

THANKSGIVING 2020

Matt's Media



The Newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

Published October 11, 2020

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From the Pastor

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

“THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US, AND WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY” (*Psalms 116:1*).

Practising gratitude has become a very important exercise in the new-age self-help movement. There is a lot of justification for this. The act of being thankful has been shown to give us a better outlook on life and by extension, a better quality of life. When our thankfulness leads us to give to others, it leads to an even greater outlook and life satisfaction. This goes further because through our giving we are also helping others to see what they also have to be thankful for. In *Luke 17:17-19* one leper from a group of ten was made well after returning to Jesus in thankfulness and praise. In *Philippians 4:6-7*, we read that it is prayer, petition and thankfulness that bring us peace that transcends understanding. It is no wonder that science should prove our ordered and loving God correct.

Many of us know that thankfulness towards God has even more benefits. Gratitude towards things and people is focused on things that are temporary, but gratitude towards God means resting our joy on someone that will never leave or change. When we learn about thankfulness towards God, what we will find is that we always have something and someone to be thankful for. “Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights” (*James 1:16-17*). It also means that as we direct our thanks towards God, we can more easily see His blessings in whatever fashion they come.

Thankfulness towards God also creates depth of character and humility because through this practise we come to realize that every little thing we have, including ourselves, has been given to us by God. This realization will destroy pride, greed, and envy as we come to see that all gifts have been given freely by God even though we have not earned or deserved them. Most importantly, our thankfulness towards God shows us that when we have God, we have everything we need. “Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these” (*1 Timothy 6:6-8*).

... continued

From the Pastor *(continued)*

I would encourage you to create a pattern of thankfulness for yourself. Over the next three weeks, take just three minutes each week to write down some things you are most thankful for.

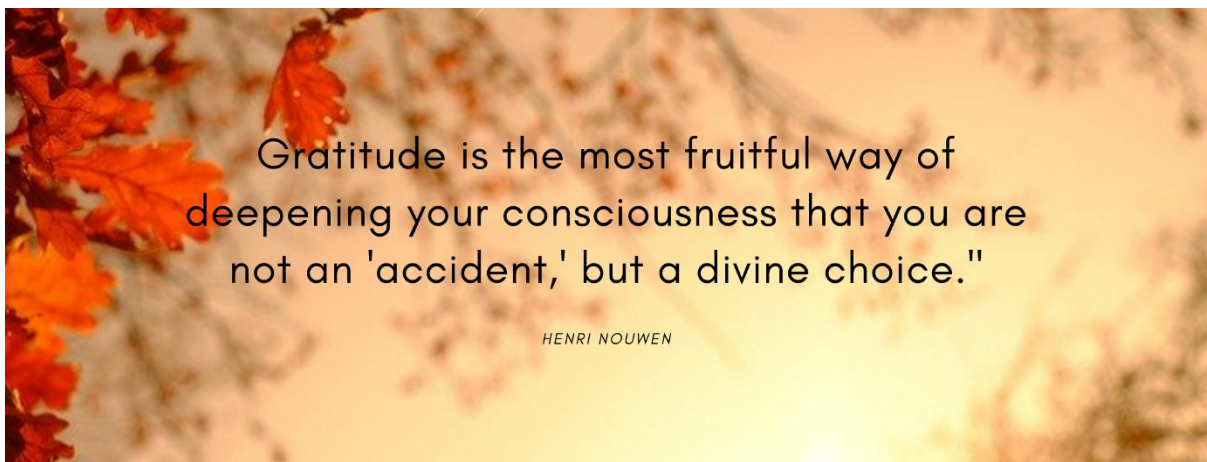
List them, but also write why you are especially thankful. If you want help, here is an example:

My Lord God, Jesus Christ, you are worthy of all praise, honour, and glory. I rightfully give you praise and thanksgiving because everything good comes from you. I am thankful for – the community of St. Matthew's, Islington, and the faith and love they share with you and one another. I am thankful that I have found a home here, even during COVID-19. I am thankful that I have never felt alone no matter what was happening due to their love and yours. I am thankful that there are so many who are committed to growing together in faith and I am so excited for where this will lead us in the years to come. – How can I do anything but give you praise and thanks? Please Lord shape my life in this spirit of thankfulness so I may see your good works and glorify your name through faith and love.

You are welcome to include your own prayers between the dashes and then watch, listen, and feel what God will do in your life through this simple act. *Lamentations* teaches us that even amid the worst we can imagine, even during a pandemic, there is so much to see and be thankful for. "God's blessings are new every morning" (*Lamentations* 3:23). Let us open our eyes throughout this season of Thanksgiving to see the very glory of God in our midst.

God bless you and fill you with thanks.

Your brother in Christ,
Philip



Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Stuart Watt, Shantelle Hampton and Lianne Thompson

Happy Thanksgiving! We do hope that you and your families are keeping well and managing the challenges of this COVID-19 era.

We are delighted to have welcomed Rev. Philip and his wife Mary Anne in July. We want to thank them both for joining us and leading us in our spiritual journeys.

As you are aware, we are now able to worship in the church on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. as well as continuing online worship through Zoom and on YouTube. We are grateful for the unwavering dedication of Rev. Philip, Colin Hall, and Tyler Versluis in addressing the wide range of technical issues which we encounter. We also thank all those who have assisted with registration and cleaning of the church.

In early August, we bid farewell to Kimberly Butler, Youth Ministry Associate. We thank her for her leadership and wish her the very best in her future endeavours. The search process for her replacement is currently underway.

Laurie Bodley has resigned as our Communications Coordinator. We thank Laurie for her dedication to the development of our website and increasing our social media presence. We wish her well in all her future endeavours.

Many thanks to our volunteers who work tirelessly in our various ministries. In particular, we want to acknowledge the work of the Soup Making Team lead by Deborah and Nancy Hurn and the many volunteers who assist in ensuring the meals are prepared and delivered weekly to the Toronto Urban Native Ministry program. The costs for the meals have been made possible by the generous financial gifts of parishioners and friends. Thank You!

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of August 31, 2020.

Operating Fund	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Income	\$168,883	\$180,664	\$208,674
Expenses	\$180,030	\$213,932	\$219,030
Net Operations	(\$11,147)	(\$33,268)	(\$10,356)

Note: Unfortunately, the net income (loss) is misleading. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the parish received a three-month holiday from paying our Priest's salary, and assessment fees. As well, we received a government wage subsidy and a utilities subsidy from the diocese. The total from these programs amount to \$39,530.00.

Thanksgiving Offering 2020

Gifts received through our Thanksgiving envelopes will be directed towards offsetting our current deficit.

As always, we give thanks to God for God's continued provision and care for St. Matthew's in this uncertain time. Blessings to you all.



Reopening Survey Feedback

St. Matthew's Clergy and Warden Team

During the last few weeks of August, the St. Matthew's clergy and warden team sent out two surveys to the parish about reopening in September. One focused on families with children and youth regarding special needs for those programs, and the other asked for feedback from the entire parish on concerns, comments, and feedback regarding reopening under COVID-19 protocols.

Some of the highlights:

- 56 people and families responded to the surveys
- Among the results of questions related to reopening:
 - 51% of respondents said they would like to attend in person
 - 26% said they were not ready, or unsure, about attending in person until more is known
 - 19% specifically indicated that they would prefer to continue virtually at this time
 - The majority were interested in continuing with virtual coffee hours
 - Many volunteered to help with cleaning between services!

After receiving this feedback and reviewing the many thoughtful comments from respondents, the decision to offer two services on Sunday morning for the present time was confirmed. The virtual service and posting to YouTube will continue.

Each in-person service is carefully planned with all safety measures and social distancing protocols in place. High touch areas in the narthex, sanctuary, and washroom are cleaned fully after each service. As diocesan protocols indicate that children must remain by their parents' sides at all times, a separate Club Matt program cannot be offered. As such, the 9:30 a.m. service has been modified to be more engaging for children, with a shortened service time and child-focused liturgy.

- The 11:00 a.m. service continues to use the Book of Alternative Services
- The Monday noon renewal service uses the Book of Common Prayer

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 and public health requirements, and adjust as necessary. As Reverend Philip says, "These are our first steps, but we hope that in days to come we will be able to open more and go back to the things we all love and miss."

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and wonderful sense of community.



Positive Outcomes During the Pandemic

While there is no denying the many difficulties of the pandemic, it has also provided some wonderful and unexpected benefits.

Adding online worship has brought the joy of St. Matthew's to more people.

- Many people who cannot get to church because of health or distance are now joining in St. Matthew's online worship and in Coffee Hour conversation afterwards
- We've welcomed a new parishioner, Sandra A-W
- Several of our regular attendees and former parishioners who have moved away are now able to participate
- The mothers of Colin Hall and David Oakden who live too far away have now joined our St. Matthew's family

What's Happening

Monday Wednesday Friday	12:00 p.m.	Noon Renewal on St. Matthew's YouTube channel (available at noon or any time afterward) https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTIBsRzvoz-zJcKv5nKb7g
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Soup's On: Soup Making for the Toronto Urban Native Ministry
Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	GIFT Group
Sunday Oct 18	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	All Ages "Casual" Service BAS "Classic" Service <i>Online Coffee Hour</i>
Saturday Oct 24	4:00 p.m.	Messy Church
Sunday Oct 25	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	All Ages "Casual" Service BAS "Classic" Service <i>Online Coffee Hour</i>
Sunday Nov 1	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	BCP "Quiet" Service All Ages "Casual" Service BAS "Classic" Service <i>Online Coffee Hour</i>
Saturday Nov 7	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast Online Men's Breakfast at the Montreal Deli
Sunday Nov 8	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	BCP "Quiet" Service All Ages "Casual" Service BAS "Classic" Service <i>Online Coffee Hour</i>
Sunday Nov 15	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	BCP "Quiet" Service All Ages "Casual" Service BAS "Classic" Service <i>Online Coffee Hour</i>
Saturday Nov 28	4:00 p.m.	Messy Church
Sunday Nov 29	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:10 p.m.	BCP "Quiet" Service All Ages "Casual" Service BAS "Classic" Service <i>Online Coffee Hour</i>

All Sunday Services are offered both in-person and online.

Service times may be adjusted as conditions change. Please watch the weekly email for news.

In Memory of Bridget Farrar

On Thanksgiving Sunday, St. Matthew's will be dedicating a most beautiful ciborium in memory of Bridget Farrar who sadly passed away in April. Bridget served for many years as president of the Chancel Guild and was a most dedicated and faithful member of our parish family. We all deeply miss her friendship and wise counsel, and are thankful for this beautiful addition, donated by her husband Richard.



Richard Farrar and family would like to thank the many parishioners who called, sent notes, letters or cards on Bridget's passing on April 11, 2020.

Partners in Prayer

Bob Holloway asks Partners who have not received Prayer Requests on October 5 or earlier to please send him your email address. After he accidentally deleted his distribution list, and while re-entering names, he noticed that some names were missing on previous distributions.

As well, if anyone in the parish would like to join the Partners In Prayer Ministry (the "Prayer Chain"), just send your email address or phone Bob Holloway.

Thanks and blessings,
Bob

rholloway@sympatico.ca,
416-253-4909

The Serenity Prayer

Bob Holloway reminds us that with COVID peaking again we are once more experiencing stress and anxiety. This is a good time to remember the prayer, adopted by AA, but a good prayer for all of us.



From Rev. Merv Mercer

As we arrive at another Thanksgiving season, I'm challenged again to think of thankfulness and perhaps how hard a response that is in this particular year. It has already been eight months since we entered "the COVID-19 tunnel" and I must admit it has been a long tunnel to be in and it may not be over any time soon. My initial instinct is to feel sorry for myself, and others, and to list all the things for which I could be rightly miserable. Reading the Psalms however, as I do every day, I've been struck again by the mix I find in them of petition and praise. The Hebrews knew a lot about suffering as they journeyed through the wilderness with hardships that fuelled their pain and frustration. It is ably voiced in many of the psalms; but, there's also a lot of praise and celebration in the Psalms as well. God is both celebrated and blamed for their circumstances, and yet, whenever they are feeling oppressed, they ultimately return to the God whom they know loves them and looks after them as they journey to the Promised Land. It seems that they go back and forth between declaring how hard life is for them, and how much they give God praise for deliverance and direction. It's as if circumstances generate a choice for them. Do they rest in their discomfort, or revel in God's salvation of them?

One book that I have found personally helpful in this dilemma is *Radical Gratitude* by Mary Jo Leddy. She argues that the Christian's predominant attitude must be one of "gratitude", in spite of our circumstances. That is because, if we understand our lives in a large enough frame of reference, we will know we are loved and provided for by God. That is good reason to be thankful. Everything about our culture drives us instead to be creatures of "want", never having what we desire and always wanting more - more security, more ease, more meaning and less troublesome circumstances. The significant key, she would argue, is that as Christians we live within a framework of love and provision that extends far beyond our immediate circumstances, because of God's love and grace.

I guess the fact of the matter is that our challenge in thanksgiving is one of choice. Do we celebrate all God has done for us, apart from the present time and its realities; or do we thankfully greet each day with humble gratitude because we're chosen and loved by the God who values us beyond all our human understanding?

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer." ~ Corrie Ten Boom

Blessings,
Merv+



Positive Outcomes During the Pandemic

We're finding and sharing some great online resources.

- Margaret Purser enjoys two online church participation websites: Virtual Hymn Sing at the Cathedral of St. James in Toronto, and Praying with PWRDF
 - Find Virtual Hymn Sing at virtuahymns.ca/sing-along. For a Zoom link, email Irene at irenecourage105@gmail.com
 - Praying with PWRDF take place Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Register at bit.ly/PWRDFPrayers to receive the Zoom invitations
- Every month, Rev. Philip shares a new resource. Details are in the weekly email

Welcoming Ministry

Deborah Hurn

The Team has been busy even though we are not seeing each other in person! One of our main areas of activities has been reaching out to fellow Parishioners who may be living on their own. A phone call now and then helps us all continue to feel a part of St. Matthew's. Please let me know if you would like a call, know someone who could benefit from a call, or if you would like to make a call. Callers are always needed and welcomed.

Our MacMillan sales are on hold until we can all meet in person. A new campaign will be announced as soon as it is safe to do so. The funds raised will be directed towards a destination of the Wardens choosing. This is a great opportunity to let others know about St. Matthew's. Often, it is easier to start the 'church' conversation when it starts with a non-church topic.

Thank you to Mary Gleeson and her team for continuing with the *Friends for Friends* Christmas packages. The gifts are a treat for our Parishioners who may not be able to attend Church anymore but know they are still in our thoughts and prayers.

The Welcoming Team meets every six to eight weeks via Zoom. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Student Partner Program

Deborah Hurn

Many of our young adults have now headed off to new endeavours at various forms of higher education. Our goal is to maintain contact with the students as they start their educational advancement. They will always be part of the St. Matthew's family so we want to support them on their journey. Some students have been partnered with a parishioner who will maintain contact to provide words of comfort, an ear to listen, and an occasional surprise in the mail!

Please remember Hannah, Maeva, Zack, Lauren, Sarah, Bryanna, Nick, Jessica, Josh, and Cassidy in your Prayers.

GIFT Groups (Growing In Faith Together Groups)

Dawn Mercer

GIFT Groups provide a time for a few people to gather to discuss faith and life around prepared questions. You do not need to know the Bible, prepare anything, or even talk. You only need to have a desire to explore how God and faith work through your life and the world.

You will probably recall that the plan in early 2020 was to increase the number of GIFT Groups and the variety of times they would be available so more folks from St. Matthews (and friends and neighbours) could attend... then there was COVID-19!

The intentions have not changed, but circumstances certainly have. GIFT Groups are very much part of the plan moving forward for adults at St. Matthews to explore and grow in their faith.

We encourage everyone to join a GIFT group for our Advent Season Study. It will be a short commitment of a few hours every week for about four weeks. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to prepare their hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Starting around November 8 there will be a variety of days and times, both in-person and online.

In the meantime, the Tuesday evening group will meet online and anyone who is interested in taking a peek at what happens in a GIFT Group can join. The link will be available to everyone at St. Matthew's. You will be able to request a reminder from the office. Watch the weekly emails for more information.

Two New “All Season” Banners

Two new banners were hung in the Chancel on September 11, 2020, in time for the first services to reopen St. Matthew’s Church following its closure in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After Christmas last year, Sandra Wilson proposed that we make two All Season banners that could hang indefinitely.

One banner was to show the four seasons: “To Every Thing There Is A Season.”

Material was bought, and 12 squares were distributed to willing parishioners who painted, quilted, embroidered, and appliquéd to create the various squares.

Thank you to Dawn Mercer, who drove the Club Matt square to each member’s home so that different families could participate.



After the squares were submitted, Sandra had the daunting task of sewing them all together. A great deal of patience and a great deal of frustration have created one beautiful banner.

The second banner, a single scene entitled “Under Heaven,” was created by Sandra Wilson, filling many hours during her COVID shutdown. When you look closely at the banner, you will see the initials of some deceased members of the Chancel Guild.

Thank you, Sandra, for initiating and completing this project which will be much appreciated now and in years to come.

Contributors: To Every Thing There Is A Season

Spring	The Cross	Mary Gleeson	
	Spring Robins	Pat Currie	
	Spring Flowers	Sally Martin	
Summer	Summer Flowers	Sandra Wilson	
	At the lily pond	Ann Sim	
	Blue Butterfly	Sandra Wilson	
Fall	Pumpkin Patch	Sandra Wilson	
	Sunflower	Cassidy Thompson	
	Fall Scene	Sandra Wilson	
Winter	Nativity Scene	The Wukasch Family	Mary and Joseph
		The Forbes/R’Abel Family	Star and beams
		Dawn Mercer and Liam	Head dressings
		The Hampton Family	Manger, Jesus, Straw
	Winter Scene	Sandra Wilson	
	Cardinal	Nancy Hurn	
		Deborah Hurn	
		Sally Martin	
	Lettering	Bruce Gleeson	

Messy Church! In the Pandemic? Yes!

Jeff Bonner & Dawn Mercer

Messy Church is a time for children and parents to encounter and explore faith through interactive games, activities, stories, and so much more. The pandemic doesn't stop that!

We had two virtual Messy Churches in the Spring—kids were lively and engaged. Following a successful Earth Day-themed online Messy Church in April (reported in the last *Matt's Media*) the team developed a second online event for Pentecost. Through crafts and activities, we explored the themes of Pentecost and the birth of the church. Activities focused on fire and wind as symbols of Pentecost, including colouring and crafting a pinwheel.



Children also decorated cupcakes with flame-coloured icing and, following the worship service, we lit candles on the cupcakes and sang Happy Birthday to the church. Special thanks go to Nancy and Deborah Hurn for helping to distribute the craft materials and cupcakes.

Pentecost was also the last day of Reverend Stephen's time with us at St. Matthew's. For our last activity, we recorded an online presentation of a farewell booklet we created for him. We used its text and images of a poem based on Psalm 23 with the children reading the text.

And Looking Ahead to Fall 2020?

Sure! Saturday at 4:00 p.m. on the last Saturday (substitute October 24, instead of Hallowe'en) of the months up to and including May, but not December.

Our hope is to meet in family groups in the gym. There will be dynamic and intriguing activities, contests, challenges, and fresh approaches to worship, although no food (until the pandemic is truly under control). The October Messy Church will focus on water as God's gift to us and as a symbol of our baptism.

Messy Church will not be cancelled in the case of a "Stay at Home" order. We will find interesting ways to have Virtual Messy Church. Many people around the world have been working on that for the past six months and we have the benefit of their experience. Everyone has water at home and we can do most of the October activities at your table almost as easily as in the gym!

If you did not receive Messy Church emails in the spring, please contact the church office to be added to the email list. You can also check out the Messy Church part of the St. Matthew's website to keep up-to-date on what is happening with Messy Church at St Matthew's. You will need to fill out a form to be sure we have materials for your family.

Join us for Messy Church!

October 24
November 28
January 30
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 29



Club Matt

Jeff Bonner, Linda Dickson, Dawn Mercer, Jenna Wukasch, Amanda Boyd

Following Pentecost, Club Matt continued to meet online in Zoom every Sunday before the main service. Starting on Trinity Sunday, we took a Journey through the *Book of Acts* to learn about the early church's growth. As we followed the spread of the Gospel, we built a map and placed characters on it to mark the location of major steps in the story. The growth of the church started in Jerusalem with events like Peter and John healing a lame man and Philip evangelizing the Ethiopian eunuch. From there, our journey spread out and eventually followed the travels of Paul, ending in Rome.

After we finished the *Book of Acts*, we spent the rest of the summer exploring Heroes of Faith and what it means to be a hero of faith. We talked about how everyday Christians often become heroes of faith simply by making choices and taking action to make the world a better place.

We looked at significant people of faith like Mother Teresa and Brother Lawrence; black leaders of faith who made a difference in the world, like Desmond Tutu, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and social justice champions and social reformers like William Wilberforce.

We also talked about current heroes who are active in our church today, with some special guest speakers. On August 9, we were blessed with a visit from Archbishop Mark MacDonald, the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, who spoke on the Gospel reading for the day and talked to us about his ministry.

On August 30 we welcomed our home-grown heroes of faith, Al and Florence Thompson, who spoke to us about their faith stories and how their relationship to Jesus has impacted their lives. We were grateful for their visit and hearing that all of us have the capacity to become heroes of faith by helping others and being an example.

With the arrival of the in-person All Ages/Casual Service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, the Zoom Club Matt has come to an end, at least for now. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 safety protocols do not allow children under 10 to leave their parents, so a separate Club Matt is not possible at present. Instead, the children are included in the 9:30 a.m. service in a variety of ways in words and movement. Identical packages of materials for the day are provided to each family as they enter. Also they receive their own personal box of craft supplies—markers, scissors, glue, and so on—which will only ever be used by them. Similar materials are provided for families who join online at home.

The Club Matt team plans and organizes the curriculum and activities that relate to the readings and themes of the 9:30 a.m. worship. Please keep the children in your prayers as some of them return to school and others join a regulated online learning format while remaining at home during these strange pandemic times.



Mother Teresa, the first Hero of Faith we looked at.



Archbishop Mark MacDonald visiting Club Matt (shown here praying with the kids and other participants)

Youth

The St. Matt's Team

The Wardens, Clergy, Staff, and Volunteers have been busy listening to the Youth as well as looking to the future. We are pleased to tell you that we are in the midst of reviewing applicants for our Youth Ministry and Discipleship Associate role. There has been a lot of interest, so we are very hopeful. In the first few weeks of October we are holding interviews. Soon after you receive this, we should be able to announce the successful applicant who will be joining us in ministry.

In the meantime, we have completed the Alpha Youth Series, guided by Shantelle Hampton. We continue to meet every Sunday for devotions and once every two weeks for social time and D&D. We are always looking for people to share their faith story with the Youth. Please reach out to Rev. Philip at philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca if you are interested.

From Tyler Versluis, Organist and Music Director

Henryk Górecki: Music, Faith, Freedom

The Polish composer Henryk Mikołaj Górecki was born in southern Poland in 1933 and died there in 2010. After training initially as a school teacher, he could no longer resist the call of music and began taking night classes at the nearest Conservatory. By the time he graduated in 1960, Górecki was at the forefront of Polish avant-garde music, which had mixed reactions from the Communist authorities in the Polish state. Polish creative life was tightly controlled, especially after 1947 when Stalin released his guidelines for socialist music. Such music was to glorify the common people and the state, and to be written so that every Polish person could enjoy it without difficulty. The implication here was that the composed music had to be melodic, optimistic, and relatable—nothing abstract or complex. Many Polish composers obeyed. Many others, however, did not. They wanted to keep up with the innovations and research into music that were happening in places like Germany, France, and the USA, as well as to exercise their own creative freedoms apart from socialist doctrine.

Górecki was one of these composers. He adopted elements of the newest and most radical musical system, *12-tone serialism*, and wrote music that was loud, dissonant, and impulsive, using strange instruments and ensembles, and even requiring musicians to play their instruments “incorrectly” or unconventionally. However, after a period of searching, Górecki drifted away from this method of music-making and began focusing on choral and vocal music, using sacred texts. He wanted to express the yearning of his Christian faith in his art. Once again, this drew ire from the Communist authorities as well as from his avant-garde colleagues, who thought he had given up their struggle. But the struggle was increasing for the Polish composer.

In 1977, Górecki was in his second year as Rector of the University of Music in Katowice, an appointment which was already full of strife because Górecki refused to join the Communist Party. This drew suspicion from everybody. That year, Górecki received a commission from Cardinal Karol Wojtyła to compose a new piece to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Stanislaus, Poland's patron saint. Górecki, a devoted Christian and Polish nationalist, accepted the commission, knowing full well the dangers of his choice; Wojtyła was a sharp critic of communism, and the politicians of Poland viewed the Church as the primary source of dissent from communist doctrine. The stakes became higher in October 1978, when Cardinal Wojtyła was

... continued

From Tyler Versluis *(continued)*

elected to the Papal Throne, taking the name John Paul II, and the concert premiere of Górecki's commission would be part of Wojtyła's first return trip to Poland since becoming Pope.

As the pressure mounted for Górecki to reject the commission, he found his life increasingly difficult—his phones were being wiretapped, he was ostracized by his peers, and even his name was removed from journals, newspapers, and documents concerning Poland's musical life. He resigned in disgrace from his position as Rector at the University of Music. While this was happening, Górecki was composing furiously. In 1979, the piece was finished, a massive 30-minute work for orchestra, choir, and baritone soloist, titled *Beatus Vir*. The text was drawn from several psalms (143:1,6-10; 31:16; 88:2; 67:7; 34:9), the title being taken from *Psalms 112*:

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Above all, *Beatus Vir* is a work of spiritual yearning, of finding refuge in God, of a voice calling in the desert. The quest of Saint Stanislaus, to bring Christianity to pagan Poland, mixes with the desire of John Paul II for Christianity to return to Poland and for his beloved country to be free from communism.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

Beatus Vir premiered in Kraków, on June 9, 1979, in the presence of John Paul II. The conductor for the concert vanished, too concerned about the future of his career if he participated. Górecki picked up the baton at the last minute and conducted. The Pope thanked the composer, the latter declaring this day the most important of his life.

In North America it is quite hard to imagine churches being under duress like it was during communism in the Eastern Bloc. Maybe that is why churches struggle to maintain numbers today: where is the battle, where are the enemies of our faith and spiritual livelihood? To quote a wise man of God, "Freedom is the ultimate test for a Christian." Communism may have been a major affront to the Church when it dominated in eastern Europe, but in our country of liberal democracy, sin and evil still grow everywhere, even in a place where people are "free."

But we are not really free unless Christ releases us.

Order Your Church Calendar!

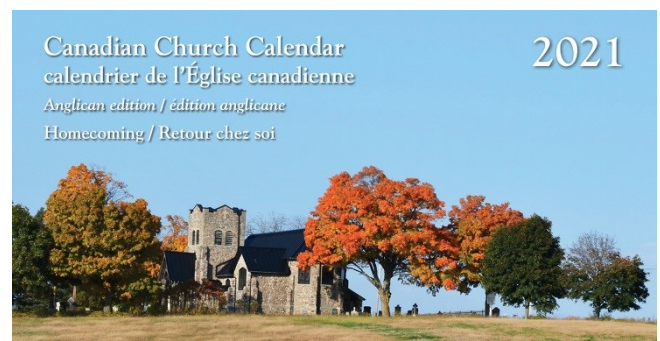
Anglican Church Calendars are once again available.

Complete with beautiful pictures and important liturgical dates, the calendar is only \$5. Cash or cheques can be dropped through the church mail slot, or pay by e-transfer.

Place your order with the office by phone or email by October 31.

416-231-4014 * office@saintmatts.ca

Calendars must be pre-ordered.



Order by October 31. Only \$5!

Recordings of Choral Evensong Services at Saint Matthew's

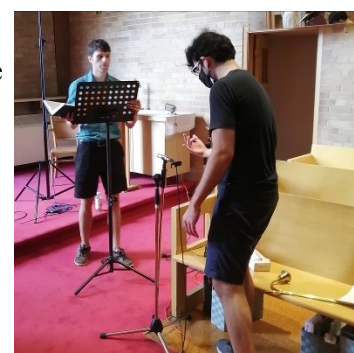
Over the last two months, Saint Matthew's has been treated to three recorded Choral Evensong Services prepared by Tyler Versluis, our organist and music director. Tyler thought this would be an important project during the time of COVID-19, since many of us tire of low-quality audio from streaming programs like Zoom, which we have been using for our worship services. The goal was to record some Evensong Services with professional audio technology, and to collaborate with both our parish's musical talent and some new faces. Choir member and lead tenor Bruce Gleeson signed on, and at the beginning of July, Tyler, a professional composer, finished work on a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to record during the session with Cynthia Smithers, a rising talent in the world of opera and musical theatre. And it turns out, our new priest, the Rev. Philip Stonhouse, sings beautifully, too! The ensemble was complete.



Recording during COVID was going to be tricky—it requires singers to be 14 feet from any other person while they are singing. After a bit of searching, Tyler connected with Grammy-nominated recording engineer Pouya Hamidi who was familiar with COVID protocols and had some great ideas to manage these parameters. Three Evensong services were planned, with each service commemorating a feast day in the August and September liturgical calendar. Working in the context of these events would help shape the music and character for each Evensong. The days chosen were Saint Mary the Virgin, Holy Cross Day, and Saint Matthew, our patron saint.



In the Anglican lectionary, the feast of Saint Mary the Virgin was originally assigned to coincide with the Roman Catholic solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—observed as the day Mary left our mortal world and was taken into heaven. In some Christian traditions this time of the year is quite solemn and is preceded by fasting.



The rather enigmatic Holy Cross Day was originally established to celebrate the discovery of the relics of the True Cross, on which Jesus was crucified, by Saint Helena in 326 AD. In later Anglican traditions this festival became a time to celebrate the cross as a symbol of victory over death, something that frequently gets ignored during Lent and Easter.

The last was the Feast of Saint Matthew the Evangelist – author of the *Gospel of Matthew* and apostle who spread the news of Jesus Christ to distant lands.

On the sweltering afternoon of July 27, Tyler, Bruce, Rev. Philip and Cynthia met in the sanctuary with Pouya to record. The goal for that afternoon was lofty—to record eight hymns, six canticles, six preludes and postludes, and additional prayers. With only two hours to record, it meant they had only one attempt at each musical item, maybe two. Miraculously this was achieved, and with minimal outside noise or distractions (they had to deal with a loud motorbike or two on Bloor St.).

The final products can be heard on Saint Matthew's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTIBsRzvoz-zJcKv5nKb7g/videos>.

Thank You, St. Matthew's



Dear St. Matthew's Congregation and Community,

We at the Church of the Holy Trinity would like to offer our gracious thanks to you. Your contribution to our COVID-19 community based relief effort is greatly, greatly appreciated. Now that our City has begun its reopening, and we are planning for what comes next, we wanted to highlight for you what your generosity has provided for our community.



This pandemic caused severe repercussions for our City's socioeconomically marginalized population. There were several outbreaks in shelters, and many organizations closed during the first wave. We remained open to serve, and your contribution enabled us to do so many things. For starters, we served 200 meals on average a day at the height of the pandemic. While these meals began as sandwiches, soups, coffee and juice, they evolved in full plates like pasta, barbecue, curries, fried rice and so much more. With your help, we were fortunate enough to start our own youth-led community kitchen, who work every weekday to provide high quality meals to those that need it.



Along with meeting physical needs, our organization was able to support emotional, mental and spiritual needs, through crisis counselling and aiding street involved community members to create their own outreach projects. Street-involved folks served meals, as well as providing first-aid, system navigation and harm reduction to their community. We were also able to distribute hundreds of tents, sleeping bags, clothes suitable for multiple seasons, a vast array of hygiene products and other survival equipment.

In collaboration with Women's College Hospital and Toronto Urban Native Ministry, we were even able to host two Covid-19 open air testings in our spaces for street-involved folks, previously unseen in the city. This led to the development of a safe and effective model for other groups to follow suit, to where we now see testing happening around the city.

Your contribution didn't end at our doors, however. We were able to provide food, PPE, supplies, and a home base to numerous outreach programs servicing multiple communities within and beyond the downtown core. Throughout this ordeal, you helped to form interfaith and intercultural bonds to other organizations including but not limited to Toronto Jummah Prayer Hall, Toronto Urban Native Ministry, St Andrew Kim's Korean Catholic Church and Knox Presbyterian Church- all in the name of service and the common good.

This was all made possible by the generosity of those around us. ***Your community stepped up when we needed you most***, literally saved the lives of many marginalized individuals who were put into even more dire straits by this ongoing pandemic. On behalf of these folks and from all of us here at Holy Trinity, thank you St. Matthew's from the bottom of our hearts.

Peace and Blessings,

Zachary Grant, Community Director, *Church of the Holy Trinity*

Soup's On

Deborah Hurn

For the past 23 weeks we have been meeting on Tuesday mornings to prepare food for a meal for those in need at Holy Trinity Anglican Church by the Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto. This program supports our homeless population and the Toronto Urban Native Ministries (TUNM) program. Through the many very generous donors of St. Matthews, we have been able to help them feed 50 – 200 people per week. The average cost per meal has been \$85. In the colder weather we were mainly providing soup, and then salads over the summer months. For the fall, we have been working with the Chef from the program (they provide lunch six days a week) to complement their menu.

We are very blessed with many volunteer choppers who have made the meals so wonderful and the task so enjoyable! At this time, the program will continue while COVID-19 is still a health risk.

Donations Requested



Holy Trinity is looking for donations! Here is a list of what they need. Items should be new or like new, please.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nail Clippers • Tissue Packs • Body Wash • Baby Wipes • Toothbrush • Deodorant • Shampoo • Conditioner • Small Hand Sanitizer • Razors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poncho • Umbrella • Cloth Masks • Socks • Tents • Tarps • Sleeping Bags • Men's Underwear • Hand/Foot Warmers • Winter gloves • Tote Bags • Backpacks • Carts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colouring Supplies • Dice • Playing Cards • Journals • Sewing Kits • Water
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Donations can be dropped off at St. Matthew's Church on any Tuesday in October between 9 and 11 at the gym kitchen. We will be making soup and will take items down each week. Contact Nancy or Deborah at 905-625-7848 if you need to make other arrangements for drop off/pick up. Many thanks for your support!

Men's "Breakfast" Fellowship in the Time of COVID-19

On October 3, some men met with Colin Hall online at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom. Others met in-person at Montreal Deli at 9:00 a.m. Both groups had lively chats. Online and in-person options will continue Saturdays, November 7 and December 5, 2020 and January 9, 2021.

Colin Hall can send email invitations to you the day before. Please encourage other men who may never have been able to join at a restaurant to send their email address to Colin.

The pattern is to meet the first Saturday morning of the month. If the Saturday is part of a holiday weekend where the holiday is on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday then we meet for breakfast on the following weekend. For more information, contact Colin Hall: colinhall1999@gmail.com or 647-401-6514.

Brownie Butterfly Garden

Joanna Jackowski, 170th Toronto Brownies

The Brownie Butterfly Garden project began in September, 2018. Our tradition had been to plant bulbs each Fall as a thank you to the church for allowing us the use of the space. That particular year we decided to plant a whole garden—a Butterfly garden. The Etobicoke Horticultural Society donated funds to help start up our garden and we also received several plants through donations. (Actually, one of St. Matthew's parishioners contributed a number of plants from his own native garden!! I only found out when I went to pick up the plants and we got to talking about the Brownie project. Small world!).

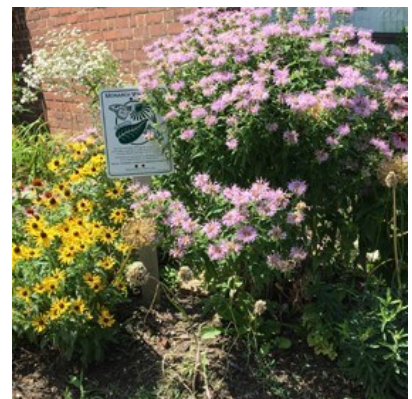


The girls learned all about native plants and how beneficial they are to the survival of local creatures. They learned about the Monarch Butterfly in particular, and how it was at risk and what we could do to help increase its population. Along with this, our Brownies earned a number of badges (Grow your Garden, Saving our Plants and Animals, Taking Part). The garden is even registered with MonarchWatch.org as a Waystation (<https://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>) We are the "Brownie Garden" in Toronto, in the hopes of creating a Butterfly corridor for when they migrate and nest.



Each year we try to add a few more plants and bulbs so that we can make it a garden that will bloom throughout the Spring into the Fall. We plan to be out there with our newest Brownies on Wednesday Oct 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for some planting. You are welcome to stop by—at a distance, of course!

As for our unit, we had our first "official" meeting September 23 at Smithwood Park, just behind the church. We plan to meet outdoors until the end of October with visits to various parks and trails and then move online with Zoom sessions. We are trying to arrange a number of guests to join us virtually. We are also waiting to see if we will be able to move indoors and back into the church but it will all depend on if/when the allowed numbers for indoor gatherings increase. Overall, we are still figuring things out, just like everyone else. It is definitely different but we are hoping the girls can still have fun and make friends.



Positive Outcomes During the Pandemic

We've created new programs.

- St. Matthew's Choral Evensongs: Three recordings are available on St. Matthew's YouTube Channel
- Noon renewal services, Children's Bedtime Stories on YouTube, and Youth activities

Out of the Cold

William (Ted) Hampton

In light of the current COVID-19 Pandemic we will not have the opportunity to host our guests at the church as we have in previous years. The City of Toronto has strongly recommended that we do not open for overnight or sit-down meal service due to difficulties in maintaining rigorous public health standards. Additionally, all funding to the *Out of The Cold* program at all locations has been cut and redirected to city shelters that are staffed by unionized employees and can conform to safety standards. We pray that this shall pass. In the meantime, we are aiming to restructure and do what we can to serve our guests.

We will be partnering with pre-existing programs or new shelters that are being developed to provide the comforts our guests enjoyed at St. Matthew's. We aim to bolster these programs—some overnight and some drop-in—with supplies, food, and volunteers. We have already received requests from several programs for assistance. Please continue your generous donations of the items listed below and we will make sure that they get into the hands of those who need them during these unprecedented times.

Donations of items and financial contributions are always welcome. Below is our current Wish List:

Clothing (Men's Only)

Men's winter and ski jackets*
 Men's hoodies or warm sweaters*
 Men's sweat suits
 Men's jeans*
 Men's casual trousers
 Men's t-shirts
 Men's winter boots*
 Men's running shoes*
 Men's casual footwear
 Insulated toques and gloves
 New socks
 New underwear (briefs, boxers, thermal)

Toiletries & Other

Travel size shaving cream* and razors
 Travel size deodorants
 Travel size toothpaste
 Travel size toothbrushes
 Large backpacks*

** These items are particularly needed by our Guests*

Would you like to volunteer for the OOTC program or partner through donation? If so, or if you have any other questions, please contact Ted at (647-227-4825).

We would like to thank St. Matthew's for the continued use of the facilities for collecting, packing, and shipping the needed items, without which the ministry would not be possible.

Stay well and be safe.



Positive Outcomes During the Pandemic

- We're enjoying new ways to connect with people near and far. Video chats with groups of friends or family members have kept many people connected, happy and healthy.
- Important issues are being addressed in new ways. Some *Out of the Cold* program guests are no longer homeless. Instead, many are housed in otherwise empty hotels and provided with City services nearby.

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Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. Due to current pandemic restrictions, we cannot offer visits. Please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

Partners in Prayer: Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to Bob Holloway at 416-253-4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca. If necessary, the request can be transmitted through the church office.

Cycle of Prayer: "Beloved, pray for us." This is Paul's way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we will be praying for individuals and families of St. Matthew's in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names will be mentioned in our prayers and we will have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our "Cycle of Prayer" please let the office know and we will be sure to keep your name off the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew's. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

Join Us

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
12:00 Noon Renewal on YouTube

Messy Church
Last Saturday of the month
Next Messy Church is Oct. 24

GIFT Groups



Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30 - 3:30

The office is operating remotely.
Telephone and email messages will
be checked and returned during
office hours.

The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Priest-in-charge
416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Gail Marshall, Deacon
The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant
The Rev. Milton Dorman, Honorary Assistant
Jeff Bonner, Family Ministry Associate
Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist
Tom Travaglini, Sexton/Verger
Lisa Tait, Parish Administrator



Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Quiet
9:30 a.m. Casual*
11:00 a.m. Classic*
12:10 p.m. Online Coffee Hour

* In-person and online

3962 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 1M3

Email: office@saintmatts.ca ♦ Tel: 416-231-4014 ♦ Website: www.saintmatts.ca



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