational and liturgical resources to help make the connection between creation care and the gospel; and working with other dioceses on finding ways for parishes to reduce their environmental footprint. It has promoted this work in posts on a dedicated Facebook page and in monthly articles in The Anglican newspaper.

The committee is encouraged by the many parishes around the diocese that have embarked on new or expanded community garden projects in the past year. Several of these projects have focused on adding native plants to attract and sustain pollinator species of insects and birds. Garden projects have been especially popular during the pan-



Poster provides practical greening steps for parishes.

demic as a lower-risk way for parishioners to work together. They also provide a visible witness to the local community of a parish's commitment to caring for creation – and often a way for neighbours to participate in that endeavour.

A major piece of work in the past year was creating the resource "Ecological Grief and

Creational Hope: A Lent Curriculum for all Ages." Each unit of this six-week curriculum offers deep reflection on a scriptural text, questions for reflection, prayers, suggested activities, and resources for digging deeper. It also identifies adaptations for using the resource with children and youth. Several parishes in the diocese offered the curriculum during Lent, and it has been picked up by dioceses across Canada and the United States. It's also being adapted for use during other seasons of the Church year, including the Season of Creation.

Work continues on updating the Green Congregation Guide, with input from the Diocese of Niagara and the interfaith organization Faith & the Common Good. The committee is also exploring how our diocese might become involved in a Net Zero Churches network proposed by members of the national church's Creation Matters Working Group. The goal of the network is to connect dioceses across the Anglican Church of Canada, provide recommended solutions for parishes looking to reduce their carbon footprint, and help connect parishes with the expertise and financial incentives to implement those solutions. The committee is talking with Bishop Andrew Asbil and the diocese's Property Committee to see how the Diocese of Toronto might participate in this initiative and how it might fit in with the diocese's strategic planning and vision.

Staff

## Get ready for Synod

**SYNOD** will be held online on Nov. 17-19, 2022. In our Synod Preview (pages 10-12), you'll find what has been happening since our last Synod, including work on the governance pilot project, a new model of episcopal leadership, an affordable housing initiative, and environmental efforts. For more information on Synod, including the Synod Newsletter, visit the Synod page on the diocese's website at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/upcomingsynod](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/upcomingsynod).



# New episcopal leadership model in works

## Bishops to be supported by archdeacons

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

**THE** Diocese of Toronto is on the cusp of ushering in a new model of episcopal leadership, thanks in no small part to the efforts of a group of Anglicans.

Since February, the Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team (ELIT) has been hard at work on a plan to roll out new leadership structures in the diocese. Comprising a mix of lay people and clergy, and with the support of diocesan staff, the team is chaired by Susan Abell, ODT and the Rev. Canon Stephen Kirkegaard. "It's almost like a stool – we want to get these positions mobilized and implemented, and there's lay input, clergy and staff to make it happen. We need them all," says Ms. Abell.

The team's work builds on the efforts of the Episcopal Leadership Working Group, which reported on new options for leadership following Bishop Peter Fenty's retirement. The group submitted its report in April 2021, and members of the diocese participated in several town hall meetings to share their thoughts.

After considering the recommendations and feedback, Bishop Andrew Asbil announced at Synod last fall that the diocese will move forward with three bishops supported by archdeacons, a new senior leadership position. He also tasked ELIT with developing the job description and making recommendations on how to fill these roles. "I think the name is our task – implementation. What we were really trying to figure it out is how we make this actually work," says Canon Kirkegaard.

The team has been meeting every two weeks since February to do just that. It anticipates that there will be five archdeacons,



Susan Abell

each with oversight of particular deaneries. Two archdeacons will work with each suffragan bishop, and one will work with Bishop Asbil on the deaneries he oversees.

The work will be part-time, and the role will be open to both clergy and lay people. "I think Bishop Andrew's vision is to build greater breadth and depth of leadership in the diocese. Some of the archdeacons might be recently retired people with administrative or managerial gifts," says Canon Kirkegaard. "Some of them might be clergy in the middle zone of their ministry, and this would be a great way for them to continue to develop gifts and help shape the diocese, not just in the present but prepared for the future."

While the team is aware that Anglicans might see the archdeacons as simply another layer in a hierarchy, Ms. Abell is clear that this extra support is needed to help bishops, parishes and clergy work together. "The goal is to enhance the leadership that's available. It's about expanding the capacity to lead, and to lead effectively. There's no two



The Rev. Canon Stephen Kirkegaard

ways about it – three bishops instead of five is a contraction," she says. "It's so regional deans, parishes and clergy can have more available to them, to help with the gap that was there to start with."

Canon Kirkegaard echoes those thoughts. "They're really there to help the bishops with their work, and of course as they help the bishops, they help all of us," he says. "It's not that the bishops are going to be less involved; this way, they're going to be more effectively involved."

The job description developed by ELIT outlines the archdeacons' responsibilities under the bishops' direction. Much of the work will be administrative tasks, including overseeing the work of area councils, holding deanery events and coordinating the work of regional deans and clergy. There may also be opportunities for archdeacons to represent the bishops at events like celebrations of new ministry in parishes. "If a parish is applying for grants, for example, the archdeacon would help them shape it up,

and the bishop would see it when it's ready to be signed. They're there to help clergy who are looking to retirement, or a parish looking at a ministry plan," says Ms. Abell.

Beyond helping with day-to-day tasks, the leadership offered by the archdeacons may also create opportunities for the bishops to expand their ministry in new ways. "They might have different projects or goals come into place, or interests and passions," says Canon Kirkegaard. "A bishop might be taking a portfolio of ministries, and those portfolios might change. The archdeacons provide that territorial groundedness."

The job description received final approval in late June, and everyone is now looking to the next steps of the process. ELIT has helped to craft a recruitment plan outlining how to find the right people to fill these roles. "We've been making lists of who needs to know about this or would be interested," says Ms. Abell. "It's developing the criteria for people who might be interested, how they're going to show that and what's expected of them."

The diocese started inviting applications at the end of June, with a closing date of Sept. 8. "The idea is to get the word out throughout the summer so that we can start interviewing in the fall and the archdeacons are actually at work for the start of the new year," says Canon Kirkegaard.

At that point, the process will be in the hands of the Bishop's Office and the human resources department. For her part, Ms. Abell says she hopes this new model of leadership will continue to be a learning process for the diocese as it unfolds. "It's important to use the time to look at it every so often and review it," she says. "We can have intentional response, listen to how it's going, what the real needs are."

As the work of ELIT begins to wrap up, its co-chairs say they're thankful for the gifts of their team members and the dedication of diocesan staff. "I'm impressed with the wealth of intelligence and resources we have," says Canon Kirkegaard. "It's good work and important work, and it's definitely been a team effort."

# Synod will be asked to approve deficit budget

## Leaders remain optimistic despite bumpy road ahead

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

**AS** the diocese looks to a post-pandemic future, some difficult conversations about its financial outlook are already underway. In November, Synod will be asked to approve a budget for 2023 with a deficit of \$593,100.

The budget has already gone through several revisions to reach this point. "The first process involves each of the directors and other people responsible for budget items making initial submissions to the budget working team, which is essentially the Finance Committee of the diocese," says Canon Rob Saffrey, the diocese's executive director. The Finance Committee, which reports to Synod Council, includes six lay and clerical volunteers, supported by diocesan staff.

After a first draft of the budget resulted in a deficit of \$1.2 million, the committee asked the directors to look at their submissions again, reduce expenses if they could and consider not spending on any new projects in 2023. That second look, along with a \$200,000 reduction from re-modelling episcopal leadership in the diocese, significantly lowered the deficit. "People did a fair and honest attempt to reduce expenses," says

Canon Saffrey. "The large part of the deficit is due to decreasing revenues, not so much increasing expenses."

The remaining deficit of \$593,100 will be funded by a \$400,000 grant from Our Faith-Our Hope to support curacies in the diocese, with the remainder covered by a draw down of capital. "Basically, we have surplus funds from prior years, and we're going to use some of those funds now," explains Canon Saffrey.

Part of the challenge in crafting the budget was not knowing what ministry will look like emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. "A number of areas quite reasonably had difficulty in estimating what their normal activity should be and would be in 2023," says George Lewis, ODT, chair of the Finance Committee. "This is reflective of as much of a normal year as we can guess, coming out of COVID."

Patricia D'Souza, the diocese's controller, produced a detailed analysis of long-term historical givings to predict what level of income the diocese can expect in 2023 and going forward. Meanwhile, with Church life starting to return to normal, many areas of ministry that were on hold during the pandemic are starting up and spending

money again.

Despite a hard look at both revenues and expenses, the Finance Committee members felt obliged to recommend the deficit budget. "That is not a result that we are satisfied with from a longer-term point of view, but we felt it was responsible to highlight that this is our structural deficit given our existing mission, operations and revenue sources," says Mr. Lewis.

That structural deficit of about \$500,000 is something diocesan leadership knows it will need to address in the coming months. "If we do nothing, we're going to continue to have deficits in that range," says Canon Saffrey. "Long-term deficits aren't sustainable in any organization, so what is the diocese doing to address the budget shortfall going forward?"

With no plans or desire to ask for more financial support from parishes, diocesan leaders will be looking at new sources of revenue and consulting broadly with Anglicans about how to potentially cut expenses. "There's no low-lying fruit anymore in terms of reducing items in the budget. I think that every dollar spent is well spent. If we're going to reduce expenses, it needs to be part of a broad conversation with input from lots of

people so that whatever we end up doing, people understand why and it's supported," says Canon Saffrey.

Mr. Lewis echoes those thoughts. "There's no easy fix to the current situation. We have many strengths, missional and otherwise, but also opportunities to operate on a more sustainable basis," he says.

Still, both Canon Saffrey and Mr. Lewis see cause for hope in the diocese's immediate future despite the difficult decisions yet to be made. "We know that change is absolutely going to happen and has to happen. What I'm optimistic about is that with a strategic focus, there is life and there's hope," says Canon Saffrey. "We are going to have to change and to end some of the things that we've been doing. I do believe there's a good long-term future for the Church, but it's going to be a bit of a bumpy road in the interim to get there."

The diocese also continues to have a strong financial bedrock in terms of property and the investments that help fund its operations. "There's a tremendous legacy that we have and great stewardship that has been done of our investments to date by the Investment

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# Committee eyes housing template

## Guidelines aim to help churches avoid pitfalls, provide places to live

BY STUART MANN

**THE** diocese's Property Committee is exploring ways to help parishes that want to redevelop their property to include both market-level and affordable housing.

"Homelessness is one of the big challenges in Ontario, and the Property Committee and the diocese want to do what we can to combat that and to provide opportunities for people to live in homes," says Peter Patterson, ODT, the committee's co-chair along with Stu Hutcheson, ODT.

Mr. Hutcheson says it can be difficult for parishes to redevelop their property to include housing. The process requires a lot of time and expertise, especially in legal and property matters. For parishes that sell their property to a developer, the challenges can be even greater. If a developer pulls out of the project or hands it off to another, the parish can have little or no say in the outcome. Buildings are sometimes poorly constructed and managed, and the parish can be treated as just another tenant.

In response to those challenges, the Property Committee is looking at creating a template that parishes could follow so that the redevelopment process is easier, safer and more efficient.

One of the guidelines under consideration is that parishes retain ownership of the property, giving them more control over the project. Another is that work requiring expertise in legal and property matters is

done at the diocesan level, not by individual parishes, to avoid duplication of both effort and cost. The committee is also exploring the possibility of working with a non-profit developer that works with faith-based groups on housing projects.

The committee is hoping that the guidelines will result in buildings that are environmentally friendly, well constructed, professionally managed and maintained after completion, provide ample worship and community space and provide a funding stream that supports ministry. The committee would like to see at least 30 per cent of new units devoted to affordable housing, so that a community is created that comprises a mix of residents.

Mr. Patterson says that coming up with a template that can be repeated will save the parishes and the diocese time and effort. "You can spend a lot of time going through all the municipality's rules and regulations trying to get approval for your project. But if you use a template approach that is repeatable, then eventually you'll know the people on the other side of the table and they'll be familiar with your process. That will speed things up for approval."

An effective proposal can even result in grants from the municipality or other levels of government, helping to bring down the costs of the project, he adds.

He says each redevelopment process is different, so the templates would vary according to the need.



A sample sign used in the City of Toronto to announce new development on a property.

The committee is already trying out its ideas with two parishes. "We want to see if the template idea and everything that goes with it can be mapped out and put into action, but that's going to take a little while," says Mr. Patterson. The group will report on its progress to Synod Council.

Mr. Hutcheson says that even with an effective template, the redevelopment process can take time. "The process isn't typically fast, as it involves needs assessments, city zoning, site plan approvals, financing arrangements as well as construction. Five years is not an unreasonable timeline from start to occupancy."

Mr. Patterson says the time is right to come up with a template for property redevelopment. "I think we're in a bit of a new world with our churches after the pandemic, and there are going to be more opportunities for parishes to reconsider their properties and exactly how they would be best set up. There are going to be opportunities for centres of excellence, amalgamations and mergers, and a lot of these are going to end up with property opportunities. It feels like a good time for this to be underway and the diocese to be looking at it seriously."

While building affordable housing is im-

portant, it's not the only thing that parishes can do to address issues of poverty and homelessness, he says. He praises churches, individuals and the diocese for getting involved in outreach ministries such as Out of the Cold and food banks and advocating for a higher minimum wage and other ways to help lift people out of poverty.

The diocese presented a workshop to parishes in June 2021 that provided a theological perspective on land and an overall governance framework for development projects. Over the course of the summer 2021, a series of four webinars were offered that covered a variety of topics that included looking at other faith-based housing projects, planning for inclusion and diversity, ecologically sustainable development, financial sustainability, and looking at development through the eyes of a non-profit developer. A wrap-up and reflection on these was held in September.

Parishes indicated that they were looking for greater clarity and guidance around the redevelopment process and more support from the diocese as they consider whether redevelopment is the next step in their faith journey. The Property Committee's work in this area is a response to that.

# Members should continue in roles: survey

**A** survey of Synod members shows strong support for keeping the diocese's General Synod members and Synod Council members in their roles for the remainder of this year and into 2023.

The first question in the survey asked Synod members if they agreed that the General Synod members elected at the diocese's Synod in November 2021 should serve as members representing the diocese at the next session of General Synod when that gathering is scheduled.

General Synod was supposed to be held this summer but was postponed to at least 2023 due to the pandemic. The diocese's Constitution states that at a regular session of Synod immediately preceding a meeting of General Synod, Synod must elect its General Synod members.

Of the 346 Synod members who replied to the question, 315 answered "yes" and 31 answered "no".

The second question in the survey asked Synod members if they agreed that Synod Council members elected at the Synod in November 2021 should remain in office until the end of the regular session of Synod in 2023, which coincides with the end of the diocese's governance pilot project.

The regular term of office for a Synod Council member is to serve until the end of the next session of Synod. This is usually

for two years; however, since the diocese is holding a meeting of Synod three years in a row, it was recommended that the current members continue in office until the end of the governance pilot project, to provide continuity. The pilot project is expected to conclude with the 2023 Synod.

Of the 346 Synod members who responded to the question, 332 answered "yes" and 14 answered "no".

Since the Synod members who responded to the questions indicated their overwhelming agreement that those elected in 2021 to General Synod and Synod Council should continue to hold these positions, the planning for Synod on Nov. 17-18, 2022 will take this direction.

The survey was emailed to 597 voting members of Synod on May 27. As of June 24, 346 responses were received, translating into a response rate of 58 per cent. A reasonable response rate is anything above 50 per cent.

Here are the diocese's General Synod members:

### Bishops

- Bishop Andrew Asbil (Bishop of Toronto)
- Bishop Riscylla Shaw (Bishop Suffragan)
- Bishop Kevin Robertson (Bishop Suffragan)

### Youth Member

- Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St.)

### Clerical Members

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (St. James Cathedral)
- The Rev. Molly Finlay (St. John the Baptist, Norway)
- The Rev. Roshni Jayawardena (Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit)
- The Rev. Mark Regis (St. Mary and St. Martha)
- The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner (Grace Church, Markham)
- The Rev. Claudette Taylor (Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale)
- The Very Rev. Stephen Vail (St. James Cathedral)

### Lay Members

- Chris Ambidge, ODT (Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St)
- Yvonne Murray, ODT (St. John the Divine, Scarborough)
- Gail Smith (St. Andrew, Scarborough)
- Marion Thompson, ODT (St. Mark, Port Hope)
- David Toyce, ODT (Trinity, Streetsville)
- Laura Walton, ODT (Holy Trinity, Clearview)

- Mary Walsh, ODT (St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges)

The membership of Synod Council is as follows:

### Office Holders

- Bishop Andrew Asbil (Chair)
- Bishop Riscylla Shaw
- Bishop Kevin Robertson
- Canon Clare Burns (Chancellor)
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald (Honorary Clerical Secretary)
- Sheila Robson (Honorary Lay Secretary)
- Canon Robert Saffrey (Executive Director), non-voting

### Committee Chairs

- Chancellor Clare Burns (Risk and Governance Committee)
- Delores Lawrence, ODT (Human Resources Committee)
- George Lewis, ODT (Finance Committee)
- Stuart Hutcheson, ODT, and Peter Patterson, ODT, (Property Committee)

### Bishop's Appointments

- The Rev. Kenute Francis

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# Marion Singers to headline cabaret

Lineup includes returning, new acts

**VIEWERS** of the Bishop's Company Cabaret are in for a special treat. In addition to a stellar lineup of guest artists, the show will feature the Marion Singers, a group that has delighted audiences with its a cappella choral singing for the past three decades.

The cabaret will be held online on Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. Registration for the evening opens on the Bishop's Company website, [www.bishopscabaret.com](http://www.bishopscabaret.com), on Sept. 6. The show raises funds to support clergy and their families in need and other causes identified by Bishop Andrew Asbil, the diocesan bishop.

This year's lineup will be a mix of returning acts and new ones. Back by popular demand will be the Nathan Hiltz Quintet, musician Rachel Colman and pianist Valentin Bogolubov. New will be The Redeemers, a quartet from Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. who perform doo-wop close harmony singing, St. John the Baptist, Norway's choir, the youth band from St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering, and trumpet and trombone player Jan Morgan.

Although many people are familiar with the Marion Singers, this will be their first time on the show. "We're so happy to be singing together again after the pandemic," says Christopher Dawes, the group's director. "It's a great honour to be asked and we're really looking forward to it."

The Marion Singers was formed in the early 1990s when a small group of people came together to sing at the wedding of Marion Thompson, ODT, an Anglican with deep roots in the diocese's musical community. Ms. Thompson is a recently retired member of the group and belongs to St. Mark, Port Hope.

Since that informal beginning, the group has gone on to sing for congregations and audiences



throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Its mandate is to help raise funds for humanitarian, non-profit organizations through a cappella choral singing. Its repertoire includes Tudor era, renaissance, baroque, romantic, light opera, gospel and modern music. The group's first CD, self-titled *The Marion Singers*, was released in 2000. It has released three more CDs since then.

"We're a group of friends who are committed to the idea that choral music can be an offering of beauty that can be used to support the ministries of any church," says Mr. Dawes, who has directed the ensemble for nearly 10 years. He succeeded Tony Browning, the group's first director.

"A cappella has a beauty to it and it's something people are keen to hear," he adds. "We also make it fun. Over the years we've sung show tunes and arrangements, folk songs and other secular music as well as the classics of the Anglican literature."

The group will sing three num-



**Clockwise from top: the Marion Singers, The Redeemers, St. Paul's Youth Band, Nathan Hiltz and St. John the Baptist, Norway's choir.**

bers in the cabaret: *How can I keep from singing*, *Goodnight my angel*, and *Old MacDonald*.

This will be the third year in a row for the cabaret, which has taken the place of the annual Bishop's Company Dinner, an in-person fundraising event, during the pandemic. There have been 24 acts so far with more than 1,000 views on



YouTube. All the performances, including the ones in this year's show, are pre-recorded.

"Moving the fundraiser online has made the event more accessible and available to a wider audience," says Melissa Doidge, the cabaret's coordinator and the diocese's Stewardship and Congregational Development assistant. "We've had people from as far as Texas tuning in."

She adds, "Our sponsors have

enabled us to share this evening for free, introducing us to new donors and truly making this an event for the entire diocese." ADTF and Turner and Porter Funeral Directors are the evening's patron sponsors.

For more information, visit the Bishop's Company Cabaret webpage at [www.bishopscabaret.com](http://www.bishopscabaret.com) or its Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BishopsCoTO](https://www.facebook.com/BishopsCoTO).  
*Staff*

## Survey results

Continued from Page 12

- The Rev. Lucia Lloyd
- Major the Rev. Canon Brad Smith
- Finn Keesmaat-Walsh
- The Rev. Kevin Wong

### Elected at Synod

- Chris Ambidge, ODT
  - The Rev. Canon Simon Bell
  - The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields
  - The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
  - The Rev. Maria Ling
  - Heather McGregor, ODT
  - The Rev. Jesse Parker
  - David Toycen, ODT
  - Laura Walton, ODT
  - Eirene Khean Cheng Wee
- Staff*

## Diocese considering way forward

Continued from Page 11

Committee, which oversees the managers of our fund. I see that continuing to be of importance," says Mr. Lewis. He says he's also buoyed by the increasing generosity of individual Anglicans. "While our numbers of congregants have declined over time, the average givings have increased, such that overall revenues from givings have remained relatively constant."

The diocese is already starting to consider what the way forward will look like. The next budget will be a two-year budget for 2024-2025

developed alongside Cast the Net, a new visioning process designed to help the diocese meet the challenges and opportunities of the next five years. That process will take place over 18 months, with recommendations and calls to action coming to Synod in November 2023.

"The important thing is that the budget is really a reflection of what's in the strategic plan, and that we have the resources to carry out the strategic plan. It's not so much whether our expenditures are going up and down, but that we're focused

on an end," says Canon Saffrey.

Mr. Lewis says he hopes that Cast the Net will help the diocese develop a vision for how it can operate on a more sustainable basis while supporting its mission and ministry. "We as a Finance Committee are delivering what might be a blunt message, but it's not one without hope; in fact, it's done in a way to challenge us and to point the road forward," he says. "There's this opportunity and, in fact, necessity to put the diocese on a sustainable financial footing."

In the meantime, he says he's honoured that Bishop Andrew Asbil asked him to chair the Finance Committee and grateful for the efforts of his fellow committee members: Mario Bartolozzi, the Rev. Molly Finlay, Leslie Hajdu, ODT, Vice-Chancellor Mark Hemingway and the Rev. Leonard Leader. "I'm tremendously impressed by the dedication of the lay and ministry teams I get to work with and observe the wonderful work they do," he says. "We're off to a strong start."





# New bench, music honour Queen's reign

BY NORAH BOLTON, ODT

AS many parishes marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with services and teas at Pentecost on June 5, St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto added a more permanent reminder – an outdoor bench with a commemorative plaque. Mark Stenabaugh, the rector's warden, wanted to mark the Queen's 70-year reign "as a regal and unflappable constant through generations of change." He even found a donor to

fund the cost of the bench, which was dedicated by the Rev. Canon Eric Beresford, incumbent.

A recital of coronation music arranged for organ drew additional friends to the church to hear *Music for a Jubilee*, performed by music director Robert Dixon. It featured music by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Handel – much of it performed before the 1953 coronation service began.

The pomp and circumstance brought back other memories of

St. Mary Magdalene's royal and coronation connections. In 1953, music director Healey Willan's homage anthem, *O Lord, Our Governour*, was performed at the coronation. Arriving at the church in 1921, Dr. Willan stayed until his death in 1968. He was the first non-resident English composer to be given such a commission. Subsequently, Dr. Willan received an honorary Lambeth doctorate in 1956 and Canadian honours, including the Order of Canada in 1967 and even a postage

stamp. With 800 compositions, he is best known for his organ repertoire, hymn settings, motets and 14 choral mass settings still performed throughout the world. His love of plainsong also found a home in our parish; it continues as a living tradition and attracts many visitors.

St. Mary Magdalene has another connection to the Queen. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visited the church in 1989 to attend the morning service and dedicate a plaque to Dr. Willan. Now two plaques celebrate the church's royal connection.

Norah Bolton, ODT, is a parishioner at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene.



## CELEBRATION

Bishop Andrew Asbil processes into St. James Cathedral for a choral evensong to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on June 5. Top left, a photo in an exhibit at the cathedral shows the Queen dedicating a new window during the cathedral's 200th anniversary in 1997. Bottom left, visitors view the exhibit that included photos and artifacts about the monarchy and the cathedral. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON





## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

All Saints, Sherbourne St. in downtown Toronto celebrates its 150th anniversary in June with a worship service and community barbecue. The church's programs serve some of Toronto's most marginalized people. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



## ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Kevin Robertson and the Rev. Jeanette Lewis are joined by Toronto city councillor Paula Fletcher (far left) and MP Julie Dabrushin at St. Barnabas, Chester's 164th anniversary celebration on June 12, which included the dedication of the church's new accessibility ramp. PHOTO BY KEN AZIZ



## HELPING HAND

St. Augustine of Canterbury, along with St. Cuthbert, Leaside, support Flemington Park Community Food Bank by delivering food collected at their local grocery store. During the pandemic, church members noticed that as food prices increased, the donations at the grocery store dropped off significantly. The food bank also reached out to the churches, as the need for food had increased due to inflation and new arrivals from Afghanistan and Ukraine. In response, two anonymous donors at St. Augustine's offered \$2,000 in matching grants to start a financial campaign. The church set a goal to raise \$4,000 between Easter and Pentecost. It exceeded its goal, raising over \$5,000, which was given directly to the food bank so it could buy food at wholesale prices. Pictured are the Rev. Megan Jull and parishioners Peter Shepard and Trish Simmie presenting the cheque to food bank representatives Chadi Abedalrazek (second from left) and another food bank representative on June 5. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY





## CONFIRMED

Twelve people are confirmed by Bishop Andrew Asbil at St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto on May 29. Clockwise from top left: Jackson Ingall tries on Bishop Asbil's mitre while Alexander Jeens holds his crozier; the confirmands join clergy, servers and churchwardens for a photo; confirmands receive bibles from the church's ACW members after the service. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



## MARKET DAY

More than 40 vendors sell goods on the lawn of St. David Anglican-Lutheran in Orillia on May 14. St. David's and St. James, Orillia, teamed up to put on the well-attended spring market day. St. James' ACW sold plants, books and baked goods totaling \$2,600. At right is Christine Hager and the Rev. Lori Pilatzke of St. David's. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. DAVID'S AND ST. JAMES



# Church celebrates century in community

BY NANCY DODSWORTH

St. George on Yonge in Toronto celebrated its 100th anniversary with a special service on April 23. Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, was the celebrant and preacher. She was assisted by the Rev. Leonard Leader, priest-in-charge of St. George's, the Rev. Pam Prideaux, the Rev. Canon John Wilton, the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert and the Rev. Steve Shaw. The service was held in person, as well as live-streamed on the church's Facebook page.

Established in 1922 as a mission of Holy Trinity, Thornhill, the original wooden structure that was St.

George, Willowdale went through several rebuilds to accommodate its growing congregation and its role in the community. In the new millennium, half of the church property was sold to a condominium developer and the proceeds used to replace all of the former church buildings with the current one. Completed in 2012 with a contemporary design and environment-friendly features, the new church building is the fifth on the site. To preserve a sense of history, the modern structure incorporates elements from previous buildings such as stained glass and liturgical furnishings.

For the 100-year celebrations, St. George invited past members to visit their former church home.

Prior to the special service, tours of the church building were conducted by parish volunteers. Memorabilia from the archives on display included a plaque and stone cross from earlier church buildings, photos from the time of building the original church to the present day, and membership directories.

At the start of the service, a minute of silence was observed in memory of the victims of the Yonge Street van attack, which occurred on St. George's Day in 2018. Being held just a week after Easter, the service drew richly from the message of hope and redemption embodied in the Resurrection. Reflecting on this during her homily, Archbishop Nicholls said that the Church lives

its life in the midst of whatever is happening in the world. We are in very challenging times, emerging from a pandemic, witnessing a war in Ukraine that could become much worse, and seeing the fallibility of broken human beings, she said. In the midst of all that, the gospel lights a spark, a light, a candle. The Primate concluded with the wish that St. George on Yonge carries that same hope into the next 100 years.

St. George's location right on Yonge Street in the former municipality of North York enables it to serve the pastoral needs of a growing and diverse community and pursue its mission of nurturing relationships with God in Christ, with one another and with the com-

munity. St. George hosts a number of community groups, including a Korean Christian congregation and a Persian Christian congregation. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the church welcomed other groups and music ensembles who regularly used worship spaces and meeting rooms, conducted ESL classes, and provided various forms of support to needy neighbours and refugees.

St. George is grateful to the volunteers who gave their time and talents to prepare for and bring life to the 100-year celebrations and to all who came to celebrate this special day.

*Nancy Dodsworth is a member of St. George on Yonge, Toronto.*





ALL CRICKET

Cricket teams and supporters from five churches have their picture taken at the start of the Anglican Church Community Festival in Brampton on June 25. The teams came from St. James the Apostle, Brampton, St. Jude, Bramalea North, St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South, Holy Family, Heart Lake, Brampton, and St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea to play some friendly games. The annual cricket festival had been on hiatus for the past two years due to the pandemic. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Charmaine Williams, MPP for Brampton Centre, gives the opening bat for the day.



A batter from St. Jude, Bramalea North bears down on the ball.



Ranil Mendis, ODT, bats for St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South.



A bowler for St. James the Apostle, Brampton.



The Rev. David Matthews of St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South, reaches for the ball.



Members of Holy Family, Heart Lake, Brampton relax in the shade.



A young member of St. Jude, Bramalea North bats in a match against St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South.





## TUTU REMEMBERED

A service commemorating the life of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who died last December at the age of 90, is held at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on June 12. Clockwise from top right: the Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, author of *Desmond Tutu: A Spiritual Biography of South Africa's Confessor*, preaches; praise poet Jessica Mbangeni gives an impromptu 'spiritual engagement for Archbishop Tutu' with words and vocals during the service; Rieaz Shaik, South Africa's high commissioner to Canada, reads the first lesson; the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, sub-dean of the cathedral, greets people after the service; soloist Jackie Richardson, a singer and actress, performs at the service. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## CANADA BRIEFS

### Gift helps retired clergy with housing in North

VANCOUVER - The Anglican Church Women (ACW) of the Diocese of New Westminster has provided a gift of \$100,000 to assist retired clergy with housing in Council of the North dioceses.

The diocese's ACW has given the money to the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) to distribute on its behalf, with an emphasis on helping Indigenous and non-stipendiary retired clergy. It has also challenged other ACWs across Canada to donate what they can to increase the fund.

The Council of the North is a group of nine northern dioceses, including the Territory of the People and the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, supported by grants from General Synod. Many clergy in the Council of the North are non-stipendiary, meaning they are not paid for their ministry.

"Housing in the North is a huge issue," says Council of the North chair David Lehmann, who is also bishop of the Diocese of Caledonia, in northern B.C. In



Caledonia, he says, all but one community have a 0.1% vacancy rate.

The northern housing crisis disproportionately affects Indigenous clergy. Many are non-stipendiary or have served their entire career in church housing, says Bishop Lehmann, who himself lives in a house owned by the Diocese of Caledonia.

*Anglican Journal*

### Weaving project remembers Indigenous children

EDMONTON - Archdeacon Travis Enright and members of the Diocese of Edmonton's Indigenous Ministry Team dedicated an act of love and remembrance of the thousands of Indigenous children who died at Residential

Schools across Canada during a prayer service held at All Saints Cathedral in June.

The diocese's weaving project was started on Ash Wednesday by weaver and lay evangelist Alison Hurlburt. Providing orange thread, a loom and instruction, Ms. Hurlburt recruited and trained "loom-keepers" in five Edmonton parishes. In the ensuing months, as the loom was moved from parish to parish, dozens of weavers, including some from outside the Anglican community, offered their prayers while weaving.

Ms. Hurlburt said it was "heartbreaking" to know that each horizontal pass of weft yarn represented one child who died at a residential school. "There are 18 passes in each inch of the weaving for a total of 8,000 chil-

dren: 6,000 (the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's estimate) and an additional 2,000-plus from recent grave discoveries... The end of the blanket is left unravelled to represent the graves yet to be discovered."

She hoped churches and community spaces would host the woven textile in the months that followed. She intended to share the piece with the weaving class she is teaching at the Sorrento Centre in British Columbia over the summer.

*Edmonton.anglican.ca*

### Province chooses new executive officer

SAULT STE. MARIE - Alex Pierson is the new executive officer of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. He started on July 1.

"I am confident that Alex's particular gifts and strengths will serve us so very well in the coming years as the dioceses of our ecclesiastical province work together to further God's mission in a changing world and Church," said Archbishop Anne Germond, metropolitan, in a statement.

Mr. Pierson currently serves as the executive officer and chief financial officer of the Diocese of Ontario, a position he will continue to hold. The executive officer for the province is a part-time job that provides administrative leadership, supports the ministry of the metropolitan,

maintains provincial records, and exercises general oversight of the work of Provincial Synod.

The province comprises the dioceses of Algoma, Huron, Moosonee, Niagara, Ontario, Ottawa and Toronto.

*Dioceseofalgoma.com*

### Former Bishop of Toronto to serve in Niagara

HAMILTON - Archbishop Colin Johnson has been appointed by Bishop Susan Bell to serve as an assistant bishop of the Diocese of Niagara, effective Sept. 1.

"I am absolutely delighted that the archbishop has agreed to assist me in the exercise of my episcopal responsibilities," said Bishop Bell. "Archbishop Colin has a heart for Jesus, a keen instinct for ministry, and a depth of experience that is unrivalled in the Canadian church."

Before retiring in 2018, Archbishop Johnson served as Bishop of Toronto from 2004, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario from 2009, and concurrently as Bishop of Moosonee from 2014.

As assistant bishop, his responsibilities will include leading worship, providing pastoral care and visiting, offering deployment and mentoring support for emerging clergy leaders, and providing consultant support in the analysis of structures, systems and future ministry needs.

*Niagaraanglican.ca*



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## PRAYER CYCLE

### FOR SEPTEMBER

1. Bishop's Committee on Creation Care
2. Holy Trinity School
3. Royal St. George's College School
4. Synod Council
5. Citizens for Public Justice
6. Teachers and students
7. School chaplains
8. Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
9. St. Clement's School
10. Lakefield College School
11. Religious Communities of the Diocese of Toronto (SSJD & OHC)
12. Kingsway College School
13. Bishop Strachan School
14. Order of the Holy Cross
15. Resurrection
16. St. Aidan, Toronto
17. St. Andrew Japanese
18. Toronto East Deanery
19. St. Barnabas, Chester
20. St. Bede
21. St. David, Donlands
22. St. John the Baptist, Norway
23. St. Luke, East York
24. Re:Charge Youth Retreat Weekend
25. Lay Ministry and the Education for Ministry Program
26. St. Matthew, First Avenue
27. St. Monica
28. St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff
29. St. Saviour, Toronto
30. Evangelists, New Tecumseth

## IN MOTION

### Appointments

- The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Interim Regional Dean of Toronto East Deanery, May 4.
- The Rev. Johanna Pak, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. James the Apostle, Sharon, May 16.
- The Rev. Gerlyn Henry, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Holy Wisdom, June 1.

- The Rev. Christopher D'Angelo, Priest-in-Charge, St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese, July 1.
- The Rev. Kenute Francis, Incumbent, St. Hilda, Fairbank, May 1.
- The Rev. Augusto Nunez, Incumbent, St. Saviour, Orono, May 1.
- The Rev. Joan Wilson, Honorary Assistant, St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, May 22.
- The Rev. Michelle Stanford, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John the Baptist (Dixie), June 7.
- The Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, Incumbent, All Saints, Sherbourne St., July 1.
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey, Incumbent, St. Dunstan of Canterbury, Aug. 1.
- The Rev. Canon John Hill, Honorary Assistant, St. James Cathedral, June 12.
- The Rev. Gregory Fiennes-Clinton, Incumbent, Parish of Lloydtown, July 1.
- The Rev. Susan Snelling, Regional Dean of Nottawasaga, July 1.
- The Rev. David Bryant, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John, East Orangeville, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Richard Newland, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. George Memorial, Oshawa, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Michael Peterson, Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Collingwood, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Margaret Rodrigues, Honorary Assistant, Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., June 26.
- The Rev. Canon Ted McCollum, Liturgical Officer for Trent-Durham, July 1.
- The Rev. Bob Bettson, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Messiah, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. James Shire (Diocese of Hawaii), Interim Associate Priest, St. Thomas, Huron Street, July 17.
- The Rev. Maria Ling, Interim Associate Priest, St. Timothy, North Toronto, Aug. 1.
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Incumbent, St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, Aug. 1.

### Vacant Incumbencies *Clergy from outside the diocese*

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

### Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- (receiving names):
- Havergal College Chaplain
- Bishop Strachan School Chaplain
- Christ the King

### Parish Selection Committee Process

- First Phase - (not yet receiving names):
- Christ Church, Bolton
  - St. John, Oak Ridges
  - St. George Memorial, Oshawa
  - St. George, Haliburton
  - St. John, East Orangeville

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

- Holy Trinity, Thornhill
- St. Peter, Erindale

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

- Holy Trinity, Trinity Square
- St. Cyprian

### Ordained

- The Rev. Claire Latimer-Dennis was ordained a Priest at St. James Cathedral on May 14.
- The Rev. Micah Latimer-Dennis was ordained a Priest at Grace Church on-the-Hill on May 15.
- Ms. Angie Hocking was ordained a Vocational Deacon at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. on May 29 at 4 p.m.

### Celebrations of New Ministry

- The Rev. Pam Prideaux, Incumbent, St. Joseph of Nazareth, Brampton, July 17.
- The Rev. Benjamin Gillard, Incumbent, St. Thomas, Brooklin, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.
- The Rev. Ken McClure, Incumbent, St. George, Allandale, Oct. 30 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mary Magdalene, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Rev. Jennifer Schick, Incumbent, All Saints, Whitby, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Alvarado Adderley, Incumbent, Parish of Fenelon

- Falls, Oct. 16 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Lee McNaughton, Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul, Brighton, Oct. 23 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas, Incumbent, St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m.

### Retirement

- The Rev. Canon Judy Heron-Graham's last Sunday at St. George Memorial, Oshawa was July 31.
- The Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid retired on June 30.
- The Rev. Canon Richard Miller's last Sunday at St. Peter, Cobourg will be Oct. 30.

### Conclusions

- The Rev. Douglas Michael concluded his appointment as Incumbent of All Saints, Collingwood and Regional Dean of Nottawasaga on Aug. 31. He is taking up an appointment in the Diocese of Ontario.
- The Rev. Tay Moss concluded his appointment as Incumbent of Church of the Messiah on June 30. He has taken up an appointment with the Toronto United Church Council.
- The Rev. Deborah Wilson concluded her appointment as Chaplain of Bishop Strachan School on June 30.

### Deaths

- The Rt. Rev. Douglas Black-

well died on May 24. Ordained deacon in 1963 and priest in 1964 in the Diocese of Calgary, he also served in the Diocese of Saskatoon before transferring to the Diocese of Toronto in 1974. He served as assistant director for adult education at the Aurora Conference Centre, executive assistant to Archbishop Lewis Garnsworthy and took on the additional role of director of Communications. He was installed a canon in 1978, appointed Archdeacon of York in 1987, elected suffragan bishop on June 4, 1988, consecrated Sept. 15, 1988, and served as area bishop of Trent-Durham until retirement in 2003. Bishop Douglas went on to serve as interim priest-in-charge in several parishes and was an honorary assistant of St. Thomas, Brooklin. His funeral was held June 2 at St. Thomas, Brooklin. See obituary on Page 6.

• The Rev. Chamberlain Jones died on July 2. Ordained deacon and priest in the Diocese of the Arctic, he transferred to the Diocese of Toronto in 2002. He served as incumbent of Christ Church, Campbellford until his retirement in 2006. He went on to serve as honorary assistant at St. Paul, Bloor Street. His funeral was held on July 20 at St. Paul, Bloor Street.

# LOOKING AHEAD

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

## Worship

**OCT. 2** - The diocesan service of confirmation will be held at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral.

## Fairs, teas

**SEPT. 17** - Neighbourhood Fun Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the garden of St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Games and prizes, hot dogs, face painting and a bouncy castle. Admission is free.

**NOV. 26** - Poinsettia tea with tearoom, Christmas baking, giftware, raffle and Christmas-past Room, 2-4 p.m., Holy Trinity, 140 Brooke St., Thornhill.

## Music

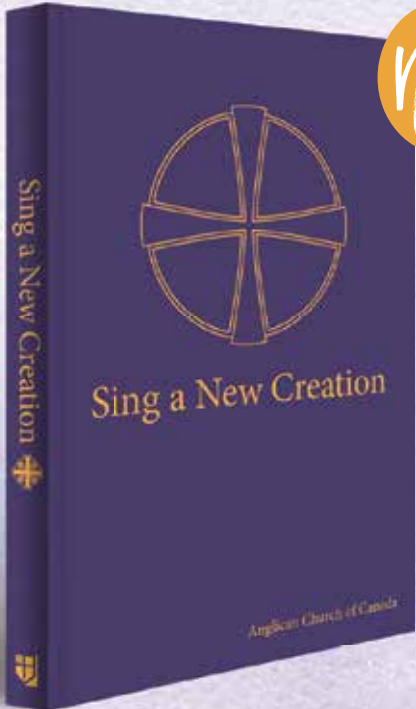
**SEPT. 11** - Musical Moments at Saint Matthew's, 2 p.m., works by Handel, Versluis and Bédard, as well as inspiring improvisations. Performed

by organist Damien Macedo and pianist Tyler Versluis. Pay what you can at the door. At St. Matthew, Islington, 3962 Bloor Street W., Toronto.

## Courses, workshops

**SEPT. 25-OCT. 30** - "Love Goes All the Way Down: Discovering the Old Testament God" is an online course offered by Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat on Zoom. This course will explore how love, commitment, and compassion are found in the very heart of God throughout the biblical story and the history of creation. Learn more and register at [www.bibleremixed.ca](http://www.bibleremixed.ca).

**OCT. 29** - Lay Anointers' Training Day, in-person at St. John's Convent.



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SPECIAL DAY

Ten young people from four churches in Trent-Durham are confirmed at Christ Church, Oshawa on May 26, with Bishop Riscylla Shaw presiding. The confirmands came from All Saints, Whitby, Christ Church, Oshawa, St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) and St. Saviour, Orono. In addition to the confirmations, Peter Misiaszek, the diocese's director of Stewardship Development, was received into the Anglican Communion. 'It has been an honour to accompany these thoughtful, creative and curious youth on their journey to confirmation,' wrote the clergy of the participating parishes. 'They are both gifted and gifts to the Church. We are filled with hope and excitement to see God at work in their lives.' PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



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