

God eternal.
Three
in one



**The Church of St Mary and St Martha
Annual Vestry Meeting
March 7, 2021 for the 2020 ministry year**

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Financial Matters - SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Audited 2020 Statements

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Cover photo by Karen Isaacs - used with permission

**The Annual Vestry Meeting of
the Anglican Church of St Mary and St Martha
March 7, 2021**

Agenda

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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2021

To our Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.

Grow! You may remember that in my letter to you last year, I invited each community to embrace the essence of our diocesan strategic plan, *Growing in Christ*. The invitation was simple...grow! Well, none of us could have imagined the scope with which we would have to adjust, change, turn, accommodate, and innovate in 2020. Almost every aspect of how we do Church would need to be transformed: from worship to administration, from pastoral care to sacramental ministry, from finance to stewarding buildings and property. On Sunday, March 15th we closed the doors of our buildings and we were jettisoned into another way of gathering and being the Church.

Parishes small and large, rural and urban turned to online worship, telephone ministry, driveway conversations, pre-recording and live streaming. We thought we would be back in our buildings by Easter. My, how we were wrong about that. Maybe by Pentecost things would be normal again, we thought. Summer turned into fall. A partial opening under strict guidelines would give way to a second wave that would carry us through Advent and Christmas, Epiphany and now into Lent. Through it all we have learned to live outside our comfort zone and grow. Like being tossed into the deep end of the pool we are learning to swim.

The Jubilee offered by the Diocese in 2020 helped to shore up a faltering financial confidence. Many parishes report that online worship and programming is reaching a wider audience. Some parishes tell us that financial support and donations are holding steady. Clergy tell me that there is a growing trust, cooperation, and companionship with colleagues. Many parishes speak of collaborating with neighbouring communities. We have also been wrestling with how to serve those who are falling through the cracks of our social structures and safety nets, particularly those who live in precarious housing, grapple with food insecurity, mental health issues and domestic violence.

The murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 thrust us into the depths of confronting anti- black and systemic racism. Each year at vestry we ask you to consider supporting a social justice initiative. In 2021, we invite you to support the motion on [*Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism*](#). The initiatives that are outlined give all of us the opportunity to be agents of dismantling racism in all of its forms. We are called to change. Throughout this time of pandemic, we are doing more than just treading water... we are

growing. I believe we are growing in trust of one another, and deeper still, in trust that God has this whole situation in hand. And trust calls us to be faithful and to be prepared.

As you gather for your vestry meeting, likely online, I want to say two things. The first is to express my profound gratitude for your faithfulness, hard work, creativity, and innovative ways thus far in this pandemic. I am thankful for the tireless leadership of our clergy; bishops, priests, and deacons. I am moved beyond words by the ministry of our lay leaders who move mountains to keep the church moving. Thank you.

The second thing is, be prepared. We hear this summons often in scripture. *In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord*, cries the prophet. *I go to prepare a place for you*, Jesus says to his disciples. *Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season* writes Paul to Timothy. As circumstances begin to change, as the vaccine begins to take a hold for the better, I hope that you will take as much time planning for a return as you did when our doors closed in March of last year. Coming back will take a special kind of care and effort. It will take time to allay fears, it will take energy to coax the community to move forward in new ways. It will take a vision steeped in the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lift the eyes and hearts of a weary people.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
Galatians 6.9-10

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Andrew Toronto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew J. Asbil

Bishop of Toronto



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A Pastoral Letter to Vestry 2021

January 6, 2021

The Feast of the Epiphany

But the Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your splendor. Isaiah 60:19

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am writing this on the great Feast of the Epiphany, when we remember and rejoice in the fact that the wise men worshipped the young Jesus as the Light of the World. As the first non-Jews to realize who Jesus is, the wise men boldly proclaim that the gospel is for all nations and all peoples, and that Jesus doesn't just make local claims relevant only to the children of Israel, but global claims on the lives of *all* people, from Mississauga to Mauritius. What wonderfully good news: God sent his son to all the peoples of the world, not just a select few. In the York-Credit Valley Area, that good news is marvellously lived out in the global diversity found in our pews (and now online!).

Our interconnectedness as a global family has been brutally highlighted in 2020 as we battled with the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. And while you don't need me to tell you about the painful and deadly impact that this virus has had on the world, our city, our churches and our own lives, I do want to encourage you with how Anglicans across our Diocese have risen to the challenges now set before us. I have heard of and seen the creative online offerings of worship, Messy Church and Alpha on Zoom, meals and food still being provided to the homeless, more phone calls to the lonely and isolated, and money raised for FaithWorks. Through it all, it has been a joy to see how you have all partnered with the Holy Spirit during the twists and turns of this past year.

On the occasion of your Annual Vestry Meeting, I particularly want to thank all of you who serve in formal leadership roles in your parishes (as Wardens and Treasurers) and of course, your parish clergy, too. When you were recruited for your role, I am pretty sure that it was not mentioned that a global pandemic was on the way! Finances are being significantly stretched, workload seems to have doubled, and some parishes are now unsure of what their future holds. In the midst of this anxiety and exhaustion, your service to Christ still ascends to our Heavenly Father as a fragrant offering. Thank you so very much.

I also commend to your prayerful care our [Diocesan Social Justice Vestry Motion](#). This important motion acknowledges that anti-Black racism is a sinful reality in our lives, our society and in our churches and pledges us, through the grace of God, to work towards the dismantling of all forms of personal and institutional racism.

This is my last letter to you as your Area Bishop. I was consecrated as a bishop four years ago on the Feast of the Epiphany, and it has been a singular privilege to serve in York-Credit Valley, taking with me a treasure trove of wonderful experiences of watching the living God move and be active in your lives and in your parishes. While it has come as a surprise, to both you and to me, that God has called me to St. Paul, Bloor Street, I am grateful to be continuing my episcopal ministry in gospel partnership with all of you.

I would urge you during this coming year, as the pandemic continues to unfold and the York-Credit Valley Area goes through a season of transition, to cling to the Lord Jesus Christ, be steadfast in prayer, and to persevere in seeking ways to reach out evangelistically, both online and in person, to all those who are spiritually hungry in our neighbourhoods.

Please know that I will continue to hold you all in prayer this coming year. This year offers both deep challenges and the promise that the God who reveals Godself in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, will never leave us or forsake us.

Peace,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Jennifer Andison".

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

**Minutes of the Fifth Annual Vestry Meeting of
The Anglican Church of St Mary and St Martha
FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

The fifth annual Vestry Meeting of the Church of St. Mary and St. Martha was held on Sunday, February 16th. Canon Beth Benson opened the meeting with prayer at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

There were 74 parishioners in attendance at Vestry.

Appointment of the Vestry Clerk

Canon Beth appointed Audrey Riley as Vestry Clerk.

Approved.

Adoption of the Agenda

Canon Beth asked that the Agenda be adopted.

Moved by Queenie Seiloa and seconded by Bev Sneyd that the agenda be adopted.

Unanimously Approved.

Episcopal Pastoral Letters to Vestry

Canon Beth drew our attention to the Bishop of Toronto's letter (pages 5 and 6 of the Vestry Report).

Moved by Shirley Radley and seconded by Jackie Harris that the Bishop of Toronto's Letter to Vestry be received.

Unanimously Approved.

Canon Beth next referred to the Area Bishop's Letter to Vestry dated January 20, 2020 and her Pastoral Letter dated September 22, 2019 (pages 7 – 10 of the Vestry Report).

Moved by Ouida Forde and seconded by Devon King that the Pastoral Letters from the Area Bishop, dated September 22, 2019 and January 20, 2020, be received.

Unanimously Approved.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings (pages 11 – 25 of the Vestry Report)

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting, February 3, 2019.
2. Addendum to the Minutes of February 3, 2019.
3. Minutes of the Youth and Children's Vestry Meeting, February 3, 2019.
4. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting, Part 2, February 24, 2019.

Moved by Joyce McKenzie and seconded by Marilyn Bissell that the Minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting held on February 3, 2019 and February 24, 2019 be approved.

Unanimously Approved.

5. Minutes of the Special Vestry Meeting, May 12, 2019.

Moved by Ed Grandy and seconded by Bev Sneyd that the Minutes of the Special Vestry Meeting of May 12, 2019 be approved.

Unanimously Approved.

In Memoriam

Canon Beth called for a moment of silence to remember and honour those in the parish who passed away in 2019, reading each name listed on page 27 of the Vestry Report.

Dianne Izzard noted "Gordon Goodwood" should read "Gordon Goodfellow".

Clergy Reports

a. Report of the Priest-in-Charge

Canon Beth reviewed her report on pages 28 to 33 of the Vestry Report touching on the highlights of 2019 and the launch of our Missional Action Plan. She explained this is a work in progress which will serve as a roadmap to consolidate our efforts and encourage parish members to participate and get involved. Don McCamus would present the proposal for Redevelopment of our Church Properties later in the meeting but Canon Beth noted what an exciting step it is for St. Mary and St. Martha. She concluded with her gratitude to all and thanked the PLC members who are stepping back in 2020 – Cynthia Rouse, Yvette Leander and Audrey Riley.

Canon Beth then invited Rev. Mark Regis to make his comments.

Although he has only been with us for the past couple of weeks, Rev. Mark said how much he is enjoying working with Canon Beth and the Board of Management. He thanked the congregation for the warm welcome he and his family have received. He sees this as a parish focused on joy – in each other, in our mission and in our community and looks forward to expanding that joy. He thanked Canon Beth for her guidance and assistance in learning about the complex issues facing our church and said he is grateful to be part of our community.

There were no further comments or questions regarding the report.

Moved by Hector Harris and seconded by Sandra Lewis that the Report of the Priest-in-Charge be received and accepted.

Unanimously Approved.

b. Report of the Honorary Priest Assistant and Missional Hub Coach

Canon Beth thanked Fr. Murray for his report (pages 34 and 35 of the Vestry Report) and for his mentorship of our three Wycliffe College students – Darnnell Chambers, Michael Lyons and Abraham Thomas, as well as his ongoing support at SMSM.

Moved by Don Grandy and seconded by Abraham Thomas that the Report of the Honorary Assistant and the Missional Hub Coach be received and accepted.

Unanimously Approved.

Staff Reports

a. Report of the Music Director

Canon Beth referred to Denise Jackson's report (pages 36 – 37 of the Vestry Report). She thanked her and the choir for providing music for all of us to enjoy each week, noting how much we love to sing!

Moved by Catherine Gardner and seconded by Joyce McKenzie that the Report of the Music Director be received and accepted.

Unanimously Approved.

b. Report of the Parish Administrator

Canon Beth thanked Elizabeth for her report (pages 37 – 38 of the Vestry Report) detailing the work she does for all of us. Canon Beth further noted that Elizabeth is a Deacon and brings this knowledge and experience to her position.

Moved by Barbara Franklin and seconded by Lilian Leander that the Report of the Parish Administrator be received and accepted.

Unanimously Approved.

Parochial Ministry Reports

Canon Beth mentioned last year we had split our Vestry Meetings into two parts, one for the Financial business and the other for Narrative or ministry. If you would prefer to do that in future, let Rev. Mark know. She was encouraged to see so many reports submitted as they are a sign of a healthy church. She took a few moments to mention each and drew attention to a couple of highlights - Catalina Joaquin (Youth Ministry Apprentice), Welcome Team and Greeters, Raymond Perez (CEO of brass polishing!), Lay Visitation Team (Carol Lewis and

Devon King), P.A.L.S., Growing Healthy Stewards Team, and ComSup (consider joining one of the 2 teams). She thanked the Social Committee and Cynthia Rouse who is stepping down as co-ordinator and Jackie Harris who has agreed to take over as lead.

Moved by Dianne Izzard and seconded by Shirley Radley that the Parochial Ministry Reports be received and accepted.

Unanimously Approved.

Social Justice and Advocacy Vestry Motion

Canon Beth referred to page 51 of the Vestry Report, "Vestry Motion 2020 – Taking Action on Climate Change" and asked for comments and suggestions before passing the motion. Regarding the government of Canada commitment, Hector Harris is concerned for those who depend on the fossil fuel industry for their livelihood; Ed Grandy pointed out we are all totally reliant on oil and gas for heating, transportation, etc.; Queenie Seiloa's concern is for Indigenous, northern and coastal communities who are so badly affected by climate change.

Fr. Murray Henderson suggested the first portion of the motion be amended to read as follows:

"We, the Vestry of the Church of St. Mary and St. Martha 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:

- **To continue to work towards the reduction of our dependence on the fossil fuel industry.**
- **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."**

The Youth group was previously asked to reflect on the parish goals listed in the motion and made their insightful presentation at the meeting. They compared the effects of some current practices to the benefits of using more environment-friendly options (i.e. Planting more trees would provide more oxygen, more habitat for birds and other wildlife, remove carbon dioxide from the air, and improve water quality by slowing rain as it falls to the earth). Please see the photo of their presentation board following.

Canon Beth suggested a task force be established (including some of our youth) to set and roll out our parish goals.

The following volunteered: Sandra Lewis, Carol Lewis, Ruthia Pak Regis, Catalina Joaquin, Arielle Smith, Rae-anne Roberts Perez, and Darren Alexander.

Sandra advised a meeting would take place in March and their report would be ready by Pentecost.

Moved by Ed Grandy and seconded by Hector Harris and the Vestry of St. Mary and St. Martha's Church that we commit our parish to the goals (to be determined by the task force) for the upcoming year to care for the earth as well as the most vulnerable among the human family.

Unanimously approved.

Churchwardens' Report

a. Non-financial Matters

Canon Beth expressed her gratitude to the wardens, Sandra Lewis, Carol Lewis, Shirley Radley and Queenie Seiloa, for going above and beyond expectations throughout the year. Dianne Izzard speaking from experience, thanked them on behalf of the congregation noting it is a 24/7 commitment. Sandra Lewis thanked Dianne for her continued guidance and support of the wardens.

b. Property Matters

Don McCamus submitted his report (pages 53 – 55 of the Vestry Report) on behalf of the wardens. He thanked Dianne Izzard for laying the groundwork and her continued guidance in caring for our properties. He thanked the teams who have worked at all and apologized that John Smart's name had been omitted from his report. He mentioned the highlights at 1149 Weston – painting of the inside of the church and the outside doors, repair of the heating system and leaks, the purchase of two new kitchen stoves and repair of a major leak in the Day Care kitchen. These expenses were all covered by proceeds from the sale of 104 Saskatoon. The repairs at 1796 Lawrence W. – two new furnaces and leaking basement issues, were covered by rent received from the Ghanaian congregation.

Moved by Dianne Izzard and seconded by Bev Sneyd that the Wardens' Report concerning non-financial matters and Property Matters be received and accepted.

Unanimously approved.

c. Redevelopment Options Study

Don referred to pages 56 and 57 of the Vestry Report. He began by saying the motion we are asked to approve today is the first step to major decisions and actions arising from them. He pointed out the Diocese owns the properties and it is critical that we are in alignment as we proceed. St. Mary and St. Martha is regarded by the Diocese as a template or leading pilot project in church redevelopment. Rob Henderson has been chosen to perform the research on several options listed in the report but NOT limited to them.

The work will be done in three phases; the first is Parish, Site, and Community Assessment which is expected to be completed in approximately 3 months. The expected cost is \$65,000 maximum, which would be covered by proceeds from the sale of the Church of the Advent and St. John's, Weston. Cost for phases two and three are yet to be determined.

Canon Beth asked for any questions or comments. Bev Sneyd asked if further options arose from the research would there be an additional cost. Canon Beth responded it is not likely as \$65,000 is the high estimate. Audrey Riley asked when the congregation would be consulted for their input. Canon Beth suggested this might be done in a series of Town Hall meetings throughout the process.

Dianne Izzard said she is encouraged to see us taking this big step forward and feels it is the best plan of action to save money and time with approval of the Diocese. Shirley Radley added her thanks for the support of the Diocese. Queenie (as a member of the Mt. Dennis Community Association) mentioned the expected development and diversification of the area around the LRT Hub. Canon Beth noted there are several empty storefronts along Weston Road, bought in anticipation of future development.

Moved by Don Grandy and seconded by Sandy McCamus that the Board of Management prepare terms of reference and seek approval from Diocesan Council to use the proceeds of the sale of the former Church of the Advent and St. John, Weston, held in trust by the Diocese, to fund the first phase of the Redevelopment Options Study, up to \$65,000.

Unanimously approved.

Financial Matters

a. Audited Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019

Hector Harris, Treasurer, advised the financial statements for 2019 had been approved by an independent auditor and referred to Peter Hogg's report on pages 60 and 61 of the Vestry Report. He then briefly reviewed the statements (pages 62 – 68 of the Vestry Report) noting proceeds from Investments, and followed up with his report and comments (pages 70 – 72). He was pleased to announce the audited income and expenditure statement recorded a surplus of \$9,513.00 for the year. Canon Beth noted this is a sign of careful management.

Moved by Joyce McKenzie and seconded by Bev Sneyd that the 2019 Audited Statements for the Church of St. Mary and St. Martha be received.

Unanimously approved.

b. Proposed 2020 Operating Budget

Hector referred to the Proposed Operating Budget Details on page 76 and advised that the Maintenance figure of \$81,500 under Property Expenses did not include the \$65,000 for the Redevelopment Options Study as Vestry approval was required. He then reviewed the Net Proceeds from the Sale of Properties report (page 77) and noted that the balance from the sale of 104 Saskatoon was reduced to \$54,406 as at December 31, 2019, explaining that funds from this sale were used for repairs, etc. at 1149 Weston Rd. He repeated that the \$65,000 for the Redevelopment Options Study would be taken from the proceeds from sale of the Church of the Advent and St. John's, Weston, with approval of the Diocese. Canon Beth reminded us how fortunate we are as the Diocese would normally take a percentage of these sales, but have graciously allowed us access to the total proceeds.

Sandra Lewis announced plans are underway for hiring of an Assistant Curate in 2020. Estimated expense will be \$3,300 with approximately \$2,500 coming from the Our Faith, Our Hope Fund. Canon Beth reminded us this is still under negotiation and is not a "handout" but rather a hand up from the Diocese. She and Hector advised normal cost of an Assistant Curate is approximately \$20,000 and in 2021 the cost to SMSM would increase from \$3,300 to approximately \$8,000.

Hector then drew our attention to the Proposed Operating Budget for 2020 and his commentary (pages 73 – 76 of the Vestry Report). Offering and PAG income is budgeted at an 8% increase, after adjustment for the reduction of contributions due to the departure of significant PAG givers. Rental Income is budgeted at 11% higher than 2019, mostly due to an increase in rental from the Ghanaian Church to match projected expenses for that property in 2020. Hector reiterated SMSM is NOT subsidizing the property at 1796 Lawrence Ave.; the rent collected covers all expenses.

Don Grandy questioned the difference in the 2019 Budget for Property Maintenance (\$75,772) and the 2019 Actual (\$80,933). Don McCamus responded the budgeted amount had not included snow clearing expenses.

There were no further questions or comments.

Moved by Carol Lewis and seconded by Sandra Lewis that the proposed budget be amended to contribute \$3.3K to the compensation of an Assistant Curate, and \$2.5K of the Our Faith, Our Hope Fund be allocated for this purpose, provided that sufficient funds are secured from other sources.

Unanimously approved.

Hector presented slides showing the financial support we have received from the Diocese - \$223,000.

Moved by Dianne Izzard and seconded by Carol Lewis that the parish of St. Mary and St. Martha is extremely grateful to the Diocese for all the assistance and support we have received.

Unanimously approved.

Moved by Shirley Radley and seconded by Queenie Seiloa that the amended 2020 Budget be approved with a deficit of \$5.8K and including allocation of 15% of Faithworks funds for local Outreach initiatives.

Unanimously approved.

c. Proposed 2020 Capital Budget

Don McCamus presented the Property Management report (pages 78 – 82 of the Vestry Report) noting the 2020 proposed budget has been reduced as it is hoped most major expenses have already been addressed. He provided an update on the LiftKar project, advising some work needs to be done on the stairs, after which training will commence and a 3-month trial rental of the equipment will begin.

Ed Grandy and Queenie Seiloa both had comments regarding re-keying of the locks. They were asked to e-mail their suggestions to Don McCamus.

Don Grandy had concerns about repair of the efflorescence (water damage) on the east wall of the main entrance. Coating the bricks with a sealer may cause more damage if it traps moisture in the bricks considering their age and condition. He suggested funds might be better spent to investigate the root cause of the water damage and then address the problem.

Moved by Ed Grandy and seconded by Shirley Radley that the proposed 2020 Capital Budget be approved.

Unanimously approved.

St. Mary and St. Martha Scholarship Report

Dianne Izzard and Yvette Leander referred to the guidelines which have been set out for this ongoing bursary for youth in the parish (page 83 of the Vestry Report). The current balance available is \$4,500 and donations are invited to fund the scholarship going forward. The \$100 bursary recognizes the student's commitment to further educational pursuits and shows the parish's support and encouragement.

Sandra Lewis asked if the \$100 bursary could be increased to \$200 as books, tuition, etc. are very expensive. A short discussion followed and all agreed the amount of the bursary should be amended to read \$200.

Moved by Dianne Izzard and seconded by Hector Harris that the St. Mary and St. Martha Scholarship Guidelines dated February 16, 2020, be adopted with the amendment to increase the bursary amount to \$200 and that they be applied retroactively for those students who were eligible for the scholarship in 2019.

Unanimously approved.

Nominations Report: Appointments and Elections

Canon Beth referred to page 84 of the Vestry Report. She welcomed Jackie Harris to the Parish Life Committee as Social Events representative and advised nominations would be accepted for a "Welcome" representative and for a Member at Large.

Jackie Harris nominated **Devon King** for Member at Large and Carol Lewis nominated **Ingrid Jones** for the Welcome representative. There being no further nominations Devon and Ingrid were acclaimed as PLC members. **Dianne Izzard** was appointed by Fr. Mark Regis as Member at Large.

Moved by Joyce McKenzie and seconded by Nellie Shaland that the slate of Vestry members nominated to serve as Synod representatives, Wardens and members of the Parish Life Committee be approved.

Unanimously approved.

Appointment of the Auditor

Moved by Lilian Leander and seconded by Collean Mottley that Peter W. Hogg, Chartered Accountant, be appointed as Auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.

Unanimously approved.

Signing Authority

Canon Beth suggested we reappoint those already authorized to sign cheques, etc.

Moved by Jennifer Montague and seconded by Ouida Forde that the Vestry authorize Sandra Lewis, Carol Lewis, Hector Harris, Shirley Radley and Kuinivia (Queenie) Seiloa as signing officers for the Church of St. Mary and St. Martha. All cheques and disbursements shall be authorized by two signatories, one of whom must be a Senior Warden.

Unanimously approved.

Carol Lewis wished everyone to know she and Sandra Lewis are in no way related.

New Business

Don Grandy suggested that page numbers be indicated on the Agenda in the next Vestry Report.

Don McCamus noted Dianne Izzard's name had been missed as a member of the Property Team on page 84 of the Vestry Report.

Motion for Adjournment

Moved by Catherine Gardner and seconded by Queenie Seiloa that the fifth annual meeting of the Vestry of the Church of St. Mary and St. Martha be adjourned.

Canon Beth closed the meeting with a blessing at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Riley, Vestry Clerk – 2020.

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

	2020	2019	2018
Average Weekly Attendance - Jan 1 to March 11	137*		
Average Weekly Attendance - March 15 - Dec 31	81 **	178*	140*
Average Sunday Attendance - Jan 1 to March 11	126*	129*	129*
Average Sunday Attendance - March 15 - Dec 31	69**		
Easter Sunday Attendance (includes Vigil in 2018 and 2019)	66 **	298*	266*
Christmas Attendance (includes Christmas Eve and Christmas Day)	108**	167*	243*
Wednesday Mid-Day Eucharist average January to March	12 *	9 *	11 *
Wednesday Evening Compline average March to December	11 **		

*** In person worship**

**** Virtual worship**

In Memoriam

Stephanie Maria Zilinsky

Dorritt Amy Paul

Patricia Kaye Carr

Marion McNiven

Doreen Smith

Report of Rev. Mark Regis, Priest in Charge

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." ~ Luke 1:38

My Sisters & Brothers,

I cannot think of another example in all the Scriptures that so emphatically demonstrates a holistic trust in God and his purposes. Mary, the mother-to-be of Jesus, is about to undertake an unimaginable journey filled with highs and lows that could never be prepared for, except by trusting faith.

She has set the gold standard for a true servant's heart that believes her Lord that, come what may, God's salvation will win in the end. She has set the standard down through the centuries to us at the Church of St. Mary and St. Martha.

Welcome to the sixth Annual Meeting of the Vestry of our Community. I begin by commending to you our bishops' letters to vestry, and give you special encouragement to read Bishop Jenny's final letter as bishop suffragan to the area of York Credit Valley. She has been an ardent supporter of our ministry, and we wish her every blessing as she begins her new ministry at rector of Canada's largest parish church, St. Paul's Bloor Street.

2020 has been a watershed moment in history. Future generations will look back on our time, studying and interpreting the myriad of changes either brought about or fast-forwarded by COVID-19. The Church is no different. Who amongst us would ever have imagined that we would worship from home throughout and between the high seasons of Easter and Christmas - and lived to tell the tale? When I arrived at St. Mary and St. Martha in February 2020 as your new priest, I was struck at how truly personal and physically engaged our community emphasis was. When the lockdown hit us, we immediately made the transition to an online & telephone life, jumping forward many years in an instant, adopting digital means to sustain our shared spiritual life. I will always be grateful for the willingness of this beloved church to pivot to continue God's work in a moment of time, and to look forward in God's hope for God's future.

May the bold acclamation of Mary echo deeply within us, trusting in the knowledge "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." ~ Romans 8:28

With God's leading and the help of so many dedicated creative staff and volunteers, we accomplished far more than digital worship on Sunday mornings - this has been a truly active year. You will see a snapshot below that is adapted from a year-end report shared in an issue of our newsletter What's Happening. More fulsome reports will be found in the pages to follow.

Online Worship/Learning

- Quickly transitioned to an online/phone platform, and experienced growth in active engagement during the early months of the pandemic
- Continued in developing our worship style, and have steadily increased our parish participation in serving roles
- Began a post-Sunday service time of sermon Q&A & Prayer, initially at 2pm then moved to follow directly after the service which has increased engagement. This has been a vibrant time of deeper learning and spiritual growth
- Wednesday Evening Prayer/Compline - a mid-week contemplative time of peaceful worship
- PALS (Small Group) - each has moved online/phone, with groups focussing on Race, and studying the theology of the great hymn tradition, as well as bible study and pastoral care

Kids/Youth & Digital Media

- A new position was created in response to our new social reality - to further develop our digital platforms (web, social media, online worship) and develop engaging programming for kids/youth ministry
- We brought on board, Matthew Waterman to serve in this new and critical role to our future, who has served wonderfully in his short time with us
- Looking to a future beyond the pandemic, our worship space at 1149 Weston is undergoing significant changes to allow for a synergy of in-person worship and digital streaming for the sake of a welcoming presence for our neighbours, and ongoing worship for those who for any reason cannot attend physically.
- Our kids and youth volunteers have creatively met the pastoral needs of our young people, blending the physical (e.g. mailed packages) and online worship/fellowship

Bibles & Technology

With the generous support of an anonymous donor, we have:

- Been able to distribute many NIV study bibles, kids bibles, and comic bible stories. Two online workshops on using the study bibles were given.
- Invest in flexible digital audio/visual solutions for our church facility

Racial Reconciliation

- Following the events of George Floyd, our church responded by engaging in two parish discussions, which birthed a small group (PALS) that focuses on sharing each other's personal experiences of race, with the goal of building understanding, healing, and eventually to offer constructive recommendations to help build spiritual oneness and dismantle racial prejudice

Property & Redevelopment

- The Board of Management diligently sought and decided upon the best partner to investigate the feasibility of several redevelopment options for our parish properties.
- In November, St. Joseph's church (Ghanaian congregation) left 1796 Lawrence for another church home. This has fortunately enabled us to close the building to save both costs and time

- Installed a new security system on the exterior of the building at 1149 Weston. This includes a video entry and keyless fob entry. This system will be 'portable' for future redevelopment of property

Wycliffe Student Interns

- We welcomed two new students: Emma Hart and Nicholas Saulnier, and welcomed back Abraham Thomas
- Under the faithful leadership of Fr. Murray Henderson, each has been a gift to our community and have been stretched and strengthened in the ministry challenges within the pandemic - in areas such as: pastoral care, worship, small group participation, and Alpha planning

Pastoral Care

- Our Lay Visitation Team quickly transitioned to a ministry of care through phone calling and keeping abreast of the varying needs of life during the pandemic

Outreach

- We collected and filled over 35 backpacks for back-to-school kids in our local neighbourhoods
- We continued this year our Advent Food drive, to help the increasing needs of our local food banks, collecting encouraging amounts of food and monetary donations
- Due to the pause of our Community Supper program, we were able to share a portion of our outreach budget with several existing and new outreach partners who extended their deep gratitude to SMSM for partnering with them in their vital work.

A Further Word about Property Development

With COVID slowing down many aspects of our common life, our Board of Management and diocesan leaders did their best to keep our property development portfolio moving forward. By means of refresher, please re-familiarize yourself with Redevelopment Options Study, brought forward in January 2020 (page 28). There you will find the four scenarios and three-phased approach to discerning our future property goals.

After much thought, prayer, and discussion, our Board decided to seek a second proposal for the first phase of our investigation. With the approval of our diocesan leadership, we moved into a professional partnership with Turner & Townsend, a global consultancy business serving clients in real estate development. Their work will build upon the various research and proposal reports already conducted.

We await the conclusion of their investigative work which will cover the four scenarios that our vestry approved in 2020. At that time we will bring a completed report before our community in the appropriate forum and consider how we best move forward in the future God has prepared for our ministry, ever seeking to have our neighbours and their needs at heart.

2021 - A Year of Rejuvenation

One of the joys of 2021 has been witnessing the spiritual impact of Alpha and its online experience. We recognize that the mission of the Church never changes - gathering and maturing people into the Kingdom of God - but the methodology adjusts from era to era. We are now, I believe, in a new era of ministry with new modes of communication and community. The pandemic has not created this era, but it has certainly expedited the process.

Prior to the pandemic, a great deal of fruitful missional listening was conducted by many of our people, culminating in the Missional Action Plan. A part of this process was the involvement of our Parish Life Committee. Over the past year, ministry 'triaging' took place to the adaptation process to meet the immediate needs of our community. A newly formed Ministry Team, meeting weekly, was struck to pray, discern, implement and reflect upon ongoing parish ministry initiatives. That team comprises: Rev. Elizabeth Nelson, Matthew Waterman, Fr. Murray Henderson, Carol Lewis, and currently, Sandra Lewis. We have also been joined from time to time by our Wycliffe students.

Now that we have gained a measure of constancy in our weekly rhythms, it is now time to rejuvenate our Parish Life Committee, taking a fresh new look at our Missional Action Plan. I look forward to this process, gathering with our ministry leaders and building an adapted version of overarching missional strategy. I invite you to prayerfully discern how you might be part of this process, and stay tuned for more information in the weeks to come.

A Word of Thanksgiving

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to you, the people of St. Mary & St. Martha. I began this missional journey with you with a very different set of expectations, and we have all been given a series of challenges and opportunities that we could not have imagined. I know that this has been very stretching and at times difficult, but as followers of Jesus Christ, and with the strength of the Holy Spirit, the best is always yet to come, and there is good news upon good news to celebrate. We have not been stagnant in our community life and will move forward together in faith.

I would also like to give thanks to God for the faithful gospel leadership of Canon Beth Benson, who gave herself to the wonderful and rigorous work of leading the parish through the process of amalgamation. She was exceedingly generous in the month of cross-over that we shared in February as she showed your new priest the ropes of a very complex role. She is now serving as a leadership coach in our area of the diocese (York Credit Valley), mentoring ordained leaders to grow in their capacities to meet the various requirements of an ever-changing job.

I wish to give thanks to our Board of Management and their continued commitment to the mission of the church. They have made my own integration to the parish as seamless as it could possibly be, giving me room to adapt to a new ministry setting under challenging circumstances. With this, I give my sincere appreciation to our Ministry Team who gave of themselves wholeheartedly to the work of the gospel:

- Rev. Elizabeth Nelson who has been a vital connection between parish and diocese, connecting the dots of ministry life and facilitating communication in a variety of ways
- Our Wardens, Carol Lewis and Sandra Lewis who have always been a generous phone or zoom call away in facing the sophisticated new challenges of ministry in a pandemic
- Matthew Waterman who came on staff after ably leading our 2nd parish conversation on racism, and assuming dedicated leadership of a very diverse and complex role

In the sudden and dramatic changes that were part of 2020, our diocesan leadership responded quickly and pastorally to the wide diversity of Christian communities that are part of our Anglican family. Through the wise stewardship of their land resources, funds were freed up to help individual churches meet the sudden financial challenges brought about by reduced financial givings, which included us at St. Mary & St. Martha. We were and remain grateful and inspired for their care. We also know that this assistance was not meant to continue, but a means to help churches 'get over the hump'. Our contracted budget for 2021 will reflect these ongoing challenges, and our stewardship committee and our entire community are joyfully called upon to meet our missional and infrastructure fiscal needs. I have no doubt we will rise to the occasion - thank you for being part of this adventure.

With our physical worship being on continued pause for the immediate future, we have had to make the tough decision to suspend budgetary commitment to the music program. However, where there is a door closed, a window of opportunity opens - a team will be formed to reimagine music in our current reality and how God might be leading us into the future.

Denise Jackson has been a warm, Spirit-filled and valued member of our ministry team. I have personally appreciated how she responded with grace to the changing capacities of our ministry and her role, and her heart for the vital role that music plays in praising God, uniting people, and teaching the faith. Her counsel and insights will remain invaluable to our community as we seek together to continue growing from strength to strength and look forward to the day when we rejoin in physical worship.

I want to finish by thanking the Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Henderson who will be bringing his ministry at St. Mary & St. Martha to a close in 2021, as he and his wonderful wife Diana move to Ottawa to be closer to their daughter and grandchild. He has been a gracious, generous, wise, God-loving leader who always modeled a posture of expectancy - expectancy that the Holy Spirit would transform the hearts and minds of our people and our neighbours. Sometimes I believe he has more energy as a 'retired' cleric than I imagined I could ever have. His ministry to the Wycliffe College Missional Hub and our three graduate student interns has been exemplary, and both the College and diocese have related how important our ongoing student formation has been. The majority of this is due to Fr. Murray's supervision. His preaching, teaching, and leading have been consistently inspiring and we will miss both he and Diana immensely.

May God continue to enrich and bless us in 2021 as we live into these biblical words of promise and hope:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Submitted in the hope, faith, and love of Christ,

Rev. Mark Regis

Honorary Priest Assistant and Wycliffe Theological College Missional Mentor

Dear, dear friends,

Doubly dear, because too soon, we'll be saying good-bye to you all, as we prepare to move to Ottawa to be near our daughter.

When I came to St. Mary and St. Martha in 2016 I wanted not only to be a Mentor to the Wycliffe students I brought with me, but I wanted to truly "belong" to this parish. So I jumped at the chance to be appointed an Honorary Priest Assistant by the Bishop. You accepted Diana and I warmly, with the result that these four and a half years have been very fruitful in ministry and joyful in friendship.

The Honorary Assistant part and the Mentor part have worked out splendidly together. It's been a joy to invite four successive Teams of Wycliffe students into the fellowship of SMSM. They made visits, "lingered with intent" at coffee hours, took part in PALS GROUPS providing leadership in many of them, and led Alpha Groups including the one we launched two weeks ago - ALPHA ON-LINE. And of course almost all the ministry of our current Team has been by phone or via the internet. This year's Team of Abraham Thomas (his second year with us), Emma Hart, and Nicholas Saulnier have been diligent in working with me to figure out how training for Ministry electronically might actually take place. It hasn't been easy for them but they've been good sports and good followers of our Lord as they've pitched in with enthusiasm and faithfulness. I know Wycliffe College is grateful to SMSM for helping in the Christian formation of all the students they've sent us. I look forward to following their future ministries, and those of the other students.

I thank God for the opportunity to work with two of the finest priests a person could know, Canon Beth Benson and Rev. Mark Regis. What passion, love, and intelligence Beth brought to the amalgamation of our four parishes, and how brilliantly has Mark guided us through setting up our "digital church" after only two weeks on the job. Mark's kindness, generosity, and sharp intellect will lead us into God's demanding and exciting future that awaits us.

You people have given us so much: lots of laughs, warmth and affection; encouragement, as when you would say "good sermon", wisdom gained from lives that for many of you have often been lived in the receiving end of racism - somehow your faith in Jesus Christ has made the difference.- I can see that difference from the Racism PALS GROUP in which it was my privilege to take part.

My great hope for SMSM is that you will continue to be a Church of Small Groups. Mark, you have been a wonderful brother to work with - thanks for everything. The Wardens have been great, and the other members of the Ministry (Staff) Team, Matthew and Elizabeth - well, thanks for your great support in so many ways.

I expect to keep praying and hoping for you in the days ahead, that you'll be a force for the cause of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ in the years to come. May the Lord Jesus be forever your strength.

Diana's fondest greetings are joined to mine.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Canon Murray and Diana Henderson.

Parish Administrator

What a year! We began 2019 quite inauspiciously and with a flurry of activities and Sunday lunches! Canon Beth retired and the Rev'd Mark Regis became our Priest-in-Charge. And two weeks into March we moved into lockdown. Words and phrases such as "new normal", "pivot", "re-imagine" became part of our lexicon. Some things changed, and some things stayed the same.

Each week I prepare the **liturgical bulletin** for use on Sunday mornings. It is posted at the end of the week on our website (www.stmaryandstmartha.org). The **What's Happening** newsletter is prepared weekly. When we realized that the lockdown was going to stretch out, we decided to mail out copies of the newsletter each Tuesday. That meant that those without computers or access to internet would still be able to keep in touch with the community. Our list of parishioners for mail out is 47. What's Happening is also emailed to a list of about 115 people and posted on the website.

There is a **liturgical schedule** for the clergy, organist and administrator to keep each other informed of plans for Sunday worship. I also prepare **the rota**, currently of readers and intercessors.

PowerChurch – The three modules I use within this church software package are membership, contributions and accounts payable. If you move or change your phone number or email, please let me know so I can keep the membership list current. Each week I prepare cheques for the Wardens to sign and mail/distribute as necessary.

Screening – The Diocese of Toronto participates in a programme called Screening in Faith. Each position within the church (paid and volunteer) is assessed for level of risk. Those who are in a high risk position must undergo a police check and a Sexual Misconduct Prevention workshop every three years. I keep track of the volunteers and ensure that their documentation is up to date.

Use of Space – We have several outside users of the building: SuperKids Day Care, CounterPoint, a Saturday night AA group and the Roseland Horticultural Society. There are also 2 euchre groups that meet in the Parish Hall. The Day Care was closed for several months and was re-opened in June. The other groups have all been "on hold" since March's lockdown. AA groups are considered an essential resource and they met from June until the latest "grey lockdown" which came into effect just after Christmas. With a limit of 10 people, and the rising cases, it was suggested that they not meet in person. We continue to rent 3 houses (12 Blackstone, 1798 Lawrence West and 81 Delemere).

Board of Management – The Board of Management is appointed by Diocesan Council. The group meets once a month. It consists of 4 outside members and 4 SMSM members plus Mark Regis. I serve as secretary at the Board meetings.

Social Media – We maintain a presence on Facebook and Instagram. I was posting weekly on Instagram and this post was "pushed" to Facebook. Matthew Waterman took over this portfolio when he came on staff in September. I do continue to post on the website.

Many thanks to all who are weathering the storm.

(The Rev'd) Elizabeth Nelson

Digital Media Coordinator

With the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, we immediately began the process of pivoting to offer as many of our ministries online as possible. Shortly after our church building was closed by the Bishop of Toronto, we began offering services initially on GoToMeeting, before settling on Zoom where we have remained ever since. With the assistance of Ben Tshin and Andrew Colman, we offered services from the church during Holy Week, as well as services streamed from home up until the end of June.

At the beginning of July, I began administering services on Zoom and have done so every Sunday since. The majority of services since then have been from home, but we did several services from the church on Zoom, namely the parish anniversary, All Saints', Reign of Christ, A Christmas Service of Hope, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. These were all (with the exception of one) Eucharist services with a prayer of spiritual communion, and sermons given both remotely and in the sanctuary. A regular schedule of events began and has continued on Zoom, including PALS groups on racial reconciliation, hymns, and the Psalms, Wednesday evening Compline, children/youth ministry each Sunday, lay visitation team meetings, Sunday afternoon Q&A and prayers, and occasional events such as the racism discussions in June and Alpha. Though the church has been closed physically, we have managed to maintain a full complement of services and other events through virtual media.

In June, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a contractor installed a camera with the capability to stream services from the church building meant to appear on Zoom and YouTube. In September we began consulting with another contractor, and the decision was made to invest in two more portable cameras, as well as the necessary apparatus to integrate the experience of those present in the sanctuary with that of those viewing or listening from home.

In addition to this, I have been working on growing our social media presence by posting weekly videos, images, and links to relevant pages on our website. I have done some work with video editing, not only to prepare Sunday sermons for YouTube, but also to select and edit clips of a suitable length for our Facebook page, as well as shorter videos with music for various purposes produced on TikTok and posted to Instagram. We had two large video projects for Christmas, a virtual pageant from our children's ministry and an excerpted performance of a play by Ins Choi by our youth group. There has been good progress in this area in the last few months, and we hope to continue building on what has been achieved to date.

Matthew Waterman

Music Ministry

“I will sing to the Lord; I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song.” 5 years of joy-filled worship experiences at St. Mary and St. Martha’s Church and counting!

This past year started off as it normally would with the sounds of the trumpets and heavenly voices heradling our Saviour’s birth resonating in our ears. Little did we know that COVID-19 was about to bring great changes to how we worship and would test our faith.

The shift to virtual services really impacted the ministry of music. Fortunately, we were able to incorporate first one then two hymns into our online worship thanks to YouTube with the Doxology being a constant from the start. This offered some semblance of normalcy to the services and worship experience.

As we look ahead to Easter, we will focus on the journey to the cross through hymns chosen with care to enhance the worship experience, reiterate the message of the gospel lesson, and season that we are in.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Jackson, Music Director

Wardens' Report

January and February 2020 came with much expectation of a wonderful year ahead including maintenance of our treasured ministries and wishing Canon Beth an amazing retirement and bring honour for all she did to bring us to where we are as a parish. The welcoming of Rev. Mark and his family was an event done in St. Mary and St. Martha style. With the guidance of Mark, we looked forward to growing in faith and continuing stability.

Worship is a warm and growing part of St. Mary and St. Martha. We are grateful for those family members who set up and participate in our services. The Youth Group, the Nursery and the Sunday School are growing by the grace of God. Jorge Vargas came on board as our custodian, maintaining our Church building and keeping up with the many changes we needed to prepare a safe place for the reopening. Many annual events were always in the background to plan and look forward to: Bazaar, Boat cruise, Yard Sale, Euchre afternoons, Talent Auction, Party by the Pond, Men's Group events, ComSup and our Walkathon.

Then March came and with it came Covid-19. Our Church life changed and our building was shut down. But it proves that the people are the Church not the building. So true now, more than ever. Before Covid-19 we attended all those meetings where we had studied where we should go electronically and when we should do that. Well, this pandemic changed everything and the question changed from how and when do we provide digital service to when can it be installed? It is an honour as wardens to work with so many parishioners willing to make a difference to get where we are today, together.

With thanks to Mark for tireless hours worked, we are now in a wonderful new Zoom world of a faithful family. Rev. Elizabeth Nelson, our Parish Administrator, has had to change everything she had done before to another format. She keeps us all connected and updates information so we maintain continuity. Many thanks for keeping yourself safe and all you do for us. Our new Youth leader and Digital Media Co-ordinator, Matthew Waterman, has brought a new world that our youth and children look forward to each and every week and the digital support has been outstanding. We give thanks to Father Murray for the support of Alpha and the many small groups. We give thanks for Father Murray's nurture and mentoring of the students. They bring a willingness to learn with a mixture of newness and tradition to our spiritual life.

The parish financial contributions designated to outreach made a difference to our community when the community needs it most. That will continue.

God is alive. As they say, "Lift high the Cross." Ring loud the bell of St. Mary and St. Martha! Our Mission statement is fulfilled this year. Stay safe, be well and pray we appreciate all our blessings. Thanks be to God!

Submitted By Sandra Lewis, Carol Lewis, Queenie Seiloa and Shirley Radley

Property Re-Development from 2020 Vestry Report

(This is reprinted from last year's Vestry Report)

The Board of Management of the Church of St Mary and St Martha has good news to share! The purpose of our pre-vestry meeting today is to share information concerning redevelopment of our church properties, outline next steps, hear your questions and to seek your input.

From the early days of our amalgamation, parish leaders have been thinking and praying about how to be good stewards of our properties (2 churches and 3 houses!) for the sake of ministry and mission. Many of you have been active participants in our visioning workshops and more and more members of our congregation are actively engaged in ministry and mission.

The Board of Management has been actively bringing information and redevelopment scenarios forward for discussion with senior Diocesan staff, our Area Bishop Jenny Andison and most recently the Bishop Toronto, Andrew Asbil. St Mary and St Martha is regarded by the Diocese as the leading pilot project in church redevelopment for ministry and mission – that is largely because the work we have completed over the past 4 years in building bridges with our neighbours through our ministry, care and compassion and welcome to all!

There is agreement that the opportunities for ministry and mission in our large geographic parish are extraordinary. There is also agreement that there are several redevelopment options we could move forward on and evaluation of these options must be thorough and allow for parish and community input. Finally, there is agreement that we must work closely with the Diocese as we move forward.

We are ready to move forward with a rigorous evaluation of a short list of redevelopment scenarios. They include but are NOT limited to the following (other scenarios could emerge as more information is gathered and assessed):

Scenario 1: Keep both church properties with an Anglican place of worship at each site. Major renovation/rebuild at 1149 Weston Road, mixed use with housing at Lawrence Ave West.

Scenario 2: Keep both church properties with Anglican place of worship at each site. Major renovation at 1149 Weston Road, sever part of Lawrence Ave property for residential development.

Scenario 3: Keep both church properties with an Anglican place of worship at each site, Major renovation at 1149 Weston Road; worship space and community space at Lawrence Ave West; no housing.

Scenario 4: Sell one church property, no housing (note: this is presently the least favoured option)

For us to move forward, the Diocese needs us to “compare and contrast” all the options showing how much each option is likely to cost to build and operate, the nature of partnerships that might be needed and appropriate, and how long each option would take to build etc. There are legal, financial and planning issues to address in this analysis. Financial viability and sustainability will be a key part of the analysis.

Property Management Report – 2020 in Review

Like all other areas, Property issues were impacted by COVID with fewer projects undertaken due to Covid implications.

I am thankful once again for the assistance and support of several people in the congregation. John Almand provides support with jobs at 1149 Weston Rd and similarly Bob Churchill at 1796 Lawrence Ave. In particular, we're grateful to Bob and his team (John Almand and John Smart) that cuts grass around the property. Philip Conyers is my go-to person for assistance at 81 Delemere. Elizabeth Nelson helps to coordinate various contractors and service suppliers at 1149 Weston Rd and the other properties. Carol Lewis continues to be a right-hand person providing guidance on property issues and helping to coordinate and help with hands-on projects at both properties. In turn, she had help from Raymond Perez, Steve Lewis, Joshua Fajingbesi, Clive Campbell, and Fitzroy Thomas which was much appreciated. In particular, thanks go to Fitzroy and Gabriel De Vent (student volunteer) for painting the floor and steps in the main entrance. Of course, thanks to Dianne Izzard who continues to coach, guide, and assist.

We are blessed with our several properties. Teamwork makes their maintenance much easier.

2020 in Review

Church of St. Mary and St. Martha – 1149 Weston Rd.

Security System Upgrade - The main project was to improve security at the parking lot entrance for both the Church and the Day Care. A new electronic and video-based security system was installed. A person wanting to enter the building now presses a button for either the Church or the Day Care. This signals either Elizabeth or the Day Care leaders and sends a video of the person at the door. Then Elizabeth or the Day Care can decide if they want to let that person in and 'buzz' the door to open it. Additionally, the main doors to the Day Care areas downstairs are always locked and a key fob system is used by employees to move back and forth through these doors. The parking lot doors also have the key fob system. We are in the process of issuing fobs to those people from the church who require them. (In the meantime, the regular key still works.) This system is a huge improvement in security for the Day Care and for church staff. It is of utmost importance to keep the children safe. Our staff are also in a much more secure situation.

General Upgrades and Maintenance

- Flooring at the entrance and up and down the steps at the parking lot entrance was replaced with a new vinyl and rubber floor and step coverings. This project upgraded the previous worn stair covering and treads. It was also necessary in order to make the edges of the stairs more square in order for them to facilitate proper and safe operation of the 'LiftKar'.
- Jorge Vargas, our custodian, has cleaned, stripped, and waxed the floors in the main entrance, church, washrooms, corridors, and kitchen. They are all clean and shiny now! A great improvement! Thanks Jorge!
- The floor covering at the main entrance and stairwell was refreshed and painted. (This covers the original flooring that was exposed during our deep cleaning and floor stripping project and found to be very worn and unsuitable.)

- An audio-visual system is being installed for future 'streaming' of services (see Matthew Waterman's report on Digital Media for further details)
- In-person Worship Preparation – Sanitizing stations have been mounted. Directional arrows and seat location stickers have been put in place.
- Miscellaneous minor repairs

1796 Lawrence Ave

Parking Lot Security

I am very glad to report that the parking lot has been properly secured. The front entrance is chained off and vehicles are prevented from going around the chain with large parking curbs placed on either side of the driveway. The back laneway is barricaded with two large parking curbs. The parking lot is now empty with no vehicles parked there. The hedges and trees along the north side of the laneway have also been removed and trimmed with the assistance of our neighbour.

Vacant Property Management

With the departure of the Ghanaian congregation, the water has been drained in the church building, heat is set at 10C, and the building is being inspected weekly with the assistance of our tenant at 8 Blackstone. Snow continues to be removed from the parking lot and the walkways and steps and salt applied. These measures fulfill the requirements for insurance purposes.

Repair and upgrade projects planned for 2020 were suspended due to the impending move of the Ghanaian congregation.

Rectories and Parish House

General maintenance, annual service, and minor repairs were made (e.g. – downed branch removal after a windstorm, leaking laundry tub, tree trimming, furnace problems, roof vent replacement).

Submitted by,

Don McCamus
Member of Board of Management and 'Lead' on Property Issues

Nursery Ministry

Due to COVID 19 and the closure of the church building, we were unable to facilitate our weekly Sunday gathering in our Nursery programme. We know that socialization is vital to children's development and well-being. This socialization also encourages parents to provide that care to their children and to themselves.

My thoughts and prayers go out to our Nursery families. Stay strong until we can meet up again on a person-to-person basis.

Our Nursery team:

- Deborah Scantlebury - Coordinator
- Yvette Leander
- Dianne Izzard
- Bridget Davis
- Dian Cammock
- Nesalin Blackwood
- Anthonia Davy

Children's Ministry

During this unprecedented time we have found ourselves in since March, one thing remains the same and that is the passion and determination of the Sunday School teachers to create a remote teaching platform so that each child will be able to reach his or her full potential in a caring and faith-filled environment. While there are many uncertainties ahead, we are confident that, working together, we will experience another blissful year, our Sunday School Team will continue to grow in Christ and will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of the children of St. Mary and St. Martha.

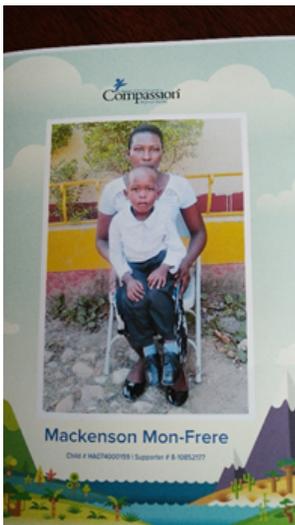
Special thanks to Canon Beth, Rev. Mark and the members of St. Mary and St. Martha for all their support. Welcoming Matthew to the team as head of Youth and Children's Ministry has been an amazing support. His spiritual quietness and tech knowledge bring stability in this new world. Special thanks to Ruthia for joining our team. Her warmth and talents bring much joy to our children. Thank you for the service of those Sunday School teachers who have given of their time in the past and now are doing different things. Thank you to the parents who choose to sign in to zoom each week when they can. Before Covid-19, children came to Sunday School when a parent or grandparent came. Now the children can come no matter where they are in the province. The happiness that each child has seeing familiar faces, and their growth makes us feel that we must continue. We have prayers each week for personal family members and their family members of SMSM, to say goodbye to Covid-19, and often the suggestion that we pray for everyone's favorite superheroes! Prayers always make us smile and they feel supported. We have a future because our children have faith in God. Thanks be to God.

We also had the opportunity to put together a virtual Christmas pageant for the first time. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to film their children and submit videos in a timely manner. It was a joy for many members of the congregation to see the children again (for most, it was the first time since March), and the children's focus and enthusiasm brightened many lives and brought smiles to many faces. Special thanks as well to Ruthia for writing the script and providing editorial comments and suggestions.

Ruthia has also been responsible for spearheading the packages we send out to the children each month with materials for Sunday school, as well as games, toys, and art supplies for their enjoyment. Special thanks to Shirley for her contribution to the packages each month, and for her willingness to deliver some packages to save on time and postage.

Macken, our sponsored child celebrated his 4th birthday on November 13. He loves playing with his toy cars and one of his favorite activities is learning about God. Along with the global pandemic, there is also political unrest in Macken's country (Haiti) and he is unable to attend preschool. We continue to pray daily for Macken and his family. Prayer is how we actively practice believing that God has the whole world in his hands. We continue to express God's love to Macken by our continued prayers, support and letters.

About our sponsored Child:



Name: Mackenson Mon-Frere – prefers to be called Macken

Birthdate – November 13, 2016

Primary caregiver – Mother

Currently lives with his mother

Respectfully submitted by Ann Chambers, Shirley Radley, and Matthew Waterman

Youth Group

Any regular series of events or meetings which might have taken place for our youth in 2020 were significantly interrupted by the pandemic. However, intermittent meetings were held throughout the first two thirds of the year and the group did not disband or dissolve.

Though I began working in this ministry in September, it was not until the end of October when we had our first meeting as a group. This was mainly due to a need to recruit willing and suitable adult leaders to help me in this ministry. I was blessed to encounter two very willing and able leaders: Dian Cammock who has been with me from the beginning, and Jackie Harris, who joined shortly afterward. These two have brought stability, wisdom, and compassion to this ministry. Their presence and engagement enrich the lives of our youth, and it has been a pleasure to get to know them and pray with them at our monthly leaders' meetings.

Though I had the opportunity to speak with a few of our youth over the phone during September and early October, our first meeting as a group occurred on October 25th, and we have continued to meet in that format on Sunday afternoons at 1pm ever since. From that Sunday until the beginning of Advent we discussed various aspects of the love of Jesus which surpasses understanding.

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, we began a four-week series where we studied aspects of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, Jesus, and John the Baptist, taking the opportunity to dwell on contemporary subjects such as the disparities women face in the workplace and using social media in a manner that enhances rather than betrays our faith in Christ. Following that, we began to use a catechism which reflects on the promises we made at our confirmation as further preparation to their full entry into the life of our church as adults.

Apart from our regularly scheduled meetings, our youth group worked hard during November and early December to film their own parts at home for a Christmas presentation, an excerpted performance of the poem "A Baby in a Manger" by Ins Choi. They all participated and did a great job. We had a Christmas party on December 18th during which we shared in a meal remotely through Skip the Dishes and watched the movie Jingle Jangle together on the Netflix Party app. On January 23rd, members of our youth group met with our MP Ahmed Hussen to talk about his work in Ottawa, the Canadian political system, and how and why young people should get involved in politics. We are hoping to have many more similar events over the coming year and look forward to whatever opportunities may arise.

As part of my role, I have had the opportunity to participate in professional development through the Diocese of Toronto. I am enrolled in their Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP), and as such have met with our area youth coordinator Ali McIntosh once a month for feedback and advice. I also attended the annual youth retreat in September, the youth ministry training day, and the YMAP retreat in February.

Matthew Waterman

Chancel Guild

2020 started off well – we removed the Christmas tree and decorations and started to prepare for Lent. We bid farewell to Canon Beth and welcomed Fr. Mark to SMSM, intending to work with him to determine his preferences for service set-up.

Palms had been ordered in January, ready for making crosses for our Palm Sunday service, when COVID-19 struck and the first lock-down began. It was too late to cancel our order, so we decorated with palm fronds outside both entrances to the building – the best we could do under the circumstances. Little did we know this would just be the first “difference” we would encounter in 2020.

It soon became apparent we would not need to set up for virtual services unless or until they could take place in the church. As technology at SMSM improved, Fr. Mark was able to live-stream special services from the church and Audrey or Carol ensured communion vessels, Advent Wreath, etc. were in place for his use. We have declared Fr. Mark an honorary member of the Chancel Guild for his assistance in making this happen!

We were all saddened by Doreen Smith’s illness and death – it was especially difficult as we were unable to visit with her or have a church funeral due to COVID restrictions. Doreen served on the Chancel Guild of the Church of the Good Shepherd for many years before amalgamation and was an original member of SMSM’s team. We all miss her smile and her laugh – rest well good and faithful servant.

A personal “thank you” to all Guild members who have kept in touch and offered their help over the past several months, patiently waiting in faith for the day it is safe for all of us to return to church when their services will once more be required.

Respectfully submitted by

Audrey Riley

Outreach Report

Last February at Vestry we passed a budget for Outreach. Who would have thought we would be continuing to grow our faith through Zoom and not continuing Community Suppers soon after the first start of 2020? Eleven weeks of serving food and offering clothes came to a stop. Over 65 volunteers helped serve, shop and cook for those 11 weeks. The clergy and students were steadfast supporters at the dinners. Community Supper is a family gathering and each person is as important as the other. It is a place to break bread together with a home cooked meal and share stories of life. The blessing is that a lot of the volunteers have contacts with some of our regular guests. At Christmas all of the ones with whom we have contact got a gift, as they would have had if we were still running ComSup.

Keeping in touch lets us find out their needs and be there for them when we can. One thing we learned is where they went for food and a hot meal. Then Don and I contacted places like Weston King Centre, Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF), Salvation Army Mount Dennis Food Bank and Syme Woolner Food Bank and more. One of our parishioners, Ivy Malcolm, volunteers at the Syme Woolner Food Bank. We learned from the Weston Food Bank that the needs of our Weston Road core since the pandemic have more than doubled. Thus the collection of our ongoing 'food drive' at St. Mary and St. Martha continues to be important. We give thanks to Fitzroy and Francis Thomas who were at the Church to receive the gifts of food for two Saturdays in November. Earlier in the year even the food from the Deacon's cupboard was sent to the food bank. Just because our doors were closed our Outreach had its own life to continue.

Sincere thanks to the anonymous donor of study bibles and children's bibles. Your kindness has brought much peace and enhanced individual and small group bible study. The children love their bibles with coloured pictures describing our Lord's walk. Blessings to you for such a wonderful heartfelt gift.

Frontlines, in Weston, said there was a need for backpacks for school children in our community. With the donations that the parish members sent in plus more from the outreach fund we donated 33 backpacks to this project. Each backpack had a supply of school needs such as paper, pens and markers. The back packs were marked for high school, middle school and junior school. All school ages were accommodated.

At the end of November, we did a special drive for food, monetary donations, hats, mitts, scarves, and toys to support the Salvation Army in Mount Dennis, and the food banks in Weston and at Syme-Woolner. The congregation was very generous and supportive and these important Outreach providers in our own neighbourhoods were glad to receive our donations. Many thanks.

Before Christmas, the Wardens and Outreach Committee allocated funds to several outreach organizations. There was money in the Outreach Account because ComSup has not been running since March. As a result, we were able to distribute cheques to the following:

- Anduhyaun Inc. (support for Indigenous women and children in Mount Dennis)
- Weston Presbyterian Church (home of ComSup)
- Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre and Food Bank (including the money donated for the Food Drive)
- Weston Area Emergency Support (WAES food bank) (including hats, mitts, and scarves donated for the Food Drive)
- Weston King and Mount Dennis Neighbourhood Centres (Community Resource, Outreach Centres including meals)
- Frontlines Toronto (Youth support in Weston) Money donation and backpacks with supplies

- PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund)
- Anglican Foundation (support within Canada)
- Urban Arts (arts, heritage and culture programming in Weston-Mount Dennis)
- YWCA (supporting women and children)
- Parish of Saint Stephen-in-the Fields - The Heart of Kensington with breakfast and dinner programs
- Parish of St Michael and All Angels - Food Bank and Out of the Cold Lunch program
- Flemingdon Park Ministry - Food Security - The Common Table Farm
- Salvation Army Weston Community Church (including the food donated for the Food Drive)

We have received letters and emails of thanks from these organizations. Thank YOU for supporting Outreach activities at St Mary and St Martha!

In these times, the call is great and the heart of our Church is bigger.

It is a pleasure to be a part of the Outreach Committee.

Submitted by Shirley Radley

Community Supper Report 2020

We had a wonderful start to 2020. In the first 11 weeks we served over 500 meals. Looking at the records of those weeks, we served all the favourites ranging from meatloaf, roast beef with mashed potatoes and vegetables to pasta and chili. Desserts were everything from cake and ice cream to apple crisp, pineapple upside down cake and homemade cookies. Reading those memories makes you feel hungry! A taste of home, in a hearty meal. Guests chat with each other and comments to us were, "Thanks, just like my Mom would have cooked." It's those moments we know as a team that the right menu was served.

Then Covid-19 happened to the world. The difficult decision to close came with much sadness. With over 22 years serving the community, the safety of all guests, four teams, cooks and shoppers was paramount. Clergy support helped to make the decision to close easier. In the late summer, two of us cleared out all the clothes that had been on hand since March. We found a second hand clothing store where all proceeds go to missions. We're grateful our clothes were donated in a way that carried the light of Christ further. People have lost jobs and life is not the same, but the love of serving our community has not changed.

Many of us still have contact with some of our regular guests. So over the months we have been keeping in touch and doing our best where we can. We ask where they go now for food or a hot meal. Follow up with the needs of Weston King, the Weston Food bank, Frontlines, Salvation Army Mount Dennis and Syme Woolner Food Bank is ongoing. Outreach of ComSup didn't stop because we stopped serving dinners. Much of our stock supplies have been donated to Weston King for their dinners feeding the Weston Road core. Look to the Outreach report for more info.

Since March our teams have lost some valuable members:

Marie Geeves has moved. She will be missed so much once we start again! Marie has been a key volunteer with ComSup since its start more than 22 years ago. She is truly an expert at preparing and serving these meals. We always looked to her for advice on Thursday nights! Marie's home made cakes and spaghetti were favourites. We could always count on you, Marie, and we are ever so grateful for your

loving service. We may still email you for advice!! You have been a teacher for many new volunteers coming into teams and you were always willing to share. Enjoy your new home and be grateful you are nearer to family.

On a sadder note, Doreen Smith passed away in October. We honour her and will never forget her smile. When you think of that smile you just smile yourself. We give thanks to Doreen who worked tirelessly with joy, helping to shop, cook and serve each and every time her team was on. She really enjoyed being part of ComSup. Rest in eternal peace and know you were loved.

There are so many people to thank:

- the four ComSup teams, with special thanks to the two teams from St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church;
- Weston Presbyterian Church for their support and being the keeper of things until we can start again
- Canon Beth and Rev. Mark and the Ministry students for their support at the suppers.

Look to the Outreach Report to see how we used our surplus funds to continue our mission.

We are all looking forward to the time when we are able to start providing Community Suppers again.

Submitted by Shirley Radley and Don McCamus

PALS Groups: PRAYER, ACTION, LEARNING, SHARING at SMSM

Why should a church like St. Mary and St. Martha have groups of Christians meeting together? Because being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires cross-fertilization between the “total community” gathering of Sunday morning, and smaller gatherings where people can get to know each other on a more personal level, and interact over the Scriptures and in prayer together.

My thanks go to the more than thirty people who participate in PALS GROUPS at any given time in our church. The four aspects of Christian Small Groups are traditionally:

PRAYER ACTION LEARNING and SHARING

I am more grateful than I can say to all the lay people who have stepped forward to give leadership in the six PALS GROUPS described below: Don Grandy, Cate Gardner, Devon King, Carol Lewis, Lilian Leander, and Wycliffe students Abraham, Emma, and Nicholas. These have all exercised formal leadership, but many more have given it within the groups in informal ways. The PALS groups have provided excellent training opportunities for our four successive Teams of Wycliffe theological students.

As I will be giving up my direction of the PALS Groups in a few months, Rev. Mark and I are working to ensure that they continue. Please think of joining, initiating, (there’s a process in place for that), and where called upon, leading a Group. PALS always functions under the overall leadership of the incumbent and those appointed by him.

Father Murray Henderson

The PALS Group on Racism

After SMSM held two meetings in June following the killing of Mr. George Floyd, Rev. Mark asked me, Fr. Murray, to convene a PALS group which would work together to become more comfortable sharing how racism (and caste) affected their lives.

We took it in turn to share “our story” of how each of us had experienced race and racism. A different “speaker” shares his/her story, and then the others take five minutes to write up a few questions to ask the speaker. As you can see, this PALS group is heavy on L for Learning and S for Sharing. Our A for Action will happen in the next month, when we share our experience with the rest of our parish church.

Briefly, we heard how part of the story of Black people in Canada is that of discrimination by the dominant caste. This is true to a greater or lesser degree. We learned how Black people have overcome discrimination in housing, jobs, and education. And how they have done so with humour and love, which many attributed in large measure to their faith in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of course the fact that there are many wonderful aspects of being Black came through powerfully.

We learned that while racism affects most painfully people of colour, in varying degrees, racism is part of a system of “caste” (Isabel Wilkerson) which affects every member of church and society negatively. Thank-you group members, for your honesty and courage: Gloria Reinbergs, Sandy Lewis, Carol Lewis, Dianne Izzard, Matthew Waterman, Philip Conyers, Queenie Seiloa, Devon King, Abraham Thomas.

Father Murray

It gives us pleasure to report on PALS 2020 activities.

PALS is “Prayer, Action, Learning, and Sharing”; a small discipleship group.

Despite the unprecedented challenges we faced in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, PALS remained active throughout 2020; in total 4 series were conducted.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Fr. Murray, and Abraham Thomas and Emma Hart (two of our Wycliffe College students), for providing us guidance, coaching, rich biblical insight, and support each week.

PALS 2020 Winter – “Unlikely Heroes of Faith?”

In early 2020 we started up PALS continuing our faith journey of Scripture exploring the Acts of the Apostles in search of unlikely heroes of faith. This PALS series started on January 21st meeting in the Sunday school room on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm. We were fortunate to meet eight (8) times exploring Acts 1 to Acts 7 until the Covid-19 pandemic was declared and the church was closed. From March 17th onward we were able to continue exploring Acts 8 to Acts 11 by conference call on Tuesday evenings. We concluded this PALS series (12 sessions) on April 7th. Through all this unexpected change, we met as a devoted and supportive small group of worship averaging 10 attending each week.

Report submitted by Don Grandy & Cate Gardner, PALS 2020 Winter Co-Hosts

PALS 2020 Spring – “The Acts of the Apostles: The Church Alive Then and Now”

Based on feedback received from PALS 2020 Winter, there was a strong desire from the participants to continue PALS, particularly during the time of social isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So, after a very short break, we started another series of PALS on Tuesday evenings from April 21st to May 26th. We continued exploring the Acts of the Apostles in Acts 13 to Acts 20. We met via conference call, averaging 9 in attendance over a series of 6 sessions.

Report submitted by Don Grandy & Cate Gardner, PALS 2020 Spring Co-Hosts

PALS 2020 Summer – “Teach Us How to Pray – Persevering in Faith and Prayer”

Based on feedback received from PALS 2020 Spring series, there was a continued strong desire from the participants to continue PALS, particularly during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. So, after another very short break, we started another series of PALS on Tuesday evenings on June 9th and ended on July 7th. We explored what Jesus teaches His Disciples on how to pray and how to become more effective in prayer. Themes explored included: Jesus as The Teacher on Prayer; The Fatherliness of God; God the Father and His children in Prayer; The Father Promises an Answer to Prayer – Do We Trust Him?; and Jesus Our Intercessor in the Life of Prayer. Each week we looked at a couple of Scripture passages followed by a short reflection on these Scriptures presented by Fr. Murray, and then a time for sharing and prayers. We met initially via conference call and as a trial we transitioned to meeting virtually for the last 2 sessions via GoToMeeting and Zoom, and averaged 13 in attendance over a series of 5 sessions.

Report submitted by Don Grandy & Lilian Leander, PALS 2020 Summer Co-Hosts

PALS 2020 Fall – “Hymns of Hope and Faith”

After a break for the summer there was a desire and interest to resume PALS in the fall, and with a fun twist, during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. From positive feedback from our trial at the end of PALS 2020 Summer meeting virtually via Zoom we decided to run this new series via Zoom on Tuesday evenings. This provided new and exciting opportunities for PALS; we were now able to watch and listen to recordings as well as read the words of a number of our favourite hymns, followed by reading of related Scriptures, some background information about the writer or hymn, sharing why these are favourites and praying together virtually. Our challenge (thanks to Cate to taking the lead) was to short-list the long list of favourite hymns to fit most of them. We started this PALS series on October 13th with “It is well with My Soul”, and concluded on December 15th with “O Come, Divine Messiah” and “Creator of the Stars of Night”, and a bonus of the “Huron Carol”.

We averaged 12 in attendance over a series of 10 sessions.

Report submitted by Cate Gardner, Don Grandy, & Lilian Leander, PALS 2020 Fall Co-Hosts

The Lay Visitation Team Ministry

The Lay visitation team (LVT) is a PALS group of St. Mary & St. Martha (SMSM) whose purpose is to foster the church through communication and visitation with prayer, embodied in our Mission, a community for compassion for each other and our neighbours.

The LVT was formed in March 2019. The LVT team consists of twelve (12) members who visit and communicate with parishioners unable to attend church. We have three practicum students from Wycliffe College, University of Toronto who have also joined the LVT team. Members meet on alternate Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm. The group has now changed the form of meetings from in person bi-weekly to virtual meetings via zoom link.

Prior to the pandemic, the LVT team visited parishioners at their homes, nursing homes, and hospitals, our visits were usually done on an as-needed basis. Now, we communicate virtually via Zoom meetings and phone calls.

Our connections are conducted with the utmost confidentiality and honesty. We are willing to listen and pray for everyone and every need. We continue to be a source of compassionate outreach to spread the word of our Lord Jesus Christ and to be a servant just like Christ to us.

Devon King
LVT Team Lead

Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism: 2021 Social Justice Vestry Motion

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.

Canadians, particularly those of European descent, may be tempted to look at racial tensions in the U.S. and congratulate ourselves that we live in a comparably diverse and tolerant society, but the experiences of racialized people in Canada do not bear out this assumption. A recent study by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has found that, although Black people make up less than 9% of the population of Toronto, they are "grossly overrepresented" in cases of discretionary arrests for low-level offences, as well as in police use of force, including fatal shootings. Another report from the OHRC found that between 2013 and 2017, a Black person was nearly 20 times more likely than a white person to be fatally shot by police in Toronto.¹ Indigenous people make up only 5% of Canada's population, but more than 30% of incarcerated individuals in Canada.² Several school boards in the GTA have faced inquiries into their systemic inequitable treatment of racialized students. These are all present realities within the most racially-diverse region of Canada.

Nor can we claim that our Church is free of racist attitudes and the systems that entrench and perpetuate them. Black clergy in our Diocese can attest not only to being racially profiled in shops but to encountering surprise and discomfort when people realize they are the senior cleric in charge. Nor does our leadership fully represent the ethnic and racial diversity of our Church. The first bishop of African descent in the Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop Peter Fenty, was only elected in 2013 – less than a decade ago. Nearly 30 years have elapsed since the Rev. Dr. Romney Moseley's report "No Longer Strangers" was presented to General Synod, and many of its recommendations have yet to be implemented. We have a long way to go before we fulfil God's vision of a people "from every language, tribe and nation" (Revelation 7:9) where all are fully welcome.

However, there are signs of positive change. In our Diocese, ethnic and linguistic-based congregations are centres of growth and vitality. Our recent ordinands and postulants represent a wider range of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Indigenous Anglicans in Canada are taking steady steps toward self-determination, while this past year has seen the formation of the group Black Anglicans of Canada, whose mission is to improve the participation, representation, empowerment and inclusion of Black people in lay and ordained leadership roles within the Anglican Church of Canada.

Our Diocese will be implementing anti-racism and anti-bias training for Diocesan staff and clergy starting in early 2021. An Anti-Racism/Anti-Bias Pod will be created to carry this work forward among volunteers and lay leaders and over the long term.

In his letter to the Diocese of July 17, 2020, Bishop Andrew wrote: "It is time to challenge and to question how structures shape our attitudes, beliefs, assumptions and bias. We must understand and confront white privilege, institutional and systemic racism that so many of us have been blind to for too long. And we must not be afraid to become agents of transformation. To dismantle racism in all of its forms takes commitment, community and faith in order to realize progress and change. It means becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable. It means taking a very long look in the mirror and understanding the part that we each play."

Some of this work has already begun. Just as many Anglicans in our Diocese and beyond have committed themselves to education and action as part of the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Anglicans in our Diocese have started to examine their own attitudes, beliefs, assumptions, and bias. Virtual study groups have sprung up around books such as Robin diAngelo's *White Fragility*, Desmond Cole's *The Skin We're In*, or the late Rev. Dr. James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Many signed up for the Black Anglicans of Canada's summer roundtable series (still available on YouTube) and workshops on anti-racism at the Diocesan Outreach Conference.

In the September 2020 issue of *The Anglican*, the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields wrote: "The compassionate Church cannot be an observer on the sidelines, reluctant to judge the values by which racism is allowed to take root. It must be disposed to listening, open to being transformed by reality, and accountable for being contributory to the situation, where that is the case." In the second part of his column, published in October 2020, Canon Fields discussed the parts we must all play – from the institutional to the individual level - to grapple with systemic racism and make our Church and our society a place of mutual healing. Let each member of our Church take up this work with intention and goodwill.

¹<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/08/10/black-people-more-likely-to-be-arrested-charged-shot-and-killed-by-toronto-police-ontario-human-rights-commission-report-finds.html>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/indigenous-people-in-federal-custody-surpasses-30-correctional-investigator-issues-statement-and-challenge.html>

The Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2021 is offered by the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry with the full support of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee:

The parish of St Mary and St Martha 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 do the following: _____

Nominations for Parish Life Committee

Elections

MINISTRY AREA	NOMINEE FOR PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE
People's Warden	Sandra Lewis
Deputy People's Warden	Kuinivia (Queenie) Seiloa
Member at Large	Fitzroy Thomas
Welcome	Ingrid Jones
Stewardship	Dianne Izzard
Men's Group	Fitzroy Thomas
Property	Don McCamus/Carol Lewis
Hospitality	Sandra Lewis
Outreach	Shirley Radley
Nursery	Deborah Scantlebury
Sunday School	Ann Chambers-Smith Rochell Harry-Alexander
Youth	Matthew Waterman
Social Events	Jackie Harris
Lay Delegates to Synod	Catherine Gardner, Lilian Leander
Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod	Queenie Seiloa

Appointments	Appointee
Diocesan Council	Board of Management
Rector's Appointments	
Rector's Warden	Carol Lewis
Rector's Deputy Warden	Shirley Radley
Member at Large	Devon King
Wardens' Appointments	
Head of Counters	Bev Sneyd
Treasurer	Hector Harris