

PENTECOST 2021

Matt's Media



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

Published May 23, 2021

In this issue:	New Deputy Warden	p. 4	Next issue:	Thanksgiving: October 10, 2021
	Christmas Market	p. 5		Submissions due: Sept. 15, 2021
	What's Happening	p. 6	Editor:	Kathie Oakden
	Soup's On	p. 10		kathie.oakden@gmail.com
	Invisible St. Matthew's	p. 18	Layout:	Lisa Tait

From the Pastor

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

Hello to my St. Matt's Family,

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'" Lamentations 3:22-24

As the second Easter of COVID-19 has come and gone, I have little doubt that people were praying for a restored life, a new life, because...well, we need it. The resurrection of Christ was an utterly new hope which defeated death and suffering – the worst enemies we have ever known. Yet, so often we can feel defeated by bad news: by the suffering, by the conflict and by the hurt that weighs on the world. Why? Why can all of this pull us down, when we know about a greater hope?

This is an important question we should all ask ourselves. I think there are many reasons, but for myself, my narrative is still too wrapped up with the way of the world. I hear bad news and I empathize; I take it as news about myself and the world. But God's news is wholly different. It is good news. It tells us that these are fleeting days which will be redeemed into an even greater life than the one we know now. Just like the suffering of Job, our life can be awful and a struggle, but God's graciousness and love are greater than our suffering. There are studies that tell us that bad news is bad for us, so let's keep reaching for the Good News of Jesus.

Another reason is that I still struggle with making my relationship with God my primary relationship, and I still struggle with taking time for Him above everything else. Nothing outside of our own hearts can isolate us from God. Today, even when we are alone, there is so much to do, there are so many distractions, and it is all too easy to just fall into another book or TV show or whatever else. Yet God is offering us unending intimacy, closeness and love – a love that far exceeds the hurt. We all know we need love, belonging, closeness, so why don't we rest in God?

I think another reason is that we can easily lose joy in the little things. A funny study says that we all have a coping mechanism by which we become less excited with familiar things, which we might have loved, so that we might see new things. Similarly, forgetting can be purposeful for

... continued

From the Pastor *(continued)*

future remembering. Yet I believe when we first encounter something, the reason we find such joy there is because we can see such possibility, hope, joy and life in it. In short, I believe we find excitement in new things because we get glimmers of a life with God. The problem is that as time goes on we don't live into that relationship, we don't allow God's hope to live through it, we don't look for His blessing through these things and so those things become far less interesting. We don't really need anything new, we just need God in the things we have.

As we experience further lockdown as a church, we are not giving up, we are still working, rejoicing, learning, growing and reaching out with the love of Christ. Nothing will stop this work. A big thank you to everyone who has taken part in the Soup's On ministry that brought warm meals weekly to people in need. Thank you to all those who have been helping one another get vaccines and continuing to have phone conversations with all those in need. Thank you to all those taking part in anti-racism conversations, learning groups, Messy Church and so much more. This is a living community of Christ, even if we are distanced, and I am very thankful. Stay tuned for more learning and fellowship events. They are in the works.

I pray that you might know God's presence and experience all the good gifts that come from Him alone.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Philip Stonhouse

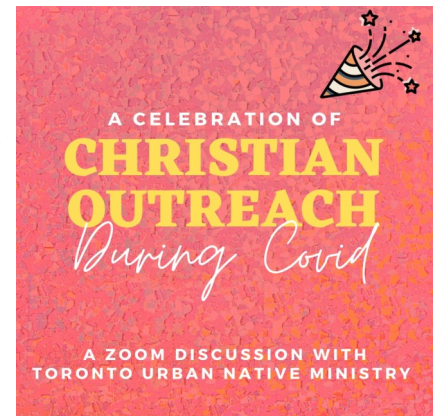
Celebrating Christian Outreach During COVID: A Discussion with Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM)

Please join us on Wednesday, May 26 by Zoom at 7:30 p.m. for an informative discussion and celebration of the ministries by TUNM and St. Matthew's. Our guest speakers will be The Rev. Leigh Kern, Right Relations Coordinator and Zachary Grant, Community Director of Holy Trinity.

St. Matthew's has been an active partner with TUNM since 2015. TUNM was established as an ecumenical ministry in 1996 to serve indigenous people in the GTA through the assistance of the United Church of Canada and The Toronto Anglican Diocese. Assistance and programs are provided to both indigenous and non-indigenous individuals with a focus on reconciliation.

Our evening will identify the outreach ministries offered by TUNM, celebrate the work of our "Soup's On" ministry as organized by Nancy Hurn and Deborah Hurn and also learn about future outreach initiatives in which St. Matthew's might participate. Rev. Philip will moderate the discussion and there will be time for questions within our hour-long event.

The Zoom link will be sent out via email to the parish on May 26. You need not register ahead but we welcome your participation that evening.



Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Stuart Watt, Marguerite Locke, and Lianne Thompson

Welcome Springtime! How good it is to see and experience the wonder of new growth that even a pandemic cannot stop. As the lockdown continues, we hope you are still able to enjoy this amazing time of year.

As in years gone by, Lent and Easter time became a wonderful spiritual journey at St. Matthew's, from Lenten studies and Holy Week services, to the Easter early morning Sunrise Service, Children's Easter Pageant and Easter Sunday service. We are so grateful for Rev. Philip's leadership, along with Rev. Merv, Tyler, Jeff, Dawn and Christine. Thank You.

The Warden Team extends sincere thanks to Shantelle Hampton who served as Deputy People's Warden for the past three years. Thank you for your contributions, Shantelle. We welcome Marguerite Locke to that role.

Due to the continuing lockdown, none of our tenants have been able to meet other than Kingsley School, which is providing online schooling except for the preschool children who are able to attend in person as per the provincial guidelines.

A major repair was required to our heating system due to a leaking pipe. Many thanks to Tom for managing that project. The roof repair over the organ loft has also been completed.

A complete review of the Musson Gardens has been completed with our groundskeeping company. Work this spring will include significant pruning of shrubs as well as the planting of annuals. We anticipate that the Kingsley School play space will be completed by late spring.

We are looking forward to our inaugural St. Matthew's Christmas Market to be held on November 6, 2021 (see page 5). We hope you will enjoy participating to help make it a huge success. We hope everyone will Zoom into our Outreach Celebration on May 26 (see page 2).

Financial Update April 30, 2021 Operating Fund

	April 30 2021	April 30, 2020	Budget 2021
Total Revenue	89,528	85,923	99,242
Total Expense	102,113	111,706	100,935
Net Income	(12,585)	(25,783)	(1,694)

We wish you all continued good health and blessings. Do have a safe and relaxing summer.

Your Warden Team



**SERMON
SERIES**

Who is the Holy Spirit?
May 23 - July 11

The Imminent Kingdom
(The Gospel of Mark)
July 18-21

Introducing our new Deputy Warden, Marguerite Locke

In the organizational structure of the Anglican Church, the Clergy and Wardens are the “leaders” of the Parish. Cast in supporting roles are deputy wardens who try to assist the lead wardens and Priest in the best way they can to serve the needs of the parish. I have the honour of serving as Deputy People’s Warden for St. Matthew’s in 2021 and hope that I can contribute in a meaningful way to the life and needs of our church.



By way of a little background, I was born in Montreal and then moved to Toronto as a toddler, where my family lived in Swansea and then Etobicoke. After attending Victoria College at U of T and doing some lengthy backpacking trips through Europe, I commenced a career in the insurance industry. This work proved to be very challenging but also very satisfying during my 35-year career.

My husband Dennis and I met through mutual friends and were married at St. Olave’s Church in 1981. We are the proud parents of two adult daughters who attended St. Matthew’s as children and teens participating in all sorts of youth group and choir activities. In 1999, our family had the amazing experience of working alongside several members of the parish in Bolivia, South America, through a charity called Hands Across the Nations. This was a life changing experience for us all. We worked side-by-side on construction projects with the local communities in different sites to build a dental clinic, a public school, playground facilities, greenhouses and outdoor bathrooms for families who were living in very difficult conditions. We have returned on many work trips over the years and each of us have been blessed by the friendships, the travel, and the possibility of Sharing Jesus’ Love in such a practical way. Our older daughter, Jackie, worked for several years teaching English in Bolivia and met her husband, Israel, in Cochabamba. They were married here at St. Matthew’s in 2010 and our younger daughter Diana and her husband, Joe, were married at the church in 2012. We are now blessed with four busy grandsons! We enjoy spending time with the family at our cottage, golfing, skiing, and participating in the Swansea Community Band. A particularly important volunteer charity with which I have volunteered since retiring is that of Restore – Habitat for Humanity. Their mission and philosophy mesh with mine.

My involvement in our Parish has included two previous terms as Warden – for Rev. Patricia Blythe and Rev. Stephen Drakeford – teaching with Club Matt, Advisory Board, Synod Representative, Outreach, Intercessor, Sidesperson, Refugee Sponsorship team and unofficial fundraiser! As soon as health officials permit, I look forward to resuming in-person services and the opportunity to serve the community with the various ministries that St. Matthew’s embodies.

Ridwan Ali has applied for Canadian Citizenship

Marguerite Locke

M25:40 Refugee Sponsorship Team Update:

Ridwan Ali, the young man from Ethiopia whom St. Matthew’s sponsored beginning in February 2017, has applied for his Canadian Citizenship. He will study for it and prepare online for the test which is quite demanding. Once that is completed, and he is advised of a date, I will let the parish know when his Citizenship ceremony will take place as some folks may wish to attend online or in person (hopefully).



This photo was taken in 2018 at his graduation as a Physiotherapy Assistant.


Christmas Market

YOU ARE INVITED to PARTICIPATE in
the inaugural
St. Matt's ONLINE CHRISTMAS MARKET
Saturday, November 6, 2021

Showcasing the talents and creativity of Parishioners

- All proceeds will be shared between our Outreach Ministry and St. Matthew's Operations.
- How do you get involved? Consider your contribution from ideas below or other suggestions, spread the news to your neighbours and friends, and please watch for more information in the church emails/website in weeks to come.
- Items to be donated will be detailed with a photo on the Market website in late September and updated regularly. Prices will be set between the donor and the organizers. Details regarding online bidding will be provided later and if COVID restrictions are lifted, in-person shopping may also be possible.
- To contact the committee with your contribution or with questions, please email saintmattsmarket@outlook.com and/or call Marguerite Locke via the church office, 416-231-4014.

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER!



ST. MATT'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

**NOV. 6, 2021 • ONLINE
AND IN PERSON (IF POSSIBLE)**

CONSIDER CREATIVE WAYS YOU MIGHT DONATE - SPORTS/THEATRE TICKETS, KNIT/CROCHET CRAFTS, HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE, ETC. EMAIL MARGUERITE AT SAINTMATTSMARKET@OUTLOOK.COM TO PARTICIPATE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (416) 231-4014

HANDMADE baked goods
SILENT AUCTION
experiences
GIFT BASKETS
and more!

SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE:

Craft items, Knitted goods, Quilting,
Artwork, Photographs, Woodworking,
Jams, Jellies, Preserves,
Gift baskets, Gift certificates,
Baking items:

Fresh cookies/cakes /pastries to be delivered at specific time(s) to the purchaser's home (e.g., You might donate 2 dozen homemade cookies delivered twice during the year.)
Delicious meal for family/friends delivered at an agreed date to the purchaser's residence.
Tickets to Sporting events, Music, Theatre, Golf Outings, Pool Parties or Picnics for 2022.
Dog Walking, Gardening, Car Wash, Child Care, Chauffeur services to appointments,
Snow shoveling, Handyperson services.

What's Happening

** All events are online unless stated otherwise.*

Every Week

Noon devotions on [St. Matthew's YouTube channel](#) every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Sunday Zoom Services at 9:30 (casual) and 11:00 (classic) followed by coffee hour at 12:10.

***NEW* Weekday Coffee Hour: Wednesdays 1-2 p.m. Online or by Phone**

During the first half hour, we will catch up with each other and pray together. The remaining half hour will be used to discuss a passage or topic. The link will be sent by email Tuesday evening. You can also join by phone with the phone number and meeting ID.

Phone number: 647-374-4685 ♦ Meeting ID: 871 7004 2880

Celebrating Christian Outreach During COVID: A Discussion with Toronto Urban Native Ministry

Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Guest speakers, Rev. Leigh Kern, Right Relations Co-ordinator and Zachary Grant, Community Director of Holy Trinity. The Zoom link will be sent out via email to the parish on May 26. (See article on page 2)

FaithWORKS | Works of faith for 25 years

Friday, May 28, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Registration required. All are invited to join An Evening of Celebration and Appreciation, featuring a Choral Evensong from All Saints' Church-Community Centre, the premiere of the FaithWORKS' 25th Anniversary video, and a message from the Right Reverend Andrew Asbil. Please click [here](#) to register.

Messy Church

Saturday, May 29, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Register with Jeff Bonner or Dawn Mercer to receive the children's craft delivery and email link.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday June 2, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The link will be sent to the parish by email.

The Trinity, A Class on Divine Loving Community

Thursday June 3, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Please join your St. Matthew's community for a one-night class addressing such questions as What is the Trinity? What does the Bible say about it? and How does it change our perspective? Rev. Philip will also reflect on art representations of the Trinity.

Men's Group

Saturday, June 5, 8:00 a.m. Register with Colin Hall to receive a link by email. Generally held on the first Saturday of the month. colinhall1999@gmail.com.

Communion Monthly

June 13, 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. Drive-through reception of bread. The second Sunday of each month Rev. Philip will be outside the office entrance by the west driveway. Next dates July 11, Aug 8.

St. Matt's Christmas Market

Saturday, November 6. What will you offer for sale? (See article and poster on page 5)

Anti-Racism Discussion and Planning

Working Group on Inclusion

Background on the anti-racism motion

As part of this year's Vestry meeting, parishes were asked by the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry, with the full support of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee, to present a Social Justice motion committing ourselves to anti-racism.

The background provided on the motion was very thoughtful and can be reviewed in its entirety on the diocesan website ([linked here for those reading online](#)). The first paragraph of the background reads as follows:

The vision of God's Kingdom is one where all races, tribes and nations are welcomed and made one in Christ Jesus (*Galatians 3:28*), where barriers are broken down and all are full citizens of the household of God (*Ephesians 2:17-21*) and where all are invited to contribute the gifts and glory of their heritage (*Revelation 21:26*). Yet, as racialized members of our communities can attest, and as has been made painfully visible in the events of this past year, our society and even our Church fall far short of this goal.

In response, St. Matthew's worked to develop our motion, subsequently approved at Vestry, which states:

The parish of St. Matthew's acknowledges that Anti-Black racism exists in our society and in our Church, and that it and all forms of racism against Black, Indigenous and other racialized people are a sin against God and against our neighbour. We commit ourselves to the recognition, dismantling, and elimination of Anti-Black and other forms of racism in our secular institutions, in our Church, and in ourselves, and to work for the full inclusion, participation and belongingness of Black, Indigenous and other racialized people in all sectors of our common life.

In light of this acknowledgment, and in keeping with this commitment, our parish undertakes to take tangible steps to understand and acknowledge our own biases in terms of race and ethnicity, whether known or unknown and then to create opportunities for and engage in education about the realities of racism in this world, country, and city (through speakers, BIPOC leaders, book studies, sharing stories, etc.). We seek to oppose any kind of racism towards our brothers and sisters, whether black, indigenous or people of colour (BIPOC). We will move to embrace fully all cultures and peoples in our habits, music, pews, and leadership. We will continue our focus on indigenous outreach, but with a view that racism is something inherent in all of us and that affects everyone. This cannot all be done at once, but our hope is to create structures and groups that will facilitate this work on an ongoing basis. We recognize moving forward that opposing racism is not the work of one day or one study, but rather the work of many lifetimes and so it is our ongoing commitment to undergo this work of partnership, embrace and Godly love.

Response from the St. Matthew's family and the work to date

The level of interest that has been demonstrated within the St. Matthew's community in discussing anti-racism and how we might move forward has been phenomenal.

... continued

Anti-Racism Discussion and Planning *(continued)*

This can be a difficult and sensitive topic but one that our community has already committed to addressing despite the discomforts that may arise. We will strive to get comfortable with having difficult conversations, practicing grace, and continuing to show mutual respect and forgiveness as we all seek to recognize, dismantle, and eliminate racism within ourselves and within our communities.

We have a team of people who have volunteered to help us define a path forward. The committee is now called the *Working Group on Inclusion*, and drawing from the parish motion, it has identified the initial key focus of work to be on anti-racism issues and the full inclusion, participation, and valuing of every human being within the community. To date, the group has met twice to start building a direction and plan, and has also gathered information and provided input to inform first steps. An initial resources list (books and online resources related to racism and anti-racism) has been started so that any in the parish family who wish can immediately proceed to familiarize themselves with this issue. The list will be expanded as the work continues, and all are welcome to provide suggestions!

Next steps!

Everyone in the parish is invited and welcome to join in the work going forward. Regular updates will now be posted and upcoming plans, events and programs will be shared as confirmed (in the weekly email as pertinent, and longer updates in each issue of Matt's Media). There are some initial plans in development for June/early summer – stay tuned for more information!

Any immediate questions, comments or input can be directed to Reverend Philip.

[Click Here for List of Resources](#). If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office.

Kathleen MacInnes

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of Kathleen MacInnes. She was a long-time, active member who sang in the choir (tenor), read the Lesson occasionally in Church, helped with the Bake Table at bazaars, was a member of St. Anne's Women's Group and enjoyed the Book Club where she arranged for 'Book Club Sets' from the Library to reduce everyone's expense.

Church Records

Deaths

Gwen Maxwell
March 1, 2021

Kathleen MacInnes
May 16, 2021

*Grant to them Eternal Rest, O Lord,
And let light perpetual shine on them!
May they Rest in Peace & Rise in Glory.*

Messy Church

Jeff Bonner & Dawn Mercer

Messy Church continues on Zoom. Since school for most kids is on Zoom, we are challenged to create a special time together (and not just another school lesson) in which the children learn more about God and themselves in a fun and active way. During all the lockdowns we want our children to know that they are special to God and that their friend Jesus is with them and loves them “more than they can imagine.”



In February, Messy Church looked at ‘Power and Energy’ as our theme. Beginning with a little bit of joyful surprise, the kids discovered the power in ‘Pop Rocks’ style candy. The activities explored different kinds of power and what it shows about the activity of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives. Building a butterfly with tissue paper wings, we saw the effects of static electricity on a balloon making the wings flap. There was lots of excitement in racing a balloon-powered toy car and seeing what makes it go further. The kids also enjoyed a game of “Bring Ye Forth,” finding various items around the house related to power and energy. For our food segment, we cooked some simple cheese and crackers in the oven and talked about food as power for our bodies. God’s power in the world and in our lives was apparent to everyone.

With March’s session of Messy Church falling just before Holy Week, we focused on ‘Easter and Transformation’ as our theme. Activities included building a model of the life cycle of a butterfly and relating it to the Biblical themes of transformation and resurrection, building a miniature wood plaque with ‘JESUS’ on it using letters found in plastic Easter eggs around the house in a quick scavenger hunt, and planting beans in small pots of soil. The food portion got extra messy when we made Irish Soda Bread and the kids had great fun kneading the dough with their hands and seeing how much bigger it was after baking. Making soda bread has been an activity that continues in some families. God’s activity in our lives to help us get through the hard days of COVID was clear for the children to relate to.

Finally, April’s theme focused on Jesus as the ‘Light of the World’, with activities and lessons focused on light. The children enjoyed receiving small glow-in-the-dark stars and putting sticky tape on them to place somewhere they can see them and remind them that God’s light gives power to our lives to share with others. Everyone had fun drawing their own ‘stained glass window’ on clear plastic. These colourful and creative designs helped illustrate the beauty of God’s light shining through us. Another fun craft was building a cardboard Light Box with holes punched in its side to create ‘stars’ that shine when a flashlight is shone into the box. Finally, trying something new, we broke into two groups using a breakout room in Zoom to allow for activities based on age. The younger children explored identifying items in a bag without being able to see them. Meanwhile the older children were challenged by using Morse Code to send and receive words, relating this communication to Jesus as the light of the world and as God’s message of love to us.

Every session ends with a time of worship led by Reverend Philip, with singing and pulling together the lessons of the day’s theme. We continue to be grateful to Bruce Millerd, Liam’s dad, for providing musical accompaniment on guitar, as well as all the volunteers who help with planning and leading activities and delivering materials packages to participants.

Stay tuned for our final Messy Church of the season to be held on May 29. Sign up for the link and Zoom in!

Thank you for *Soup's On*

Since April 28, 2020, Deborah and Nancy Hurn and a team of Choppers have prepared a weekly lunch for 100 people or more and delivered it downtown to Holy Trinity Church. St. Matthew's is forever grateful to all for the continued dedication to this project for some 56 weeks, no matter what the weather and despite COVID-19.

We salute Deborah and Nancy Hurn for their leadership, and thank the team of Choppers: Dorothy Knights, Stuart Watt, Dorothy Sharp, Pat Currie, Shaun Knowles, Cameron Knowles, Dawn Mercer, Kathie Oakden, Dave Oakden, Lianne Thompson, Bryanna Thompson, Cassidy Thompson, Barb Landry, Jen Boughton, Marguerite Locke, Cathy Cross, Ann Sim, and Sandra Wilson. Many thanks to the Parish for the financial gifts. Due to the generosity of the Parish, the project was totally funded. Thank you all.

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers".

Thessalonians 1:2



Soup's On Update

Nancy Hurn and Deborah Hurn

When we were approached last year by Toronto Urban Native Ministries (TUNM) about making a pot of soup, it seemed like a reasonable request. On further investigation, they needed soup for 200 people. Now that needed an excessively big pot! There was a need that week, and an ongoing need while COVID was impacting the community. We felt a calling to support those in need of food just as Jesus has taught us, "Whatever you do for your brothers and sisters, you do for me."

To no one's surprise, St. Matthew's Parish family and friends stepped up in more ways than we could ask or imagine. For the next year, every Tuesday, a meal was made in the gym kitchen. The numbers have varied between 100 – 200 meals provided per week. The menus were planned, the volunteers assigned, and the shopping was done! The Parishioners not only supported the program with their time but also the financial requirements. On average, it was \$100 per week to provide the meal. We started out filling the need by making soup, then moved to casseroles, and now more side dishes to complement their menu.

After discussion with several people, grants available for summer student opportunities at Holy Trinity, and prayerful consideration, we will stop the weekly meals as of the Victoria Day weekend. Our support of their Ministry will continue in other ways, just not a weekly meal. We will keep the Parish informed of the ongoing opportunities as they become available. Financial needs will always (unfortunately) be high on their requirements. Donations may be made directly to the program at [Toronto kitchen provides fresh meals for homeless in the city – Holy Trinity](https://torontokitchen.ca), tunm.ca, or through St. Matthew's indicating the direction of funds to Outreach. All will issue tax receipts for financial donations.

We would like to thank everyone who gave of their time, their talents, and their treasures! It was a great way to experience the ongoing fellowship of St. Matts. Even though COVID kept us apart in so many ways, it gave many people a chance to get to know others as we worked to slice, dice, chop, sauté, and stir! We don't want to stop these new-found opportunities so keep an eye open for new endeavours to support those in need while maintaining COVID safety measures.

Soup's On Recipe: Chicken Salsa

Ingredients:

1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast, cubed	2 cups chicken broth
1 tbsp olive oil	1 tsp pepper
1 ½ cups sliced fresh mushrooms	1 cup uncooked brown rice
1 cup salsa	¾ cup cheddar cheese, shredded

Instructions:

Cube chicken, then brown in oil over medium heat until golden. Stir in mushrooms, salsa, pepper, rice (uncooked) and chicken broth. Cover tightly, and simmer on low to medium low heat for about an hour. Check after 30 minutes,; stir and add more broth as needed. Once rice is cooked and liquid absorbed, top with shredded cheddar. Remove from heat and let stand until cheese is melted. Top each serving with a dollop of sour cream if desired.

Notes: You can skip the mushrooms. You can also add chopped onions, peppers, etc. – whatever suits your taste.

Serves 4

Thank you for the Mother's Day Nosegays



Special thanks to Sandra Wilson and Karen Lee for creating little nosegays to pass out to the ladies of the parish for Mother's Day.



Lenten Aphorism

Tyler Versluis

For the first time this Lent I took fasting seriously by abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays, while also cutting my meals by half. Instead of three full meals, I would eat one full meal in the evening, and then a very light lunch before that. Although this is a fairly entry-level Lenten fast, it was certainly challenging enough as I passed food shops on Bloor Street and watched my kids dig into their breakfasts each morning. It was a sober reminder of the weakness of the body, and how often these urges derail us in our practices of faith.

To quote a friend, "If you want to know that the devil is real, simply fast for Lent and realize how often you'll daydream about cheeseburgers."

Holy Week

Holy Week offerings at St. Matthew's were rich and diverse. If you missed or would like to revisit any of these resources or events, links are included below. Pictures and stories our Easter celebrations are in the pages that follow.

Club Matt: A Holy Week Devotional for Families was developed and placed online for use during Holy Week. Please [click here](#) to view the resource. For those who don't have internet access but would like a copy, please contact the office at 416-231-4014.



Good Friday: Meditations on the Way of the Cross, by Jeff Bonner

Using sketches by The Rev'd Stephen Drakeford, with permission. These sketches hang in the upper hallway at St. Matthew's Church. YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/g5xSwljiUxE>

Music: Lenten Recital

On April 3 at 7:30 p.m., Music Director and organist Tyler Versluis presented a Lenten Recital of Organ Music, Prayer and Reflection. *Via Crucis*, composed by Br. Jean Marie Plum, O.S.M., is available for viewing on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTLQRwiYuW0>

Music: Forty Days of Lent and Music

Through five blog posts, Tyler Versluis shared curated lists of Lententide music, "ranging from the traditional and devotional to the provocative and idiosyncratic." The music can be found on the [St. Matthew's website](#).

The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!!

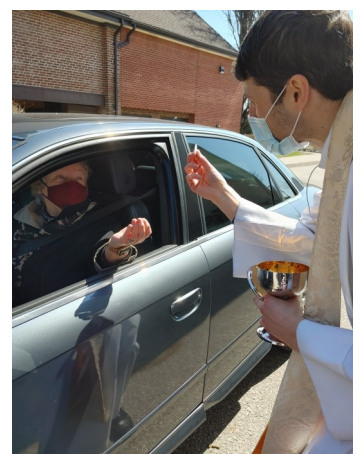
Ann-Marie May

What an unprecedented Easter Sunrise worship service on the shores of Lake Ontario at Marie Curtis Park! Rev. Philip welcomed more than a dozen St. Matthew's parishioners and "seekers on their beach blankets" to participate in a glorious Easter Morning Communion service. It was just awesome!

This was another "silver lining" in a year that has challenged church communities in so many ways. Our sweet Holy Spirit was present and with us during it all when you look closely at these lovely images of our early morning praise and prayers.



Finding a Way: Drive-through Communion



Club Matt: Holy Week and Easter for St. Matt's Kids

Dawn Mercer

Easter has been a very special time for St. Matthew's kids for several years. It was a particular challenge to make the events of Holy Week and Easter special within the pandemic restrictions. Home deliveries of materials for the March Messy Church included palm branches and palm crosses as well as materials to assemble a "Hobby Donkey" for Palm Sunday, the following day. We were very thankful to many in our adult community for making all of that happen.

On Palm Sunday at the 9:30 service, kids were able to wave their Palm crosses and branches as we remembered Jesus entering Jerusalem as a king. Had it not been a very rainy day, families would have had a Palm parade outside their home which we usually do at St. Matthew's. In spite of the rain, spirits were not dampened and children celebrated together on Zoom.

In planning for Easter Sunday we remembered the enthusiasm of the children for the Christmas Pageant on Zoom. The Easter 9:30 service had a dramatization of many scenes from Holy Week and Easter beginning with Jesus being celebrated as he entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

The Hampton family showed how people placed branches along the road to honour Jesus. They shouted Hosannah and everyone joined in.

Later in Holy Week, as events unfolded, Jesus washed his friends' feet at the Last Supper as shown by Liam at the Mercer Millerd's.

He reminded us that we are to "wash one another's feet" to follow Jesus' instructions to his followers.

The scene of the Last Supper moved to the Martins' to show Jesus' final meal with his followers where they broke bread and shared the cup.

All of the Club Matt household joined with them.



HOLY WEEK PAGEANT

Club Matt: Holy Week and Easter for St. Matt's Kids *(continued)*

At the end of supper together the children “marched” out to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed, “Not my will but yours be done.” In the end guards came and took Jesus away to his trial.

The trial and crucifixion was displayed in graphics explained by the Wukaschs.

A black screen and a time of quiet marked Jesus’ death.

Easter morning was portrayed by several families:

The Ndahibeshes showed Jesus’ followers at the empty tomb with the angel telling them that Jesus was “not here. He is risen.”

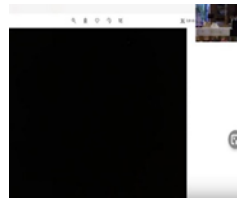
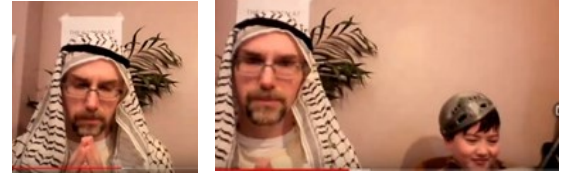
At the Green’s, the race to the tomb was shown with Adon saying, “No one is here!” and being very puzzled.

We also saw Jesus (Amanda) tell Mary (Grace) not to hang onto him too tightly.

And together we all sang Alleluia to celebrate Jesus alive and with us on Easter Day.

Several of St. Matthew’s youth maintained the story line as narrators. Many thanks for that important role.

The last part of Club Matt’s Easter celebration was the opportunity for families to come to the parking lot to visit the empty tomb (10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) and get their mementos and Easter eggs. Several families came by and checked it out and found the tomb empty. Some families combined that with the drive-through Eucharist after the 11:00 service.



The Club Matt Easter Story is available as a private YouTube video. Please contact the church office if you would like the link.

A Prayer for Our World

On May 3, Christine Ivy, our Youth and Discipleship Associate Pastor, lead an evening of prayers for our troubled world. Below is an excerpt.

Jesus Christ, this has been a long pandemic and like the deer pants for the stream our souls thirst for you. Be for us cool, refreshing, life-giving water, the spring bubbling up in the desert, a never-ending source of life. Help us to know you in ever-deepening ways and draw near to you as you draw near to us. As we cry out, please hear us, and answer our prayers, and make your holy spirit dwell richly in our midst and with those who are suffering around the world.

[Click here to open a link](#) to the full prayer, along with other prayers of the evening.

A Note of Thanks from Bishop Jenny



April 12, 2021

Dear York-Credit Valley,

Happy Easter! You have all frequently been in my prayers during Lent and Holy Week, as we have marked our second Easter in some form of lockdown – how long O Lord, how long???

I wanted to write and say thank you very much for the wonderful send-off that you gave me as I finished my time serving as your Area Bishop. The Zoom celebration was a true gift and a memory that I will always treasure. The beautiful calligraphy of “God is Faithful” in 17 languages has pride of place in my office at St. Paul’s and has already garnered some admiring remarks – it’s wonderful. Arleane recently informed me of the very generous donation that has been made on your behalf to purchase Bibles for young people in the Diocese of Biharamulo in Tanzania. This is a personal delight for me and when I receive some photos of the Bibles being distributed from Bishop Vithalis Yusuph, I will pass those along to Arleane. I have also recently received the exceedingly generous donation that you have given to me personally – thank you very much.

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers”.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Peace,

+Jenny Andison
Rector

Editor’s Note: Bishop Jenny Andison stepped away from serving as our Area Bishop, to become Rector at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Bloor Street. Her farewell party in February was held on Zoom. “God is faithful” is her favourite scripture. Anglican worship is celebrated in 17 languages in York-Credit Valley Area, hence the significance of her parting gift. Arleane Ralph was her assistant.

Adult Learning Opportunities/ Discipleship

Dawn Mercer

Several different types of learning and discipleship events were offered during the winter months:

How to Read the Bible Course

Based on the non-denominational “Bible Project,” the course was an overview of the Bible with an introduction to the various types of literature and the main themes seen throughout. It provided a framework on which to locate the wide-ranging scripture readings in the Anglican lectionary that we encounter through the church year. The first two “classes” were instructional videos from the Bible Project Collection and the third used a Bible Project video from which we applied learnings from previous weeks.

You can explore the Bible Project on your own at bibleproject.com. Let us know if you find topics you would like to discuss further.

Small Group Studies and GIFT Groups

A. Lord’s Prayer

Following from the sermon series on the Lord’s Prayer, a series of small group/GIFT studies was offered for four weeks in March – Mondays, and Tuesdays – beginning March 1 to the week of March 22.

The series began with a focus on God as our loving heavenly father and included the challenge of thinking about how far beyond our human love that God loves and cares for us. Discussions included the implications of when we say “your kingdom come”; “as we forgive others”; and that the “power and the glory” are God’s. None of us will ever say the Lord’s Prayer the same way as before!

One of the goals of the study series was to expand our ideas of types of prayer. Some resources for exploring different approaches to prayer were assembled and are available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

B. Tuesday GIFT group

The Tuesday GIFT group is ongoing between special study sessions (such as the Lord’s Prayer study). During COVID it has been a special time of contact and sustained support for all participants. People join and stay involved for whatever time period suits their needs. We have shared requests and have seen God’s amazing activity in meeting those needs over the past months as we reflected on the Sunday texts.

C. Special Study Group: Alpha Marriage Course

On Thursday evenings from February 11 to March 25, several couples participated in the Alpha Marriage Course led by Rev. Philip (with Mary Anne). Each session was a ‘date night,’ complete with snack and beverage in a comfortable, candle-lit spot. After a group chat of preliminary self-introduction and conversation sparked by an icebreaker, e.g., ‘Where would you like to travel when COVID is past?’ each couple’s audio was muted, and conversation was private with one’s partner. Following the familiar Alpha format, video segments alternated with private discussion exercises. Each week’s program suggested a mid-week ‘homework’ focus. *“I found the program quite enjoyable and informative. I now appreciate the value of ‘restating what was said’ and ‘expressing what I feel’ in decision-making.”* (Kathie Oakden)

Thank You, Invisible St. Matthew's in the age of COVID:

Colin Hall, Mary Anne Perta, Kristen Calibaba for keeping St. Matthew's Worship and Community Spirit afloat this year.

Rev. Philip Stonhouse for catching St. Matthew's Parish in mid-air, mid-year and leading our invisible parade with compassion, devotion and enthusiasm. For Sunday Services and Sermons, Alpha Marriage Course, weekday devotions. For live efforts when and where allowed: Fall in church, drive-through Communion, Easter Sunrise Communion on the beach.

Tyler Versluis, Bruce Gleeson for Music – learning, adapting, recording, singing, concerts.

Dawn Mercer, Jeff Bonner and Christine Ivy for Club Matt, Messy Church, Youth activities, weekday devotions, website, Adult Learning.

Dawn Mercer, Deborah Hurn and Nancy Hurn, Bruce and Mary Gleeson, Vanessa Shao and Iain Shao, and Karen Lee for Deliveries.

Lisa Tait for running the Church Office from her dining room table, with occasional visits to the printer.

Tom Travaglini for maintaining and sanitizing the Church property.

Deborah and Nancy Hurn for Soup's On: shopping, cooking, delivery downtown, building community spirit with chopper volunteers.

Deborah Hurn and the Welcoming Committee: communicating with parishioners living alone.

Mary and Bruce Gleeson for Altar linens, Chancel duties, filling candles.

Sandra Wilson for Flowers extraordinaire.

Bob Holloway: Partners-in-Prayer Communicator – the shoulder to share our sorrow.

Parishioners: staying in touch by phone and Zoom, joining in activities, gifts of time/talent/treasure.

Anita Wakeman, Noel Martin, Mary Gleeson and Dave Oakden for monetary responsibilities of bookkeeping, accounting, recording and Diocesan and Government filings.

Wardens Karen Lee, Stuart Watt, Shantelle Hampton (now retired), Lianne Thompson, and Marguerite Locke: minding our buildings, staff and finances, government regulations and grants, tenants and parishioners.

Parish Meetings

Parish Council Meeting

The last Parish Council Meeting was held February 24. The Minutes of this meeting are available from the office or by clicking [HERE](#). Discussion items included the Bishop's anti-racism motion as well as plans for the implementation of St. Matthew's Strategic Plan during 2021.

Vestry Meeting

Our annual Vestry Meeting was held on Sunday, February 28, 2021. The Minutes of this meeting are available from the office or by clicking [HERE](#). These Minutes are will be approved at the next Vestry, in 2022.

Advertisements

Vanilla anyone?
Spice up your morning coffee or your favorite dessert.



Vanilla & Spice
AUTHENTIC FROM MADAGASCAR



Shop at
www.vanillaandspice.ca
or Call Aina: 416-846-9112

B HARRISON
SERVICES

Installations - Repairs - Winterization - Exterior Lighting

Jon Harrison

Office 905 625 7315

Mobile 416 951 7315

Email jon@bharrisonservices.com

Mail

1600 Bough Beeches Blvd

Mississauga, ON L4W4G6

Website

www.bharrisonservices.com

KIM KEHOE
EFFECTIVE RESULTS, LASTING RELATIONSHIPS.



Kim Kehoe - Sales Representative
Cell: 416-788-1823 | Office: 416-530-1100
Email: kim@kimkehoe.com | Website: www.kimkehoe.com

BOSLEY BOSLEY REAL ESTATE LTD., BROKERAGE
1108 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M6J 1H9
REAL ESTATE Office: 416-530-1100 | Fax: 416-530-1200

IA INVESTIA
FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.
MUTUAL FUND DEALER

investia.ca

Scott Millar, CFP
Mutual Fund Representative

2244 Springfield Crt.
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1V4

Office: 905-855-7425

Fax: 1-866-363-8624

keyscoth@sympatico.ca

Member of Industrial Alliance group

Know you Advise you Guide you

LET IT RAIN
Roofing and Home Renovations



Bruno Levesque - President
5456 Tomken Road, Unit 15, Mississauga, ON L4W 2Z5

Tel 905.795.0212 Fax 905.602.7275
Email bruno@letitrain.ca www.letitrain.ca



Kingsley School
belong discover thrive

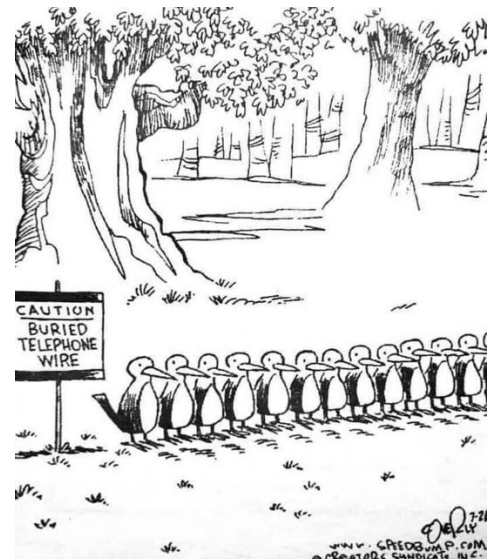


Kingsley is an independent school providing an enhanced educational experience for elementary school students. Since 1981, we have offered individualized learning, smaller class sizes, and the option of full or half-day kindergarten.

Now Enrolling!
KingsleySchool.ca
Tel: 416-233-0150



LIP Tiptoe LIP	GROUND FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET FEET	YOU JUST ME	STANDING MISS
111111 OR another another another another another another	R A R A I A I L R R O O A A D D	PAINS PAINS PAINS PAINS PAINS	SWEARING BIBLE BIBLE BIBLE BIBLE
[READING]	CAR A A RAC	Rosy	SEARCHING SEARCHING



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

Wednesday
Coffee Hour 1:00 on Zoom

Messy Church
Next Messy Church is May 29
Then resumes in September

GIFT Groups

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The office is operating remotely.

Telephone and email messages will
be checked and returned during
office hours.



Sunday Services

*All services are online only until further notice.
Please visit our website or call or email
the office for updates*

9:30 a.m. Casual
11:00 a.m. Classic

12:10 p.m. Online Coffee Hour

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
Christine Ivy, Youth & Discipleship Assoc. Pastor
Jeff Bonner, Family Ministry Associate
Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist
Tom Travaglini, Sexton/Verger
Lisa Tait, Parish Administrator



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

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



[StMatthewsAnglicanChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsAnglicanChurch)



[saintmatts_islington](https://www.instagram.com/saintmatts_islington)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeTIBsRzvoz-zJcKv5nKb7g>

Privacy Policy: St. Matthew's will not sell or distribute in any way the email address of any Parishioner.
To be removed from the distribution list, please contact the Church at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.