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# THE LYCHGATE

## April 24, 2016

Parish Newsletter of  
The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields




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### From the Desk of Fr. Andrew

“Does God still create things, or did he leave the humans to create things?”

- Grade 6 student at Havergal, upon reading the Creation story.

As we continue through this Easter season, celebrating again the resurrection of Jesus and his work in creating eternal life through his own death on the cross two millennia ago, we’re reminded anew of our joy in living through the power of the Christ’s passion in our present-day lives, to live as risen people, empowered by the Gospel.

It’s a challenge, sometimes. After all, how can our experience of God in our own days and lives, revealed to us in Christ, hold a candle to the magnificent accounts of God’s work in the world that we read from week to week from those two millennia ago? Does the creative power of God still do work on earth and in our lives?

On the second Sunday of this Easter season, we read the Gospel of John, which says, “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.” John also says, “...there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”

This is, curiously, one of my favourite parts of the Gospel of John, because it reveals to us so much about God. It’s the beauty of God’s world that there are infinitely more ways to encounter God than there are words to ever talk about it. And it’s through the boundlessness of God’s grace that he still creates in the world, making things new, and raising the world through the resurrection of Christ, even when we don’t notice it happening.

Jesus did other things in the presence of his disciples, John tells us. God still creates in this world, and we are called to witness to that creation – in our lives, in the world, and in our neighbourhood. And, just as with the disciples, some of the things that we are called to bear witness to will be magnificent, and some will be so plainly ordinary as to escape notice, unless we’re looking for them and paying attention.

What is God creating right before our eyes? This Lent, a number of us participated in the Finding God on TV series, and we had the opportunity to look at our faith through a different lens, the eye of popular media: to look at parables of a different sort, as one participant put it. What an invitation that is, too, to start finding God in real life. To see where God is inviting us to enjoy fullness of life. And inviting us to invite others into it.

So, where do we find God in real life, in our day-to-day lives, in those moments so small that they are never written about? As this warm weather announces the arrival of spring, may we see anew the creative power of God in our lives, and find new ways to invite people into the “other things” that God is doing.

“People of hope, be strong, Love is making all things new.”

(Brian Wren, Sing Praises Old and New)



### The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

151 Glenlake Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

[www.stmartininthefields.ca](http://www.stmartininthefields.ca)

Church: 416-767-7491  
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#### Incumbent:

Rev. Canon Philip  
Hobson

#### Associate:

Rev. Canon Susan Bell

#### Assistant Curate:

Rev. Andrew  
MacDonald

#### Area Chaplain:

The Rev. Canon David  
Luxton

#### Honorary Assistants:

Rev. James Decker  
Rev. Canon Harold  
Nahabedian

#### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

#### Organ Scholar:

Patrick McElcheran

#### Church Wardens:

Michael Attwood

Cindy Paget

#### Secretary:

Margaret Allen

#### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

#### Sunday School & Nursery

Bethanne Bell

Ian Greene

Phillip Snider

### Sunday, May 1

Ordination of new Deacons at St. James  
Cathedral & Reception for Don Beyers at St.  
Martin's Parish Hall, 7 pm

### Sunday, May 8

Feast of Dedication

### Sunday, May 15

Visit from Bishop Mark MacDonald, National  
Indigenous Anglican Bishop

### Sunday, June 12

FaithWorks Walkathon: starts after 11 am  
service & culminates in a service in St. Andrew  
by-the-Lake church.

### Sunday, June 19

Visit from Bishop Philip Poole, Area Bishop for  
York-Credit Valley, celebrant and preacher for the  
11:00 am Solemn Eucharist.



### About *The Lychgate* Newsletter

*The Lychgate* is published four times a year.  
Parishioners are encouraged to submit news and  
articles to the newsletter editors:

Ian Greene & Eilonwy Morgan:  
[iangreene0766@rogers.com](mailto:iangreene0766@rogers.com)

*Farewell to Karen Isaacs, our Wycliffe theological  
student, as she concludes her fieldwork at St.  
Marin's. April 10, 2016. Photo by Peter  
Chauvin*

## **Refugee Sponsorships: April Update**

By Philip Savage  
Chair, Refugee Sponsorship Group

In the December, 2015 *Lychgate*, I updated you on our efforts working with St. George the Martyr and the Runnymede Community Church to help settle refugees, especially in light of the Syrian war. Given the resettlement of the projected 25,000 Syrians in Canada by the end of February, the federal government slowed down its approval process. Of course, meeting the 25,000 target is good news regarding the country's overall success in resettlement, but for St. Martin's and its partners the subsequent slowdown has required increased patience and even redirection in our efforts.

### *Refugee Partnership with St. George the Martyr*

Last fall we offered our expertise and financial assistance to St. George the Martyr (Grange Park). Thanks to your financial assistance we have raised close to the \$4,000 necessary to partner with them. That's all according to plan. What's changed is the direction we have received from AURA (the Anglican United Refugee Agency) to shift this first partnered sponsorship to other immediately needed refugee situations beyond the Syrian crisis.

We have heard through St. George that AURA arranged for a special sponsorship of an individual in dire need, namely a 23-year old Gambian man who had made his way to a refugee camp in Senegal. Last month AURA approached St. George to see if they would assist in resettlement of this man in an emergency sponsorship (not unlike what we experienced with Samsom from Eritrea a few years back). They have recently received approval from the federal government, all the medical clearances

have been given, and this young man should be arriving in Toronto very soon. The housing for the individual has been secured, and a lot of clothing and household goods have been gathered or will be purchased, in part through St. Martin's generous giving. The committee at St. George will be in touch with us once the young man arrives to see if there are other services and/or supplies that individual parishioners at St. Martin's can provide.

Because St. George had conducted a large fundraising campaign they have extra money, which they are dedicating to another sponsorship. AURA has been in touch about another single individual from Syria or the surrounding area who is now in a refugee situation in North Africa. We will be discussing with them what assistance we can provide, although we have not committed at this point to further fundraising.

For more information about St. George's, see:  
<http://stgeorgethemartyr.ca/stgeorgewp/>

### *Runnymede Community Church Sponsorship*

The Wardens last year made a commitment for St. Martin's to be the official sponsor (no money required) through AURA of a refugee family organized by Runnymede Community Church. We will keep parishioners updated as we know more (see below).

## **Refugee Sponsorship with Runnymede Community Church**

By Judy Wolever,  
Runnymede Community Church

Runnymede Community Church, an independent church celebrating its 105th anniversary this year, raised funds several months ago to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. They worked with AURA to be matched with a

family needing sponsorship. They have raised more than enough funds to sponsor a refugee family for a year.

Because Runnymede Community Church is not officially affiliated with either the Anglican or United Churches, it needed to find an official church partner to complete the sponsorship. Mike Wilkins, the pastor at Runnymede, suggested contacting St. Martin's because of his high regard for Father Philip, and because of St. Martin's previous experience with refugee sponsorship. As well, there are a number of friendships between St. Martin's and Runnymede parishioners. For example, Ian Greene and Eilonwy Morgan have been friends with Judy and Tom Wolever at Runnymede for 30 years. All of them worked together in the late 1980s to sponsor refugees from El Salvador at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor and Avenue Road.

The Management Board and Parish Council approved partnering with Runnymede at the end of 2015 and it was hoped by all that it would be the beginning of a great friendship and many opportunities to work together for the two churches. Michael Atwood graciously agreed to sit in as a member of Runnymede's sponsorship committee as well.

After meeting with Runnymede Community Church's sponsorship committee, AURA matched them with a family of three from Syria -- mother, father and sixteen-year-old son and they were officially approved by the government in January.

We know little about the family – only that they speak Arabic, and have been in Jordan for almost three years waiting to find a new home. After the target of 25,000 Syrians arriving to Canada was met at the end of February, the government put a temporary hold on new arrivals, despite many sponsor groups being ready and waiting for their matched families to arrive. Former Toronto Mayor John Sewell has

organized local sponsor groups to lobby together and has hosted several open meetings, and recently had a meeting with Immigration Minister John McCallum. Minister McCallum heard the group's concerns and seems to be in favour of expediting the arrival of refugees who are already matched with sponsor groups. We are hopeful we will see these families arriving in the next month or two, but have no guaranteed dates yet. Our local MP, Hon. Arif Virani, has also been very helpful as the undersecretary to Minister McCallum and continues to support and advocate for refugees.

Runnymede already has an apartment rented close to St. Martin's and has collected donations of all the goods the newcomer family will need to start their life in Canada. Extra donations that were received were reallocated to other newcomer families in need.

When the family arrives, there will be an opportunity for parishioners from Runnymede and St. Martin's to work together to support the family. We will keep you updated on how you can become involved.

For more information about Runnymede Community Church, see:

<http://www.runnymedechurch.org/>



*Celebration after Easter Vigil, March 26, 2016*

## **Don Beyers**

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Don Beyers, who has served so ably as editor of the Lychgate for the past two years, will be ordained a transitional deacon at St. James Cathedral on May 1, 2016. All are invited to a reception following the ordination here at St. Martin's, starting at 7 pm. This is a pot luck event; bring your favourite snack or dish. Following ordination, Don will serve as an assistant curate at Christ Church, Stouffville. Please continue to keep Don, and all those to be ordained, in your prayers.

## **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)**

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By Michael Attwood  
Chair, Management Board

As announced in last fall's Stewardship brochure, St. Martin's is participating in a trial program operated by the Diocese, which offers Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) as one option for giving to the church on a regular basis.

Through PAR, automatic monthly withdrawals would be made from your bank account (direct debit) or credit card to support the ministry of St. Martin's, in much the same way as you may be paying utility and other bills. If you wish, this facility can also be applied to your FaithWorks donations.

PAR has a number of advantages for St. Martin's. By facilitating a regular and dependable flow of contributions, it helps our Treasurer manage the cash flow and administer the budget throughout the year. It also stands to reduce the time that counting teams spend on bookkeeping and paperwork, because PAR is being administered by the Diocese.

Enrolment brochures, together with a sheet of Frequently Asked Questions, are now available at the back of the church. I encourage

you to take one home and read it, even if you feel that PAR is not the right option for you at this time. If you do have any questions or concerns about PAR, please speak to me or Father Philip.

## **St. Martin's Church Hall: Less Echo**

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By Jaimie Muir

Prior to the thirteen acoustical panels being placed in strategic locations in the church hall, many parishioners had difficulty hearing each other while partaking in conversation at the coffee and tea receptions after church. Thank God that the well placed and designed acoustical panels have done their job, and greatly reduced the echo.

If you have not noticed yet, there are panels on the east, west, and south sides of the church hall. In a certain context these creative creatures are working on our behalf whether we are present or not. For example, the Beaver, Cub and Scout groups, sponsored by St. Martin's, really appreciate the noise reduction, as do the Guides. The panels serve a twofold function: noise dampening, and aesthetic enhancement.

So, during your next visit to the church hall, sip your great St. Martin's coffee, and just listen.....it will be effortless, and experiencing the church hall will be more full of pleasure than ever before.



*Constance Kendall, who gave the address at the March 6 services highlighting the Downsview*

*Youth Covenant, supported by FaithWorks.*

*Photo: Peter Chauvin*

## **Petals for Pigangikum**

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By Glen Storey

Thousands of square miles of pristine forests, wildlife and clear lakes full of fish. A veritable paradise you say? This is where the First Nations community of Pigangikum lived 140 years ago, when they made a “deal with the Devil.”

They made an “exchange” for everything they could ever need: food, medicine, housing and education. All they had to do was sign a treaty giving up their ancestral land except for a small area (not of their choosing) so they could hunt for meat and catch fish to supplement food they would receive from the federal government. The residential schools would follow later.

This sounds fantastic -- except for the isolation of their remote location and the disruption to their way of life. Several generations later they still have limited opportunities, poverty, and plenty of despair to go around. The housing provided by the government is inadequate and crowded, and assistance with the provision of a clean water supply and sanitation to individual homes in this community is one area where we can help.

Starting in May the Outreach Committee will again be selling geraniums in support of the Water Infrastructure Project in Pigangikum, northern Ontario. If you would like, you could donate those geraniums back to be planted in our garden....a win/win for both projects or take them home for your own garden.

The Pigangikum Working Group (PWG) includes the Pigangikum elders and school system, along with Toronto-based professionals. PWG has identified many needed projects in housing, water supply, and other areas such as food security and youth programs. At present, PWG and Habitat for Humanity will make a visit north soon to assess the next ten homes to be retrofitted in “Phase Two” for which the

Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund has already received most of the funds from the wider Anglican community this past year. They have also approached Indigenous and Northern Affairs once again to match the funds we are allocating for this phase.

As a side note, all the people who were trained in electrical work, plumbing and carpentry on the first ten homes have been gainfully employed elsewhere! They will have to train another group of people to work this summer on the next homes to be retrofitted.

Two of our northern communities have been in the news lately. Unfortunately, one is Pigangikum, once again, because of a devastating house fire which killed nine family members. Their deaths were entirely preventable if they had had a smoke alarm installed their house.

Bishop Mark MacDonald is appealing to Anglicans to help support an initiative started by Jim and Marjorie Dawson of Port Dover to partner with Kidde Canada in supplying all 400 homes in Pigangikum with good quality ten-year smoke detectors. Please visit the following web site to support: [www.protectpik.weebly.com](http://www.protectpik.weebly.com) .

The second to hit the news was the community of Attawapiskat, experiencing “cluster suicides” which have also occurred in Pigangikum in the past.

Please keep both these communities in your prayers.

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### **Since January 1:**

Baptisms: John Justice Karram Stephenson, Audrey Elizabeth Flanagan Jackson-Hall, and Peter Thomas Etienne Jackson

Confirmations: David Fleming, Andrew Bell, Olivia Bell, and Margaret Douglin

Wedding: Richard Harris and Suzanne Lezon

Funerals: Bruce Fisher, Alexander Gibson, Delores Zinn, and Elizabeth Teed

## **The Garden in the Spring**

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By Ingrid Whitaker

After a drawn-out winter, the first warm days of April saw the garden volunteer crew out cleaning up the garden of the winter detritus. Leaves were raked out of the garden beds and burgeoning plants were given fresh soil. Pansies were planted and, as I write this, the daffodils are blooming and the garden has woken up to a new year.

Did you know that the green roof garden has over one thousand daffodils of various varieties planted there? They bloom at different times during the spring but as they are naturalizing plants, they will continue to bloom and increase in number over the years.

I always marvel at the variety and number of people who visit the garden. Today -- as it was one of the first warm days of the year -- there were toddlers toddling, young children playing, boys rollerblading, dogs and their owners aplenty, and even a group of young men kicking a ball around. As you can see, plenty of people use our garden, and it continues to be one of the beauty spots of the neighbourhood. We are happy to host all who respect the space and who do not trample the plants that have been so carefully tended. Many people have told me how much they appreciate having such a serene place to come to in our busy and bustling city.

This spring, we intend to continue to replace plants killed in the severe winter of two years ago, and to do all the regular jobs of planting annuals and tending the plants by watering, weeding, and pruning when needed.

We will also be selling geraniums later in the year with all proceeds going to the Outreach Committee's Pikangikum water project.

As we look forward to another gardening season, I ask you to continue to support our beautiful and unique city space, one that is appreciated not only by our parishioners but also by the community as a whole.

## **Parish Profile: Fr. David Mulholland**

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By Ian Greene



Most of us have been served communion by Fr. David Mulholland, who has acted as a Communion Assistant at St. Martin's fairly frequently for the last number of years. Fr.

David was the Executive Director and Chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers in Toronto – supported by the Diocese of Toronto -- for 38 years until 2013.

David dropped out of high school in 1955, and held a number of jobs from being a poster boy for Marlborough cigarettes to construction work to training as a law clerk. He was an acolyte at St. Thomas, Huron Street, and through his connections there met Fr. Bill Bothwell. Fr. Bothwell had been the rector at St. Martin's from 1952-56, and then did graduate work in the U.K. before joining the staff at Trinity College. Fr. Bothwell put a good word in for David with Bishop George Snell, who recommended that David pursue a Licentiate of Theology in the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. David completed his L.Th. in 1966. At that time, he did not want to pursue ordination, as he had a "thirst for knowledge," and so enrolled in the B.A. program at York University.

Upon graduation, and still thirsty for knowledge, David enrolled in the M.Div. program at Trinity College in the U. of T. He took the opportunity to do a locum in Turkey, and while there received a telegram from Robertson Davies offering him a room in Massey College. He had a wonderful three years in Massey College, but did not finish his degree. However, he did a curacy in two and a half years, and was posted to St. John's, York Mills. His favourite job at York Mills was to deliver care packages to the Mission to Seafarers. He saw Bishop Lewis Garnsworthy at a conference and asked if he could be posted to the Mission to Seafarers, which happened shortly afterwards.

When Fr. David was posted to the Mission to Seafarers, it was in "fairly derelict shape." The chapel was an old street car. One Saturday, covered in paint, Fr. David was approached by a sailor from a Greek ship – the bow watchman.

He was inquiring for his shipmates, who were wondering if there would be a service the next day. Fr. David redoubled his efforts to make the "chapel" hospitable for a service the next morning. But at 7 am, only one sailor showed up for the service – the bow watchman. His name was Muhammed, and he was a Muslim. The Greek sailors were all nursing hangovers. Muhammed, Fr. David said, felt quite at home in a Christian Eucharist, and was grateful for the opportunity to worship God during this break from the ship's months-long journey. It was wonderful experiences like this that kept Fr. David at the Mission to Seafarers for 38 years.

Fr. David has recently taken on certain responsibilities in the parish of St. John's, Elora including work with the Portage program that helps young people who need a fair bit of direction in their lives. As a result, sadly, we will not see him at St. Martin's as frequently as in the past.

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*Photos at the Annual Vestry Meeting, Sunday, February 28, by Peter Chauvin*

