

2019

Vestry Report



Clergy

The Rev. Stephen Blackmore, Incumbent

The Rev. Canon Dr. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant

The Rev. Gail Marshall, Deacon

The Rev. Milton Dorman, Honorary Assistant

Churchwardens

Rector's Churchwarden

Karen Lee

People's Churchwarden

Stuart Watt

Deputy Rector's Churchwarden

Lianne Thompson

Deputy People's Churchwarden

Shantelle Hampton

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72nd Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
 2. Appointment of the Vestry Clerk
 3. Appointment of Parish Tribunal / Scrutineers
 4. Adoption of Agenda
 5. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 71st Annual Vestry Meeting
 6. The Right Reverend Andrew J. Asbil's Pastoral Letter
 7. The Right Reverend Jennifer Andison's Pastoral Letter
 8. Rector's Report
 9. The Wardens' Report
 10. Insight Team Report
 11. Taking Action on Climate Change Vestry Motion
 12. Baptisms, Weddings & Burials
 13. Financial Statements
 14. Presentation of 2020 Parish Budget
 15. Rector's Appointments
 16. Nominating Committee Report & Parish Elections
 - People's Warden
 - Deputy People's Warden
 - Lay Delegates to Synod
 - Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod
 - Facilities Chair
 - Stewardship
 - Envelope Secretary
 - Assistant Envelope Secretary
 - Nominating Committee Chair
 - Scrutineers / Parish Tribunal
 17. Reception of Reports
 18. New Business
 19. Prayers of Thanksgiving
 20. Adjournment
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Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2020



February 4, 2020

To our Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners,

Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit..." These words from the Gospel of John, chapter 15, were spoken by Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper. They are tender – words spoken in the shadow of the cross to disciples who would become the Church. John 15 was also the centerpiece text for my charge to Synod in November 2019. If you have not had a chance to watch it, I invite you to consider doing so. The imagery of the vine, the grower, and pruning for growth form the roots of the Priorities and Plans of the Diocese for the next two years, as they have done for our strategic plan Growing in Christ beginning in 2016.

Recently at a meeting I was asked by a lay member of Diocesan Council, "Bishop, what is your vision for the Diocese? In a word or two, what do you want us to do?"

And I said, "Simple...Grow!"

At its root the strategic plan calls us to "grow" in Christ. What does this mean, to grow in Christ?

It means that in all that we do, whether in our parishes, outreach ministries, diocesan ministries, chaplaincies and communities, we are summoned to flourish; in number, in maturity of faith, in our life of prayer and worship, in our leadership, in our embrace of a mission that calls us to move beyond the walls of the Church. To grow in Christ means to trust the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. To grow in Christ means that we sometimes have to let go of old structures and ways of doing things that keep us from taking the risks necessary to pursue the One we pledge to follow – Jesus.

Vestry provides one moment for every congregation to consider the challenge to grow in Christ. No matter the size of the community, no matter how large or small the budget, no matter the number of lay leaders or clergy, no matter the obstacles to balancing a budget...Are we doing all that we can to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ? What is one thing that we can do to deepen our discipleship? What is one thing that we can do to serve the needs of our neighbours? What is one thing that we can do to strengthen the bonds of affection that we have for each other?

Each year at vestry we ask you to consider supporting a social justice initiative through a particular motion. In the past we have asked vestries to consider addressing issues of poverty, raising the minimum wage and affordable housing. In 2020, we are asking you consider being good stewards of creation as we grapple with the growing climate emergency. We invite you to consider setting a goal to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

Sometimes we can focus only on what we don't have at our annual vestry meetings, not enough money, not enough time, not enough people, not enough... Sometimes we can spend too much time only thinking about how on earth we are going to balance the budget. That's not to say that balancing the budget isn't important...it is. Rather, consider the words of Jesus in John 15. In the face of a future that doesn't always seem very clear, lift up your hearts. Reach out and grow in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

Area Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestry, 2020



January 20, 2020

First Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

My sisters and brothers,

Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked. Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant." Genesis 33:5.

You are soon gathering for your Annual Vestry Meeting, where you will thank God for all God's blessings in 2019 and seek God's will for your parish in 2020. You will be prayerfully discerning the priorities God is calling your parish to and ensuring your finances reflect that. It is my sincere hope that within those top priorities are plans to form living faith in children and young people.

Studies have shown that the majority of people who live as disciples of Jesus as adults had a positive encounter with the gospel before they turned eighteen. This highlights how critical it is for us to be creating opportunities for children and teenagers to experience the gospel. Regardless of whether your parish currently has no children or has vibrant ministries for children and youth, this call to share the good news with the next generation (as it was shared with us) is a privilege for each parish in York-Credit Valley.

One of the two strategic priorities that our 2017 Town Halls discerned was fostering the growth of children and youth ministry. We have made progress! There is a palpable sense of renewal and new life in youth ministry, with youth worship nights popping up across the Area and more parishes wanting to train youth leaders through YMAP (the Diocesan Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program). In 2020, our Children/Youth Ministry Taskforce will be developing some "best practices" around confirmation. That same taskforce has just produced a guide, which will soon be made available, for healthy practices to begin, grow, and sustain children and youth ministry in your parish. And on April 18 of this year, we are hosting a workshop on how to start and sustain a Messy Church ministry (plan to bring a team).

Every parish in YCV needs to make the formation of faith in children and young people a priority. Even if your parish has no way to serve neighbourhood children, you can financially contribute to children and youth ministry at a neighbouring Anglican church, help volunteer with their Messy Church, or join in prayer for children around the world – you get the point! And because God has entrusted children to our care, I commend for your consideration our Social Justice Vestry Motion inviting parishes to take concrete steps, in the name of Jesus, to address climate damage, through government advocacy and reducing our own carbon footprint.

I continue to be amazed at, and deeply grateful for, the sacrificial and servant hearts of so many of you in leadership—Wardens, treasurers, children and youth ministry leaders, those working through the ACW, or on property upkeep, and those involved with social justice. We continue to have significant turnover in our clergy corps with nine new clergy joining our parishes in the past year. Please join me in sincerely thanking them for faithfully ministering the good news of Jesus through Word and Sacrament.

Together, in these challenging times, our Heavenly Father is still calling us forward in mission and so pray for me, as I pray for you, that we would be found faithful on the last day.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Jennifer Andison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The plus sign is positioned to the left of the name.

The Right Reverend Jennifer Andison
Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

Rector's Report

Submitted by the Rev. Stephen Blackmore

2019 was a tough year for the world, the Church, and yes, even St. Matthew's. On Sunday, January 19th, 2020 I offered a response to the statistical analysis panning the Anglican Church of Canada's extinction by the year 2040. The gospel reading that day recounts John the Baptist's primary ministry & mission: pointing to Jesus. "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." He was so committed to his mission that he urged his followers to go and join Jesus' flock. Andrew was one of these disciples, and he invited his brother, Peter, to experience Jesus for himself. Peter would become THE leader of the early Church based in Jerusalem.

If I am to reflect on 2019 and look to 2020, I must follow the counsel of my own preaching and pick up John the Baptist's ministry of pointing out where Jesus can be seen. Jesus was with us in 2019, Jesus will be with us in 2020.

I saw Jesus in the faces of our children as they told me that what they loved most about church was praying together. I saw Jesus in the compassion of our long-time family members who care for each other and the church, in often quiet but impactful ways. I saw Jesus as the hungry were fed, the naked clothed, and the homeless sheltered at Out of the Cold. I saw Jesus in the faces of spiritual seekers visiting us in worship and attending Alpha. I saw Jesus in the radiant light that shines from long-time

St. Matthew's leaders whose faith has grown by leaps and bounds as they participated in weekly Bible Study. I saw Jesus as 300 local Anglicans, from several different nationalities & cultures, joined together to celebrate a faith-filled & joyful Confirmation service with Bishop Jenny. And I saw Jesus through the tears of all of us as we mourned the loss of dear friends and family members of St. Matthew's, never more poignant than when many of us stood outside the Hurn's home to sing to Susan.

I know it's not always easy to see Jesus when experiencing the decline in attendance and givings that's plagued the Anglican Church for decades. It hit us especially hard in 2019. But I truly do have hope. I have hope because Jesus continues to walk among us. I have hope because we who remain are growing in our commitment to Christ and sharing Jesus' love with others. Our Strategic Plan lays out practical initiatives intended to help us grow. But this Plan is only helpful to the extent that it supports and improves our efforts at pointing others to Jesus.

2020 brings many changes, including welcoming new members of our ministry team and St. Matthew's family. Change is not easy. But let us pray these seasons of change will yield fruit, "fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." (John 15:16) Let us pray and work for the renewal of God's Church, for an unleashing of the Holy Spirit to draw many to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, for the growth of God's Kingdom. Amen!

~Rev. Stephen

PS – Given the recent attention devoted to the uncertainty of the Anglican Church’s future, I’ve included two pertinent articles to my report. They are written by the Bishop’s Susan Bell and Jenny Andison, and I believe they encapsulate much of the hope in which we are to remain.

An Open Letter to the Diocese of Niagara

By Bishop Susan Bell

Dear friends,

So we’ve all read the statistics and we’re in shock. But are we really?

I rather feel that the “bombshell” of the National Church statistics released in this month’s edition of the Anglican Journal, is maybe not so much of a bombshell as all that.

The fact is, we have been living with decline and an ageing demographic for some time. We’ve been living with an exhausted Christendom paradigm as well. We have been managing this decline for decades – slowly, perhaps quietly but inexorably. So, on the one hand the empirically verified statistics found in the national church report are, in the cold light of day, sobering, but they can hardly be called a surprise.

Much ink has been spilt refuting the claim that, all things remaining the same, we will be no more as a denomination by a certain date. That need not detain us long. All things will not remain the same and therefore, I don’t believe that prognostication, and I don’t think you do either. What I do believe however, is that we are very definitely being called into a different future – and that the decline we are experiencing and the change it is creating, is making sure that there’s no turning back from that.

I want to talk to you about the future; and about some intimations about what we might be being called to – and maybe what we’re being called away from. All of that is much more interesting than the hand-wringing of recent weeks.

Is this a crisis? Yes. A holy one, I believe. The question is, how do we respond? Well we are Christ-followers and so I’d humbly suggest that we need to do just that: follow Jesus and listen for God’s voice to guide us.

I am firmly of the belief that God has gifted us with this time. I am not being Pollyanna. I mean this. We have come to the end of a time in which the Church was a dominant force in our culture. That is an undisputed fact. And yet not one that should make us despair. We’ve had a good run.

But I also believe that we are being called to deep engagement with our faith and simultaneously, and our behavior as a culture. As an example, take the climate crisis. What does

the mission of God look like in the light of that? If, as N.T. Wright has recently written, New Testament Christians believed that in Jesus the Christ, God was bringing earth and heaven together, "making creation new, restoring the world from all its pathologies," then working to establish the kingdom of God is rightly the work of all believers. This sounds to me like a robust mandate for a theology which will support bold and sustained Christian action to address the climate crisis.

This is a recovery of a strong Christology, which leads to a renewed sense of both Christ's work among humanity and a template for our own Christian vocations.

I'm taking encouragement from this recovery – that a robust theology of a redeemed humanity in creation is embodied in this interpretation of our scripture and of the whole project that Christ ushers in. It touches and changes how we think through our mission as the people of God. John 3:16, "for God so loved the world..." means something quite different then, doesn't it?

So perhaps God is calling us again to listen – just as God has called in the great revivals and 're-thinkings' of our past: Consider the great renewal stories in our denominational history: the times when we prayed as a people that God would "renew a right spirit within [us]": Wesleyanism in the 18th century which led to the "Great Awakening", the evangelization of North America, The Oxford Movement that breathed on the dry bones of the 19th century church, the World missions movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries,...

I suppose all I'm saying, is that on every level - we've been here before. In every age, God has called us into a renewed relationship like the children of Israel. In every age God finds ways to speak to us afresh about mission – in ways that we can't ignore. This re-awakening is a deeply rooted pattern in our faith. Just because we've forgotten that, doesn't change the truth of its existence. So enough of the hand-wringing.

Here is the Gospel in all its strangeness and beauty and truth – urging us on to deeper thought and engagement through the Gospel of Jesus Christ with this beautiful world.

You see, the issue isn't that we lack a mission – rather God's mission is so deep and wide that only through God's love and only with a vision for working for the kingdom of heaven here among us can we begin to find the energy and the compassion and the motivation to dedicate ourselves, our souls and bodies and our resources and whatever else this new and emerging Church has to give towards its accomplishment.

So, don't ask me if I think the Church is declining. I categorically do not think that.

However, I do think a church is declining.

But if you then ask me if the electrifying mission of God is alive, then I'd show you a resurrected church, and a new heaven and a new earth. And I have to tell you that that's what gets me up in the morning with optimism and with a full heart of gratitude for the Diocese of Niagara.

Because that is the direction in which we are very consciously travelling – to listen for where God is working and to run to catch up.

We in Niagara are called to life and compelled to love; ignited by the irresistible love of Jesus and renewed by the Holy Spirit. To my ears, that sounds like the mandate of faith. Thanks be to God.

Church Decline, Faithfulness, And Hope

By Bishop Jenny Andison

“The report of my death was an exaggeration.” — Mark Twain, ending a letter written in 1897 to a newspaper journalist, in response to reports that he had died.

The latest demographic statistics for the Anglican Church of Canada have recently been issued, including the projection that the last Canadian Anglican will turn out the lights in 2040. With that projection, some feel it is now time to turn down the sheets and plump the pillows of the deathbed.

I am not going to spend time here unpacking these statistics in detail, nor argue that the numbers presented should not cause serious concern or grief. I firmly believe that the Anglican tradition is a theologically robust and personally life-giving vehicle for historic Christianity and that its death would represent a significant loss for the body of Christ and its witness here in Canada. I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic as I believe Christians have a sacred obligation to adopt a posture of hope towards the future; and in light of that posture of hope, I offer some observations.

First of all, I frequently tell the clergy with whom I serve that the kind of growth in parishes that concerns me most urgently is spiritual growth, or what we used to call sanctification. Are people growing in devotion to Jesus? Are their lives increasingly marked by holiness, prayer and sacrifice? Of course, such things cannot be plotted on a graph, yet we must acknowledge that if someone is maturing in their Christian faith, it will naturally lead to loving, culturally sensitive and effective evangelism. In my own experience of parish ministry, when the piety of a congregation was being intentionally challenged and nourished, numerical growth usually followed.

Second, the Christian Church has always been one generation away from extinction, and so our situation is not unique. Each generation needs to ask itself afresh, “How are we going to share, with people who have never heard it – starting with our own children and grandchildren – the good news that we have come to know in Jesus Christ?”

We have been in a catechetical crisis in our church for several generations now, and the chickens have come home to roost. There has never been a more critical time to be equipping Christian parents to form living faith at home with their children, and for clergy to take the lead in

creating opportunities for lay people to be deeply disciplined – either through ready-made programs, one-on-one discipleship, rules of life, or small group ministry.

Third, we need a revival in our prayer lives, both personally and in our parishes. Even a cursory glance through Church history will reveal the key role that prayer has played in bringing about revival and renewal in different generations. Prayer is not a program, it costs nothing in the parish budget, and the new believer and seasoned veteran alike may enthusiastically participate. If every ounce of energy that we (myself included) spend fretting about institutional decline was spent instead on our knees, I wonder where we would find ourselves.

Fourth, we must keep an eye on vocations to the religious life, the diaconate, and the priesthood. Whenever I have the privilege of officiating at an ordination, I remind the congregation that this ordination is a sign of hope for the Church. For as long as our Heavenly Father keeps raising up faithful women and men to serve in the Church, then God still has work for our branch of the catholic Church to accomplish. There may come a time when God no longer chooses to use the Anglican Church of Canada for God's glory and purposes, but until and unless there are no more ordinations, that time is not upon us. We must be intentional in encouraging a diverse range of people in our parishes to consider such a vocation.

And finally, there are gifts hidden in the decline, if we have eyes to see them. As resources become scarcer, we are being pushed into local and national ecumenical collaboration and dialogue in a fresh way. Surely this delights God. If our own numerical decline means that we decide to get serious about reclaiming our apostolic calling to be missionaries to our culture and encourage church planting, fresh expressions of church, and reshaping our parishes for mission, then it's about time. If these statistics light a fire under us to keep re-imagining ministry in our neighborhoods in fresh and creative ways beyond the traditional parish model, then excellent. And if the decline means that we are more ready to acknowledge our own sinfulness (personally and institutionally) and come to God in great humility and repentance, asking to be led forward by the Holy Spirit, then bring on the bracing statistics!

I am privileged to serve in the Diocese of Toronto. Thirty-two percent of our nearly 200 parishes are numerically growing, a further 12% are numerically stable, and the rest are in different stages of decline. The numerical growth is found across the diversity of our diocese, and while there are certainly common characteristics within these churches, there is not a one-size-fits-all model for numerical growth.

My episcopal area of York-Credit Valley is the Anglican Communion in microcosm, with individuals and families who have come to Canada from all over the globe, many of them with Anglican heritage. We are only beginning to grapple with the opportunity that this represents. While our diocese will presumably (not discounting the possibility of God bringing revival) be smaller in the coming years, if we are smaller but better formed in the "faith which was once delivered" (Jude 3) then we can still be used for God's transforming purposes for many

generations to come. Small, diverse and well-disciplined congregations may well lead the renewal of the Anglican Church of Canada that my grandchildren, God willing, could be a part of.

While the reports of our death may be premature and exaggerated, our calling remains exactly the same: to proclaim the good news of the risen and ascended Jesus Christ in season and out of season, that we may be found faithful on the Last Day. No more and no less, to the glory of God.

Warden's Report

Submitted by Stuart Watt, Karen Lee, Shantelle Hampton, and Lianne Thompson

During 2019, life at St. Matthew's was a mixture of happy times, such as enjoying musical events led by Thomas Gonder, and sad times, with the loss of many dear family members and friends.

Our spiritual journey was enriched by our many opportunities for worship through Sunday and Wednesday services, as well as our popular Messy Church gatherings. We are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Stephen, Rev. Merv and all the volunteers who work diligently to allow us these opportunities. Many events such as the Pancake Supper, St. Matthew's Day Sunday, the Christmas Pageant and Lunch, and weekly Coffee Hours provided opportunities for fellowship and friendship.

In the fall, we hosted a nine-week Alpha program, with the invitation extended to the Diocese. A round of applause goes to the Hurn Family and the team of volunteers for providing dinner at each weekly session. Thanks to the those who provided leadership throughout the program.

In October, the parish accepted a Strategic Plan which will guide the Parish in its direction and decision-making though the next three years.

Our parish facilities continue to be the home of various community groups, including Kingsley School.

The Out of the Cold program continued to provide shelter and food for those in need, made possible by the dedication of volunteers from St. Matthew's and Our Lady of Peace Parish.

2019 did see some staff changes as we bid farewell to Seth Enriquez and his family. Thomas Gonder, our music director, moved east in early January 2020. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours and thank them for their many contributions to St. Matthew's.

As our physical structures continue to age, repairs and maintenance are a priority. Thanks go to Ted Hampton, Al Thompson and Tom Travaglino for their assistance. In the past year, painting of the foyer entrances to the office and the west doors was completed.

Financial challenges continue mainly due the need to for repairs and ongoing maintenance to both the church and the rectory. While givings were up by .03%, total revenues were down by .03% and total expenses were up .04% as compared to 2018. Full detail can be found in the 2019 Financial Statements, as well as the proposed budget for 2020. We extend our sincere thanks to David Oakden, Treasurer, Anita Wakeman, Accounts Administrator, and Richard Farrar for their assistance in the preparation of these reports.

The Wardens would like to thank our Clergy, Staff, and the congregation for your continued engagement, prayers, ideas, time, talent, and financial support in 2019.

Together we can do more than we can ask or imagine!

Property Report

Submitted by William Hampton and Al Thompson

Throughout the year we made several positive changes to the parish facilities. These included painting the office entrance inside and outside as well as the entrance by the west doors to the gym. We hope these physical changes have made the church more inviting and welcoming. This will be an ongoing process in select areas and a number of options are being considered.

We have had some difficulties with the washroom at the bottom of the elevator. The wall mounted sink came off the wall, and we have now installed a new ADA compliant vanity which will not fall off the wall. There are minor cosmetic repairs that will be performed in the coming weeks. If anyone would be willing to paint the room, please contact Stuart or Karen.

There was also a need to revamp door closers and lock sets and to replace the weather stripping on the exterior doors. A few of the door sets at the rectory needed replacing as well. We are now 100% compliant with fire code regulations and all locks are working properly.

A number of light bulbs at the peak of the church and on the gym stage will need to be replaced. An electrical contractor will take care of these and some other minor items soon.

We have been experiencing some minor leaks above the Narthex. A roofing company has been contacted and the repairs should proceed shortly. Once these repairs are done, we can begin to address the interior repairs of the ceiling surfaces affected.

As per diocese policy we were required to perform a full facility audit. We engaged the firm Carson Dunlop who has many years of experience dealing with diocese and expect the report in the near future.

We look forward to another great year and will strive to improve the facility as much as possible. Feedback and volunteers are always welcome and appreciated.

Taking Action on Climate Change: Background



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Climate change is already disrupting life on Earth as we know it. Average global temperatures have already increased one degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels, bringing about melting glaciers and polar ice caps, rising seas, deadly heatwaves, and more intense storms. Canada is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world, and the Arctic region, three times as fast, with permafrost thawing 70 years ahead of projections.¹ Even in southern Canada, climate change impacts such as more intense storms, flooding, greater occurrence and severity of wildfires, and hotter, dryer summers, have become the new normal.² Ocean levels are rising, and oceans are getting warmer and more acidic, resulting in the decimation of fisheries stocks and threatening “100-year floods” on an annual basis.³ Lakes, too, are warming, with Lake Superior one of the fastest-warming lakes in the world.⁴ Seasonal shifts disrupt wildlife breeding and migration, and insect pests that used to be controlled by long, cold winters are increasing their range and activity, leading to impacts on forests, agricultural crops, and the spread of disease.

The human costs of climate change affect low-income people most, as they have fewer resources to protect themselves or recover from a disaster, but the costs are borne by all of us. The July 2013 storm that caused flash flooding across the GTA resulted in \$850 million in property damages, making it the costliest natural disaster in provincial history.⁵

If we were able to maintain global temperatures at this level, it would be challenge enough. But we are on track for much more devastating impacts. In October of 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report warning that “Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5 C and increase further with 2 C.” Furthermore, the report cautions that “limiting global warming to 1.5 C ... require[s] rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure, and industrial systems... [and] can only be achieved if global CO₂ emissions start to decline well before 2030.”⁶ This leaves us only a decade to bring about the transitions we need. The time to act is now.

While the Canadian House of Commons and over 50 municipalities in Canada, including at least 8 within our Diocese (as of October 15, 2019) have joined over a thousand jurisdictions worldwide in declaring a climate emergency, the federal government’s current climate policies would not even achieve its Paris Accord commitment of a 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2030.

One of the challenges facing us as Canadians is that our Canadian economy and infrastructure are heavily dependent on the extraction and use of oil, gas, and, to a lesser extent, coal. Transitioning to a lower-carbon economy is not a simple matter. For that very reason, however, it is crucial that all sectors of Canadian society, including governments, business and financial systems, as well as churches and other faith and community organizations, work together to address the challenge. Federal and provincial subsidies of the oil and gas industry add up to billions of dollars annually – money that could be invested in energy efficiency, renewable infrastructure, skills retraining for oil and gas sector workers, and climate change mitigation and adaptation for vulnerable Canadians.⁷

Government and financial experts are starting to recognize transition to a low-carbon economy as an economic imperative. The federally-appointed Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance delivered its final report in June 2019, acknowledging the need to “directly decouple economic growth from emissions.”⁸ More recently, the CEO of one of the worlds’ largest fund managers called climate change a “defining factor” for companies’ long-term prospects.⁹

With the window for transition closing rapidly, it is time for Canadians to send a clear signal to our government to align its financial practices with its climate goals. At the same time, we acknowledge that we, as church bodies and as individuals, also have a key role to play.

This past July, General Synod passed Resolution C003 recognizing a global climate emergency, encouraging dioceses, parishes and all members of the Anglican Church of Canada to make the Baptismal Covenant and fifth Mark of Mission a priority, and urging Anglicans to collaborate with other Canadian faith communities to strengthen our voices on climate change. This past September, millions of people worldwide joined student-led protests calling for climate action. In November, our Diocesan Synod passed a motion calling for the development of comprehensive environmental policies to reduce the Diocese’s carbon footprint and environmental impact more generally.¹⁰

This year’s Vestry Motion invites parishes to consider ways to reduce their own environmental footprint. A range of suggested options for action have been provided. Some parishes in our Diocese have already taken significant steps in this regard, pursuing energy efficient retrofits of heating, lighting, and insulation. Other possible actions include promoting active and public transportation options, limiting or eliminating single-use plastic products, planting trees and/or community gardens, and examining the environmental impact of one’s investments. (The Investing With a Mission resource from the Responsible Investment Task Force of the Anglican Church of Canada may provide helpful guidance in this regard.) Parishes are free to choose from among these actions, or to commit to another goal, which makes sense in their particular context.

As Christians, we understand ourselves as entrusted with the needs of our neighbours (Matthew 25:31-46) and the care of God’s creation (Genesis 2:15). Addressing climate change will take commitment from every sector of our society: governments, businesses, churches, community

organizations, and individuals. Let us encourage our governments, and each other, to take up the challenge.

1 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/arctic-permafrost-thawing-early-1.5179760>

2 https://changingclimate.ca/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/04/CCCR_FULLREPORT-EN-FINAL.pdf

3 https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/3/2019/09/SROCC_SPM_HeadlineStatements.pdf

4 https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/lake-superior-fast-warming-1.5277713?fbclid=IwAR0qml9axTf47Ud5T3_X1VAJI7OIEYRCOz4RgFCPc9Pa8fv5TnhXf1YNVoM

5 https://www.thestar.com/business/2013/08/14/july_flood_ontarios_most_costly_natural_disaster.html

6 https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Headline-statements.pdf

7 <https://www.iisd.org/faq/unpacking-canadas-fossil-fuel-subsidies/>

8 <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/expert-panel-sustainable-finance.html>

9 <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-blackrock-to-adjust-investing-approach-to-address-climate-change-risks/>

10 <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/2019/11/10/highlights-from-day-2-of-synod-4>

Taking Action on Climate Change: Vestry Motion 2020

We, the vestry of St. Matthew's, Islington, in the Diocese of Toronto, recognize that there is a global climate emergency. We acknowledge that all sectors of society, including government, business, churches and other non-profit organizations, and private individuals, have an obligation to do what they can to minimize their contribution to climate change.

- We call on the government of Canada to commit to the following:
- End public financing of the fossil fuel industry (oil, gas, coal)
- Bring Canada's climate and energy policy into alignment with the Paris Accord emissions targets to do our part to limit the rise in global average temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Support a just transition to a low-carbon economy through investment in renewable energy sources and infrastructure, energy-efficient technologies, and skills development and retraining for high-quality, sustainable jobs in the renewable energy sector.
- Assist Indigenous, northern, and coastal communities, and other vulnerable populations, to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on their local environments.

As Christians, we have a particular obligation to care for the earth as God's beloved creation (Genesis 1 26-28, 2:15), as well as for the most vulnerable among the human family (Matthew 25). Accordingly, we also commit our parish to the following goal(s): _____

Some examples of possible parish goals: (pick one or more)

- Reducing our parish energy use by __ %
- Encouraging use of active and public transportation by parishioners, and/or carpooling where these options are not practicable.
- Eliminating (or reducing by __%) our use of single-use plastic products
- Divesting from investments in oil, gas, and coal and/or investing in renewable energy projects
- Planting a community garden
- Planting [x number of trees] this year [on church or private property, or participating in community tree-planting projects]
- Other: _____

St. Matthew's Church Register for 2019

Baptisms

Ian Davies Cameron
October 26, 2019

Deaths

Lyall Garth Martin
January 9, 2019

Richard John Gallagher
January 24, 2019

Kelly Marie Atyeo
March 5, 2019

Lauretta Annie Parkes
March 22, 2019

Jean Adelaide Giroux
April 5, 2019

Paulette Florence Weatherall
June 18, 2019

Dora Isabella Heaslip
August 30, 2019

Shontosh Kumar Mukerji
September 6, 2019

Jean Good
November 18, 2019

Kathleen Blanche Hartwell
December 4, 2019

Susan Marie Hurn
December 23, 2019

"Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

Operating Fund Budget

Submitted by David Oakden

St. Matthew's Anglican Church Comparative Income Statement and Budget

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
	2019	2018	2019	2020
Envelopes / PAG	189,867	185,327	190,500	195,100
Open Offerings	3,945	3,184	3,000	4,000
Seasonal Offerings	9,665	25,671	15,500	15,148
Room Licenses	84,167	84,126	80,900	85,850
Memorials	2,620	1,615	2,000	2,000
Interest	0	78	0	0
Advertising - Matts Media	700	0	500	500
Parish Events	6,090	5,279	6,800	9,402
Miscellaneous	962	1,411	0	1,011
Building Fund	0	0	2,000	0
Diocesan grant-OFOH	0	66	0	0
Debt Reduction Contributions	0	2,215	0	0
Income	298,016	308,972	301,200	313,011
Staff/Clergy Salary and Benefits	164,255	159,534	160,547	169,632
Rectory Expenses	18,912	15,812	20,998	18,341
Church Expenses	60,570	49,444	53,430	56,649
Office Expenses	14,057	16,747	17,728	14,102
Audit	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,750
Worship and Ministry	7,452	6,332	7,800	7,748
Parish Events	3,999	2,250	350	4,147
Insurance	7,620	7,387	8,106	8,200
Misc.	367	1,215	400	0
Major Reno Church	0	0	0	0
Major Reno Rectory	0	0	0	0
Synod	43,819	44,731	45,757	45,976
Prior Year Adjustments	(3,579)		0	
Expenses	320,972	306,954	318,615	328,545
Net Operations	(22,956)	2,018	(17,415)	(15,534)

Reports Submitted by Parish Ministries

Administrative Reports

Envelope Secretary

Submitted by Noel Martin and Mary Gleeson

For the year 2020, we have assigned 42 envelope sets to parishioners, and there are 47 Pre-Authorized Givings users. In addition, there is a group of about 100 members or occasional visitors who contribute sporadically throughout the year but do not wish to use envelopes. Your generous Initial offerings offset the cost of the envelopes.

We encourage all regular donors to sign up for envelopes, or even better, the PAG program. Use of either system greatly reduces both the time required to process each donation, and the likelihood of introduced errors in correct assignment of the donation.

Annual tax receipts are now ready. Please remember to pick up yours in the Narthex, and look it over right away (please don't wait until you are doing your tax return). In the (unlikely) event of an error, please let us know as soon as possible so it can be corrected.

If you can deliver a friend's receipt also, that would be appreciated. It is an extra cost if the receipts must be mailed, this year by February 28.

Many thanks to Lisa for sorting, collating and printing lists, labels, and all the materials needed to help keep the donations lists organized and complete.

Christian Education and Faith Formation Ministry Reports

Submitted by Dawn Mercer

Growing as followers of Jesus begins with our youngest and continues throughout life at St. Matthew's. From sermons to informal discussions, there are a variety of opportunities to explore faith and think about how what we learn applies to daily life. Discussions together help us know how to share the good news with others in our community and beyond.

Our Young People

Club Matt

Our goals for growth include providing an engaging environment that will encourage children to attend and to bring their friends and neighbours. We want St. Matthew's to be known as a family and child-friendly church. Since moving back to the 9:30 a.m. format in the Fall, a new family has begun regularly attending St. Matthew's.

The curriculum for Club Matt is prepared in-house by some of St. Matthew's experienced educators. This is the second year of the three-year cycle. The organizing theme is Hope and Memory - the history of God with his people in the Old and New Testament to bring hope to his people and the world. In the Fall, the lessons studied God's faithfulness to bring hope to the people of Israel from Moses to the Exile. In Winter and Spring, we are focused on the stories of Jesus that build our faith memory and bring us hope. As much as possible, New Testament lessons are aligned with the Gospel reading of the day.

Two classes are provided – Juniors age 2-5 (Pre-School) and Seniors age 6-10 (Grades 1-5).

The Junior group has about eight possible attendees with a usual attendance of four to six. For much of the year there were three volunteer leaders to guide the children's learning through the story of the day and activities to help the children remember it. That number is now down to two leaders with one of them also on the School-aged team. The older group (Grades 1-5) has six possible attendees with a usual group of three children. There had been three volunteer teachers who guided these very inquisitive members of our community. The team is now down to one dedicated leader with help from one Preschool leader.

We are looking for new leaders who love children and the opportunity to share God's love with them. This is a critical role in the continuing life of the Church. Another advantage is that in explaining the story of God to the children, your own faith grows. According to one leading Adult Education theorist, the most effective way to learn is to teach!

Club Matt runs all summer with a more open-ended program that permits kids to follow the theme whenever they are at church and a teacher schedule that we plan as a 'once only' commitment. This past summer the theme was God's Superheroes. Attendance varied widely from 0 – 8 children.

Youth Group

There are 12 – 14 in the St. Matt's Youth Group involved in different aspects of youth life at St. Matthew's. The ages are from 11 up (after Grade 5). Youth Group activities range from growing in faith to providing a social environment to bring friends. On Sunday morning, the emphasis is

to increase the range and depth of Biblical knowledge and its application to daily life. In the Fall, Friday Board Game nights were added; these were lively events with eager participation.

The Youth Group was also the core of youth Confirmation exploration and preparation. This spring two candidates went on to Confirmation. Others are considering confirmation in the future.

Club Matt kids eagerly anticipate moving on to Youth Group.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Discussion Groups

- Monday a.m. This group has been studying The Parables but is currently suspended related to health issues. It will resume in due course. Please see full report below.
- Tuesday a.m. Bible study based on the lectionary readings for the week and Sunday's sermon themes. (2-5 people weekly)
- Tuesday evening Bible Study group. Discussions based on the lections for the week and sermon themes. (7-8 people weekly)

We are exploring a new name for these groups that is more inviting for people and more completely representing the various aspects of small groups that encourage growth in faith.

Monday Morning Discussion Group

This group has met together for more than 15 years and has not been a traditional style "Bible study" group. We have grown, and shrunk, due to a number of circumstances and in that sense have been dynamic. At present, we are temporarily on hold as far as meeting but hope to resume shortly.

Over the years, we have read together and discussed in detail, chapter by chapter, books such as "Devotions (Foster)," "A Pilgrim's Progress (Bunyan)," "John for Everyone (Wright)" and now we have almost finished "The Parables of Jesus (Barclay)." We have been challenged, guided, informed and blessed by each.

We would like to remind you of a game you must have played at one time or another. A message is whispered in the ear of a person next to you who, in turn, passes it to another person and so on around a circle. The last person to receive it then states what that message was and, surprisingly, it seldom bears much resemblance to the original. Now apply that line of thought to scripture study.

When Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer he, most likely, spoke in Aramaic. That in turn was translated into ancient Greek (different from Modern Greek), ancient Latin. The Bible, as of 2019, has been translated 698 times, the New Testament into 1548 languages. How do those

translations compare with the original? What understanding of meaning, what lack of a comparable word and sense in another language, has changed ever so slightly the understanding of the original meaning or intent?

Depending on the translator, the version may read “forgive us our “Sins”, “Debts” or “Trespasses.” The single ancient Greek word can be translated in those three senses. About 17 centuries ago, that request was dropped from use by Christians as “Debts” was being applied to sums of money owed to another.

Consider also the phrase “and lead us not into temptation.” Even Pope Francis objects to that plea. But again looking at the ancient Greek word, it can mean “test” or “tested.” Abraham was not “tempted” to sacrifice his son, he was “tested” by God to see if he would. Likewise, Job was not “tempted”; he was “tested” by the Devil.

So the focus of our discussions has been to explore and search for a little more depth and understanding of scripture. We welcome others who might wish to join us in our walk of faith and would be pleased to discuss how best to do so.

Indigenous Issues Group

This group provides information and experiences to raise our knowledge related to Truth and Reconciliation recommendations. We offer support to local and distant indigenous groups. See the specific report for more information.

Alpha

Area Bishop Jenny and St. Matthew’s hosted a Deanery Alpha Program this past Fall from September 25 – November 20, on Wednesday evenings from 6 – 8:15. This Alpha group had a mix of St. Matthew’s folk, people from the Deanery, and a few non-Anglicans exploring faith and the Anglican expression of faith. Participation varied from 15 to 40 including volunteers. The Hurn sisters spearheaded the gathering around a meal. With care, they made the gym a warm and inviting place to get acquainted.

The discussion aspect of Alpha was initiated with a talk by the Bishop or Rev. Stephen or a well-produced video from the Alpha International team. Participants were challenged to think about a variety of issues from a fresh and challenging perspective. The discussion in small groups that followed was lively and engaging.

This Alpha Program provided intentional partnerships with neighbouring parishes, and the opportunity to engage directly with our Area Bishop. It also provided an opportunity for St. Matthew’s people to grow their leadership skills in a Christian context. In the end, 8-10 people expressed the wish to continue in a follow-up group in the Winter to explore questions that arose during Alpha that needed further discussion. We are thankful to Seth Enriquez for his leadership of this program.

Goals for Future Growth

1. Continue to develop and obtain resources for faith development of children and youth. Improve facilities for Club Matt and Youth. Plans are underway to set up a specific room that Youth can call "home" at St. Matthew's.
2. Expand Adult resources for group and personal study. Increase the number of people participating in a small group study. Please let your needs for resources or a study group be known.
3. Form a group for working parents that takes all their demands into consideration! No small task, but it's on the list.
4. As expressed in the Strategic Plan there will be more short, four- to five-week sessions offered in addition to the ongoing groups. These will follow the Alpha model with a light meal followed by discussion groups. The first of these will be offered in Lent.
5. Our current small groups/Bible study groups will get a new name that more completely reflects the range of their roles.

Messy Church

Messy Church is "different kind of church for families." It is a way for people unfamiliar with church, or who have been unhappy with their previous experience of church, to encounter a fresh approach. At St. Matthew's it provides education, fun, worship, and food in an informal environment for the whole family on a fixed schedule, this year on the last Saturday of the month (except December and summer). Messy Church is an outreach, worship, and community-building initiative. Some regulars come to Messy Church and attend other St. Matthew's services for "special occasions."

During the past year, Messy Church has explored many themes, including: the Bible, with each child receiving an age-appropriate Bible; Indigenous discovery, One with the Creator; Pentecost; and "Messy" Baptism. The January Messy Church was a pajama Messy Church looking at how God is with us through the night to calm our worries and concerns.

Organization and planning are provided by a hardworking committee of six people. Making a Messy Church happen requires many dedicated volunteers; we would be glad to have you participate! Just let us know. Or come and bring family and/or friends.

Attendance, including adults and leaders, is usually 40-50 with 15-25 children and 15-20 adults. Our Messy Church invites people from other parishes who are considering beginning their own Messy Church to come and see how it all works. The numbers have been consistently higher

during the past year by about 10% thanks to a growing media presence that was maintained by Seth Enriquez. We plan to keep that model going with our new Communications Coordinator.

Goals for the future

Adding more families is an important goal for Messy Church. We also want to provide more opportunities for St. Matthew's Youth to lead activities and develop their skills and to be part of the planning group.

We hope that more people exploring the possible role of Messy Church in their parish will come and visit.

Communications Reports

Matt's Media

Submitted by Kathie Oakden, Editor

Matt's Media is the parish newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington. It is published four times a year to report on Parish activities and to publicize upcoming Worship Service Schedules, Events, and Requests.

In 2019, the publication dates were Lent/Easter (March 3), Pentecost (June 9), Thanksgiving (October 13), and Advent/Christmas (December 1).

Matt's Media was distributed as a PDF file by email to all those parishioners whose email address is on file with the Church Office. (Please update your email address if it changes.)

Paper copies, a full-colour booklet (8.5x11"), are made available in the Narthex on the date of Publication, and previous editions are available year-round upon request. Paper copies are also distributed to home-bound parishioners by their Friends for Friends Visitors.

We are grateful to Lisa Tait, our Parish Administrator, for typesetting and production using Microsoft Publisher.

Library

Submitted by Mary Gleeson

The Carol Setchell Memorial Library has a collection of books on a variety of topics. In competing with busy hectic lives and instant information on technological devices in recent years, the library has seen very infrequent use. Any input or suggestions to revitalize its use are gratefully received.

Pastoral Care Ministry Reports

Pastoral Care (Friends for Friends)

Submitted by Ann Sim

The team continues to reach out to parishioners in many ways. Visits were made to homes, retirement homes, long term care facilities and hospitals. Holy Communion was taken to these parishioners on many of the visits. Parishioners were offered rides to church services and to doctor appointments. Cards were sent at Easter and Christmas time, as well as for special birthdays, and "thinking of you."

The prayer ministry continues to be active and thanks go to Bob Holloway for the beautiful prayers that are emailed to the team. Prayer shawls continue to be knit, blessed, given to parishioners, friends, and relatives as the need arises. The team put together a wonderful Christmas gift for 26 parishioners and this year seven volunteers from the parish along with team members delivered these parcels. Team members have always felt this was a very special ministry to be part of and were privileged to give their time to it. We held one team meeting this fall and were able to take the time to look at the parish roll and to update and to see how we could best reach out to parishioners. We discussed the preparing of Christmas gifts and supporting the Blue Christmas service.

I have co-ordinated this team for 26 years and last November I gave Rev. Stephen Blackmore my resignation. I will continue to visit and to take communion to parishioners, but it is now time for a new co-ordinator to come forward.

If you have been wondering what your ministry is or that maybe you would like to make a pastoral visit please speak to Rev. Stephen, Rev. Merv or to Ann Sim. A new team member would make one visit a month and set aside one hour for the visit plus driving time. I know that the time I have spent visiting has been very rewarding. The parishioners we visit have been members at St. Matthews for many years and today are not well enough to attend church very often or not at all and they love to have a visitor.

Anointing for Wholeness and Healing

Submitted by Marilyn Friedmann, Deborah Hurn, Nancy Hurn, Ann Sim, Dorothy Sproule, and Bob Holloway

Anointing is an ancient practice of Christian worship and the Ministry of Anointing has been available at St. Matthew's since February 10, 2014. The ministry only takes place within the context of the Eucharist and is currently administered by our clergy or six specially trained Lay Anointers. The anointers provide the ministry under the direction of our Rector and have a

licence from our Area Bishop which must be renewed every three years. In addition, the anointers are encouraged to attend refresher days for training that are conducted annually.

It is important to realize "healing" prayer is used in the holistic sense and does not imply nor mean "curing." The Laying on of Hands for Healing may not be administered by lay Anointers but only by ordained clergy.

Anointing is personal, for the individual anointee, and cannot be administered on behalf of another person. But the duty anointers will gladly pray for, or on behalf of, another person when requested.

The Ministry has been very well received at St. Matthew's and large numbers of women, men, teens, and children regularly are anointed either singly or in families. To the best of our knowledge, anointing has been available at every regular Eucharist, excepting the 8:00 a.m. service, except one since the ministry was established at St. Matthew's. It is planned to also extend anointing on a regular basis at the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist also.

Partners in Prayer

Submitted by Bob Holloway

The prayer chain, Partners in Prayer, has been an important ministry in this parish for well over 35 years. It is currently comprised of 32 present and past parishioners. Some of those no longer reside in Toronto and environs and a new Partner, who worshipped with us for a few months, lives in Uganda but wished to be included in our prayer requests. The Partners receive regular requests for prayer support by electronic messages only.

Participation in this ministry is open to anyone, in the parish or who might have a solid connection with St. Matthew's or this Ministry.

As I look around during the Prayer Circle at 9:30 or during the intercessions at 11:00, I see people of all ages, children and adults, who have requested prayer support for themselves, family, or friends. I see and hear even the children praying aloud in the Prayer Circle. I see many who have been the subject of prayers. This parish solidly believes in the power of prayer. But when I look at the list of those who participate in the Partners in Prayer Ministry, I cannot help but notice that no one is younger than 40 years of age.

Participation in the ministry has only three requirements. One, we need an email address, two, there is an agreement to pray for the individual or situation as requested when possible and convenient and three, the request be treated as confidential. There are no requirements as to the time at which you might pray, nor the duration or frequency of prayers. There are no reporting back requirements, but good news is always welcome.

Prayer requests on behalf of family, friends, or others who may not attend St. Matthew's are equally welcome. Anyone who wishes to maintain anonymity or confidentiality for themselves or others may do so by using a nickname or second given name. Similarly, it is acceptable to provide limited information about the nature of the problem for which prayer support is requested. However, it is helpful for those praying to have a name of some brief information regarding the illness or problem to help in their prayers.

Requests for prayer, or to be added to the distribution list, may be submitted by phone or e-mail to Bob Holloway at 416 253 4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca or by calling the church office.

Other Ministries Reports

Chancel Guild

Submitted by Mary Gleeson and Sandra Wilson

The Chancel Guild has had another busy year preparing the church for all the weekly services, baptisms, and funerals. Under the expertise of Sandra Wilson, we set up for Thanksgiving, Easter, and Christmas. We are most appreciative of the help of some husbands of our members, and of Tom, our verger, for assistance with the more "challenging" tasks.

This year, we underwent a change in leadership with Bridget Farrar stepping down after many years of faithful service as president. Fortunately, she agreed to stay on as a member, and freely offers her expertise and advice to new leaders Sandra Wilson and Mary Gleeson.

We are very appreciative of the gifts of weekly memorial flowers, Easter lilies, Christmas poinsettias, and fresh produce donated by our generous congregation. This year, the produce was given to the Daily Bread Food Banks in Etobicoke and Mississauga. We thank all of those who knitted or donated mittens, hats, and scarves for the Mitten Tree, and also Lois Armstrong who took the time to deliver the items to the Seneca School on Rathburn Road.

Kudos go to our faithful members for the tasks they perform on Saturday morning and on Sunday after the services. Where would we be without our laundry team, and new recruits, Barb Landry, Kathie Oakden, and Lois Armstrong who work to remove those wine stains from the purificators....no easy task....and then iron them as well!!! We are also grateful to Sandra Wilson who rises early on a Friday or Saturday morning to visit the wholesaler and select the altar flowers.

Our membership is dwindling, and we are in need of new volunteers. Sadly, we lost one of our group this year, Susan Hurn, and she is sorely missed. If you feel you would be able to contribute a little time to assist in this important ministry, we would be happy to hear from you.

We would also welcome a few volunteers from the 9:30 service to help clear up the communion vessels and set up for the 11:00 service... a Sunday only, ten-minute task... before going into the parlour for discussion. On-the-spot instruction would be available!

Choir

Submitted by Bruce Gleeson

We bid a grateful farewell to Thomas Gonder as he left St. Matthew's on January 12, 2020 after six years of inspiring musical leadership. Thomas left to take up the Music Director/Organist position at Christ Church Cathedral, Fredericton and we wish him every blessing and continued success in his new ministry. We were greatly saddened by Susan Hurn's passing in December and extend our sincere condolences to her sisters Nancy and Deborah.

We hope to welcome a new Music Director/Organist early in 2020 and we would gladly welcome anyone who enjoys singing to join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Food Cupboard

Submitted by Lois and John Armstrong

Over the past year, use of the food cupboard increased slightly. Importantly, no one requesting food is turned away.

In total, 457 items were donated, an increase of 37 items compared with the previous year. We removed 75 items due to "best before" date. We recorded a total number of nine bags distributed, which was down six from 2018. We believe that more bags were distributed, but not accurately recorded.

We thank all those who supported this ministry, both members of the parish and the Kingsley School. Those receiving food are always very appreciative.

Hospitality

Submitted by Jean Tovey and Jeff Wright

Hospitality is an important part of our St. Matthew's community. We help at special events such as St. Matthew's day and Vestry, and provide coffee and refreshments throughout the year after the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. In addition, Jeff and I, along with Margaret Purser, provide lunch and coffee for the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist each Wednesday.

We encourage more people to become involved. It doesn't take a lot of time, but your efforts would always be appreciated. If you sense a call to serve the church, it might be a great opportunity. Thanks and God bless.

Lectors

Submitted by Bruce Gleeson

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers whose expressive reading makes scripture come alive at the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services and the 10:30 a.m. Wednesday services throughout the year. This past year we welcomed Mavis Omologe to our 8:00 a.m. Sunday team and Jean Tovey to our Wednesday team, and we look forward to having Sandra Watt, David Oakden and Noel Martin as members of our Sunday 11:00 a.m. group.

Out of the Cold

Submitted by William Hampton and Chris Orzel

The 2018-2019 season began Sunday November 17, 2019 and will run until Sunday March 29, 2020. This period includes 20 Sundays in total. A big thank you to all the volunteers in all capacities who give up their time and Sundays for the ministry.

Year	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Number of Sundays	20	20	20	20	20
Dinners served	805	885	788	824	920
Overnight guests	480	532	563	537	558
Showers	202	192	218	212	252
Laundry	160	172	181	178	189
Volunteer Hours	2466	2742	2622	2717	2721
Total donations	9 498.80	9 810.31	12 542.20	11 592.20	13 623.00

This year we have been operating at our capacity of twenty-seven beds. People attending for dinner only is now running at ten to twenty guests served. Our shower and laundry services are also functioning well with between 12 and 15 showers and loads of laundry being done each evening. We were forced to purchase a new laundry pair after the existing units finally gave up the ghost. Thankfully our friends at the Kiwanis Club were able to make a special donation to cover the cost of the replacement unit.

We have had an abnormally large demand for winter jackets, winter boots and large backpacks this year. If you happen to have any extras of these items they would be greatly appreciated by our guests. We thank everyone who donated clothing and other items this year and ask that you keep us in mind when editing your wardrobe. Travel-size deodorant and shaving cream are always in high demand.

This year we also had to replace our freezer and lunch fridge. While we were able to secure a good sale, it was still a major expense. Thankfully we were blessed with a large, one-time private donation to cover this expense. We are looking into having the dishwasher replaced since the current unit has had some issues with leaks and repairs over the past year.

We thank all the parishes, individuals, and organizations who have provided Sunday evening meals and lunches this year, including St. Benedict's, St. Martin in the Fields, St. Clements, BLD - Toronto, BLD – St. Francis Xavier Mississauga, Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Peace, St. Gregory, Catherine Mercuri, and Rose and Jared.

We are fortunate to enjoy the continued support of many other community groups and businesses including, but not limited to: The Etobicoke Rotary Club, The Kiwanis Club of Kingsway Humber, The Knights of Columbus, Starbucks, Maple Lodge Farms, Weston Bakeries, Winpack, Robert Holloway, Park Lawn Cemetery, Angelo, the Dugas family and many other individuals. We are most grateful to these and many others for their ongoing and generous support of this ministry. The ministry is 100% reliant on donations and accepts no subsidy from any other agencies apart from a cleaning grant to make sure the facilities are safe for the schoolchildren.

We would like to thank St. Matthew's for the support and facilities without which the ministry would not be possible. We welcome participation from the parish and invite you to see in what capacity you can participate and share in the joy of service.

Sidespersons

By Ron Landry

In 2019 this ministry was responsible for greeting and welcoming both potential new members and current members of St. Matthew's every Sunday morning at the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

services. This important ministry can significantly affect a potential new member's impression of St. Matthew's.

The sides people greet people as they arrive, hand out bulletins and notices, count the attendance, take up the offertory, pace the aisles at communion, tidy the church after the service and deliver the flowers to shut-in or hospitalized Church members. The 11:00 a.m. sides people are also responsible for helping the wardens tally the offerings from the three services.

The sides people are divided into five teams; four cover the 11:00 a.m. service and one team covers the 8:00 a.m. service. We have a total of 18 people serving on the five teams.

Thank you to the sides people for their faithful and continued service. Any new members would be gladly welcomed by the team.

St. Anne's Group

By Bertha Anstey

2019 was filled with happiness and sadness. Happiness that we enjoyed a variety of activities and programs. In January we heard from Tiziana, with Toronto Fire Services, who gave tips on fire safety in the home including not to use power bars to obtain several outlets. In February we had the MacMillan's Frozen Products fundraiser which went well and provided funds for ongoing support to various sources. Our speaker for February was Jasmine from the LAMP Program in Etobicoke who updated us with services available and needs that are met in the area. In March we assisted with the World Day of Prayer at St. Phillip's Lutheran Church. March was also a planning meeting for the balance of year, and whether we would continue to meet as a ladies' group since numbers were dwindling and it is more difficult to obtain speakers for a small group. Decisions were also made to donate to the following charities: Sistering, Youth without Shelter, Dorothy Ley Hospice, Sleeping Children around the World, Out of the Cold Program and the general fund at St. Matthew's. These programs have been the choice of members for several years now. April welcomed Spring with a fashion show from Claudette's Fashion and a chance to update your wardrobe. May saw only four members attend a closing luncheon at the Canadiana Restaurant. Average attendance dropped to nine members.

Now the sad part: the decision was made to not continue as a group since a new leader could not be found and no new members were forthcoming. Thank you to all the ladies who have supported the group for so many years, I believe the longest-serving member to be Verna Wilkinson, for approximately 60 years. St. Anne's means "grandmother" and having stated that the grandmothers of this last standing ladies group have hung up their aprons, I thank you all so much for your support.

Stewardship

By Karen Lee

During 2019, St. Matthew's Growing Healthy Stewards (GHS) program continued as outlined by the Diocese. Highlights of the year included the preparation our Welcome Kits for newcomers, ongoing updating of the parish website and Facebook pages, as well as conducting our annual Joyful Giving Campaign. Special thanks to Dawn Mercer for her assistance in revising our narrative story brochure and Marguerite Locke and a great team of volunteers for ensuring the distribution of the packages.

Following our worship service on St. Matthew's Sunday, September 22, and along with lunch and activities for the children, a few of our ministries were highlighted, including the Indigenous Ministry, Photo Archives, and Alpha.

As outlined in the Parish's current Strategic Plan, the GHS team will work with the Welcome Ministry Team, to ensure newcomers are welcomed and feel a sense of belonging at St. Matthew's.

Thank you to our team members Richard Farrar, Iain Shao, Stuart Watt, Sandra Wilson, Rev. Stephen, Karen Lee, and our coach, Joycelyn Williams, for their contributions to this work in 2019.

Nominations

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"*. Matthew 9:37-38

Below please find the list of names for those in the parish that have so generously committed to share their gifts over the coming year. It is hoped nominations may be submitted from the floor of Vestry, provided nominees have previously agreed to allow their names to be placed in nomination, or that volunteers, seeing the need to sustain our mission of Sharing Jesus' Love, may volunteer to serve in some capacity.

Parish-elected Nominees

People's Warden:	Stuart Watt
Deputy People's Warden:	Shantelle Hampton
Lay Delegates to Synod:	Nancy Hurn; Deborah Hurn
Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod:	Colin Hall
Facilities Chair:	Allan Thompson; Ted Hampton
Stewardship:	Karen Lee
Envelope Secretary:	Noel Martin
Assistant Envelope Secretary:	Mary Gleeson
Nominating Committee Chair:	
Scrutineers / Parish Tribunal:	Barb Landry; Nancy Hurn

Rector's Appointments

Rector's Warden:	Karen Lee
Deputy Rector's Warden:	Lianne Thompson
Club Matt Representative:	Linda Dickson
Sidespersons / Greeters:	Ron Landry
Hospitality Chairs:	Jean Tovey; Jeff Wright
Outreach / Social Advocacy Coordinator:	Rev. Stephen Blackmore
Pastoral Care Representative:	
Communications:	Cathy Cross
Advisory Board Chair:	Iain Shao
Messy Church Representative:	Dawn Mercer

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

3962 Bloor Street W., Toronto, ON. M9B 1M3

Tel: 416-231-4014

office@saintmatts.ca * www.saintmatts.ca

Service Schedule

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 9:30 a.m. "All Ages"

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Book of Alternative Services

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Book of Common Prayer

Messy Church, last Saturday of the month, 4:00 p.m.

