

# THE LYCHGATE

## December 11, 2016

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



### From the Desk of the Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Andrew MacDonald

The Advent and Christmas hymns we sing year-to-year are more than just timeless classics. Many of them are surprisingly complex in their theology and teaching. Some of the carols that are nearest and dearest to us are actually wonderful texts that don't just talk about shepherds and wise men, but share the whole message of God-in-Christ in a four-line stanza. So here it is, [A Quick Guide to Carols and Theology](#).

**Light in the Darkness:** One of the essential points of John's "Christmas" gospel is that "the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ... and the Word became flesh and lived among us." This is what we proclaim when we sing the first verse of this well-known carol:

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by;  
But in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

**Incarnation:** Matthew's gospel says, "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him, 'God is with us.'" And we join in song to say exactly this when we sing the last verse of "O Come, All Ye Faithful":

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

The joy at Christmas is that in the dark streets of our lives, Christ offers a light, and a place for us to rest our hopes and fears. In the middle of the night in a dark and quiet town, God was there.

At Christmas, we celebrate that God chose to enter into a fully human life. But Jesus is also equal with God, the entirety of God's Word and promise to humanity, enfleshed in a person, Jesus Christ. Not far away, but with us, in every way.

**Christ will come again (Eschatology):** As much as Advent is a preparation for the annual celebration of Christmas, there's that other edge to it: that always-tricky theme of Christ's promised return in the age to come.

This Advent carol is a bit more obscure, but the text is familiar. It's based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids from Matthew's gospel:

*That day, that day of fear shall come; my soul, slack not thy toil,  
But light thy lamp, and feed it well, and make it bright with oil.  
Who knowest not how soon may sound the trump at eventide,  
"Behold, the bridegroom comes! Arise! Go forth to meet the bride."*

Our Advent and Christmas seasons, while a celebration of God's work 2000 years ago, also celebrate the work God plans to do again in Christ: a time when God's peace and justice will be restored to the whole earth. And when that time comes...

**Salvation:** ...then we reach the ultimate direction of God's purpose, the events of Christ's death and resurrection at Easter, a theme we also find in Christmas carols. And so at Christmas, we sing:

*Hail, the Heaven-born Prince of Peace, hail the son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to save each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

is the Messiah, the Lord."

This Advent and Christmas season prepares us anew for the good news of great joy that God brings us in Christ. So no matter which Christmas carol is your favourite, sing with gusto that "Christ, the Saviour is born." A blessed Christmas to you all.

## Church Directory



### 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  
Fax: 416-767-7065

#### Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon  
Philip Hobson OGS

#### Associate:

The Rev'd Canon  
Susan Bell SCP

#### Assistant:

The Rev'd Andrew  
MacDonald

#### Area Chaplain:

The Rev'd Canon  
David Luxton

#### Honorary Assistants:

Rev. James Decker  
Rev. Canon Harold Nahabedian  
Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan

#### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

#### Church Wardens:

Michael Attwood  
Cindy Paget

#### Secretary:

Margaret Allen

#### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

#### Sunday School & Nursery

Grace Karam Stephenson  
Emily Bell

## Christmas at St. Martin's

**Sunday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.**  
Carolling in the Church Garden

**Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve**  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant with Sung  
Eucharist

11:00 p.m. Procession, Blessing of the Crib &  
Festal Eucharist

**Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day**  
11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Carols, followed by  
Christmas Lunch

**Sunday, January 1, (The Naming of Jesus)**  
8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols with  
Sung Eucharist

**Sunday, January 8, The Epiphany**  
8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Procession & Sung 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 and Eilonwy Morgan:  
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## **Christmas Blessings**

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By Jacqueline Hayden

“I will bless you...and you will be a blessing.” We read in Genesis 12:2, lines which can be interpreted as the first rule of blessing – that it must flow outwardly.

Since 1996, FaithWorks has collected and distributed \$24 million to ministries offering help and hope to people for whom the world is not the kindly and welcoming place that it is for most of us. St Martin’s has been a generous supporter of FaithWorks, justly recognized by the diocese for its open-hearted contribution to this vital program. May we continue to respond fervently and prayerfully to this calling, blessing others as we ourselves are blessed.

We approach Christmas, that great punctuation mark of our year; a season, to quote Dickens, when abundance rejoices and want is most keenly felt. If you choose to share the gifts you have been given with others at this time, please bear in mind that in order to receive tax receipts for 2016, donations must be made by December 31, 2016.

May the joy of Christmas nourish your hearts and homes the year-round. God bless us, every one.

## **Outreach Update**

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By Glen Storey and Patty McKnight

Our parish has been supporting Pikangikum, an Ojibwe First Nation located on the 1,808-hectare Pikangikum Reserve in the Kenora District, to provide clean water to homes in the community. Pikangikum has a population of 2,100, and is 230 km north of Kenora. There is no road in the summer, and it takes three and a half hours to fly there from Kenora. There is 90% unemployment, which leads to a sense of hopelessness. The reserve has a land management plan which, if implemented, could lead to much higher levels of employment. However, right now

people spend most of their time just trying to survive.

Ten homes have been rebuilt recently, but 430 out of 450 homes still have no water. Funds to rebuild ten more homes are available, but the building partner went out of business. Habitat for Humanity, Manitoba, has agreed to participate and train local residents on how to retrofit the homes. (Some individuals were trained during the first stage, but these people have all found full-time jobs and so are not able to participate.) Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada has agreed to match the available funds, some of which come from St. Martin’s, to allow an additional ten homes to be updated. The decision to provide matching funds is really good news. The Kidde Company has donated smoke alarms and fire extinguishers for homes in the community.

Pikangikum suffers from what some consider the highest rate of suicide in the world. In 2011, the Chief Coroner of Ontario released a report into 16 suicides between 2006 and 2008, which concluded that inhalant abuse by young people, in addition to a poor quality of education, health, and child welfare services, contributed to the suicides. Tragically, three more teenage suicides (two aged 18, and one 13) occurred this past September.

What we are trying to do is to build hope in the future of Pikangikum by helping to provide clean water.

## **The Community Host Initiative from Romero House**

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By Jenn McIntyre, Director, Romero House

Romero House has a deep gratitude for the ongoing care and support from the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Your help is needed once again. As we are facing an increasing number of refugee claimant arrivals in Toronto and across the country, the number of shelter beds in the city is steadily decreasing. Unlike sponsored refugees, refugee claimants often come to Canada knowing

no one and with very few resources. Romero House has realized that the possibility of homelessness for people who are seeking safety in a new land, adults and children alike, is all too real. So we are partnering with the Diocese of Toronto to promote the Community Host Initiative. This is a program administered by Romero House that invites individuals and families to consider hosting refugee families in their homes for short-term emergency stays until shelter beds become available. Consider the space that you might have in your home and look out for news on this opportunity to serve from the Diocese in the new year. Contact [director@romerohouse.org](mailto:director@romerohouse.org), or 416-763-1303, for more information.

## Access to the Church During Winter Conditions

By Cindy Paget, Chair, Health, Safety and Security Committee

As winter approaches, the Health, Safety and Security Committee have been diligently working to ensure safe conditions while accessing the church grounds during the coming winter months. As the stairs leading down from Indian Grove tend to become snow-packed, icy, and difficult to clean, it has been decided to limit the use of these stairs just prior to and during any future snowstorms. Signage will be posted at the bottom and top of the stairs and chains will be installed to prevent their use during these harsh conditions. Once these stairs are cleared of snow and ice, the signage and chains will be removed and access will again be available. During this time, please use the Lychgate stairs to access the church grounds.

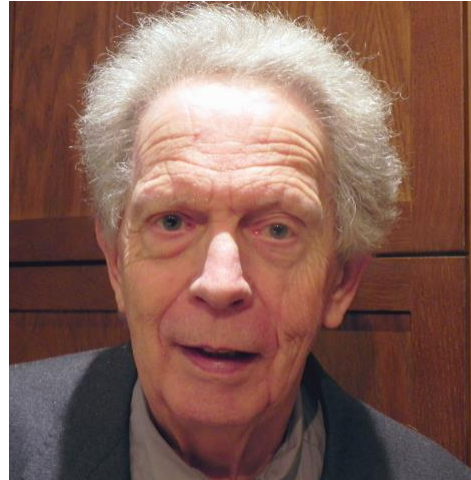
Please remember that the laneway on the southwest side of the building is not cleared of snow by the city and although we endeavor to clear the parking area, access during harsh conditions will be difficult. Please consider these concerns as you prepare to come to church.

These temporary steps are to ensure the safety of parishioners, visitors, and staff. Hopefully we will

have another mild winter and these precautions will be minimally required.

## Parish Profile: Jonathan Gentry

By Tim Stephenson



Jonathan was born in 1942 at Loughborough, Leicestershire, England while his father was serving in the RAF and stationed in Egypt. He first met his father in 1945 when he was home on leave. Jonathan says he did not like sharing his mother with the new guy in the house! The situation eased a little because soon thereafter, his father was demobilized and enrolled in theology school in Birkenhead, Cheshire. It was not until after he graduated that the whole family, including his Granny on his mother's side, were all able to live together in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, where his father was Curate. Then Jonathan's sister was born -- alas more sharing for Jonathan -- and he started school.

Next, Jonathan's father became the Curate in Davenham, Cheshire, and the family moved there. This was a turbulent period for Jonathan. First, Granny died. Then he spent almost a full year out of school due to measles, mumps and scarlet fever -- which came close to killing him. (When treated with penicillin, he proved allergic, a difficulty both his sons inherited.)

His family then moved to Crewe, Cheshire, where his father was Vicar of Christ Church. A highlight from that period was watching the coronation of

Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 on a neighbour's TV -- the first time Jonathan had encountered this new technology. At 15, Jonathan left school and started an apprenticeship at Stafford, which meant living away from home. Some three years later, his father was appointed Vicar of Gailey-cum-Hatherton which was close to Stafford, and the family was reunited. That is, until Jonathan's wanderlust finally won him over.

His dreams of travelling started while in school, but his parents convinced him to qualify in some trade or profession first. His first plan was to go to Australia, but then the idea of working his way around the world took root. He applied for several jobs in Canada and was hired by Canadian Westinghouse, Hamilton, and arrived in Ontario in March 1966.

In April 1967, he assisted the Emergency Measures Organization on a search for a missing girl between Burlington and Guelph. While driving a car down a dirt road, he hit a patch of loose gravel, went airborne, and hit a tree. The engine shot back through the firewall, and the steering wheel shattered. The car was a write-off. Jonathan was not much better. Fortunately the CHUM helicopter was overhead and called for emergency help, and so Jonathan moved into the Guelph General Hospital for a few months. His driver's license even showed the hospital as his home address.

Characteristically, Jonathan makes light of this nearly-fatal accident as follows: "Oh, I tried to teach a car to climb a tree, but GM did not have a tree climbing option that year."

He was released from hospital just before Christmas and after a short stay in Hamilton, returned to England to continue treatment. The damage ended up as a shorter right leg and left arm (broken bones shrink when they heal), plus facial injuries from the steering wheel. (Note the photo on Jonathan's Facebook page taken in Guelph General Hospital.)

So the round the world trip was rewound. After a while it became obvious that he would never get a driver's licence in England due to the accident, and would have a hard time getting employment. So he decided to return to Ontario. Once back in Hamilton, he met with his former orthopedic surgeon. The doctor was pleased with his progress, and did not feel he should lose his driver's licence. Soon afterwards he accepted a job with Ontario Hydro in Toronto. He was given a special access parking spot, and was able to drive from door to door until he was able to walk without crutches or canes.

Moving to Toronto to work for Ontario Hydro was the start of a long period of recovery from the car crash. Although he was still dreaming of continuing his round the world tour, treatment now tied him to Ontario. However, Jonathan was able to take short trips, driving himself, to places in Canada and the USA.

Then there was a setback. His right foot had been split three ways in the crash, and reassembled in 1967, but over time it began to worsen. So in 1970, he was back to Guelph for surgery to fuse one of the major joints. This put him in a full leg cast for several weeks. It also meant that he drove using his left foot only. Thanks to bench seats in the car, that was not difficult. He even visited the province of Quebec with a pal who had MS, and at that time walked with two metal crutches. They were a sight to behold -- two guys both using crutches touring Quebec without a care.

In February, 1971, he was taken aback when his life insurance agent arrived unexpectedly at his office to see his manager. After a while, the manager came out and asked him in. Jonathan was told that they were brothers-in-law. The agent asked if he was dating anyone, and Jonathan replied, "No-one seriously." The agent said that was good, because he had a young lady client whom he thought Jonathan should meet. He gave Jonathan her name and telephone number. Later in the day, the agent alerted her that Jonathan might call.

Jonathan says, "Fortunately I phoned her, we met, and my life changed forever. We were soon married. My only regret is we only had 43 years together. Barbara was not interested in going round the world and I was only interested in being with her". They arranged to get married in June, 1971 at Gailey, where Jonathan's father was still the Vicar, and Barbara's family were able to come down from Scotland.

Back in Toronto, Barbara and Jonathan had their first home together in the west end of Toronto, southwest of the Dundas West Subway Station. With family in mind, they looked for a suitable church to attend. They wanted one with a friendly congregation which welcomed young families with children, especially infants, within walking distance.

They expected the search would take months, but in weeks they had become regular attendees at St. Martin-in-the Fields, an easy walk from home. Barbara soon discovered that a Brownie Pack met at the church, and became involved as a leader, a volunteer activity she began in Scotland.

Their first few years at St. Martin's saw the baptism of sons George and Martin, and they themselves were drawn more into other parish activities, including the annual bazaar, Sunday School, and Sidespersons. Their involvement continued after the purchase of their first house in Mount Dennis, a few miles north and on a direct bus route.

Through his work, Jonathan was introduced to the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT), and became active in its Toronto Chapter and Provincial Council. He was later accepted at the University of Toronto as a part-time undergraduate. The ability to attend classes was made easier by the introduction of "flex hours" at work. It was not long before he was drawn into student politics, and elected to various university committees. At that time the Governing Council of

the University of Toronto included representatives of the public, faculty, support staff and students. He was asked to run for a seat on the Governing Council by the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students. Only Canadian citizens could serve, so Barbara and Jonathan applied for Canadian citizenship, and were soon awarded status. Jonathan was elected and served for two years. He graduated with a B.A. "None of that would have been possible without Barbara's support and encouragement."

At St. Martin's, Jonathan and Barbara became further involved with activities such as after service refreshments, Advisory Board, Altar Guild, and Chair of Sidespersons. After graduating from the U of T, time became available for other duties, and Jonathan served as Envelope Secretary -- using a Commodore-64 to issue tax receipts!

This was a difficult period for the parish. Although the congregation continued to attract newcomers, many older members were becoming infirm and unable to attend services or other activities. Many newcomers moved on due to changes to their work locations. Keeping the community together depended on a small core of the members.

The Rector sent regular letters to members, but he felt more was needed, and asked if Jonathan could start a parish newsletter. Now we know the genesis of the Lychgate! The early issues were photocopied using scrapbook style cut and paste originals with text output from that Commodore-64 "compiled by a spell-blind editor."

Their time together at St Martin's ended soon after Barbara's father died, and her mother came to live with them. They agreed that St. Martin's was too high church for Mum, so they switched to The Church of the Good Shepherd near their home, which they could walk to. Barbara's Mum eventually returned to Scotland. After that, Barbara and Jonathan drifted between The Good Shepherd, The Church of the Advent, and St. John's, Weston without feeling completely at home in any of them.

However, having Mum living with them gave Barbara a chance to return to working outside the house. Their sons were attending the public school just round the corner, and they were members of the 'PTA'. The school was looking for teachers' aides at the time, and Barbara was invited to give it a try, initially as a volunteer. It was a very good fit, and was hired. She also liked having the same holidays as the boys. Barbara had also continued to be active in Brownies at The Good Shepherd and elsewhere. Their boys joined Beavers and Cubs. At the time, there were more boys than places for them in the area, so Jonathan and Barbara worked to establish the 19<sup>th</sup> Toronto Scout Group at the school where Brownies already had meetings.

Barbara sadly died from cancer in 2014. However, she had been in need of more care following a couple of serious falls starting in 2009, which resulted in her being increasingly house-bound, and so church attendance eventually stopped. Since her death, Jonathan has returned to St. Martin's, where he is delighted to find so many old friends, and is happy to serve on Parish Council.

When Fr. Philip was Rector at St. James Cathedral in 1997, a peal of change ringing bells was installed. Jonathan had started learning to ring bells like that in his teens, and became involved again at St. James. Barbara was already over-committed, and Jonathan concluded that his own health issues restricted his progress in ways he was not then willing to accept. So he withdrew. Today, however, he has accepted those restrictions, and has returned to ring bells. In October, he was one of three ringers from Toronto who attended the tenth anniversary of the change ringing bells at Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York. Next year, Toronto celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our peal, an event Jonathan is looking forward to.

## Special Visitors on November 6

By Ian Greene



Monica and Matthew Green visited Toronto recently, along with Monica's dad, Gene, and Matthew's mom Cheri, to attend Matthew's convocation from St. Michael's/Regis College on November 5. They attended St. Martin's on Sun November 6, and were able to re-connect with their many parish friends. Congratulations, Matthew!

## Order of St. Martin

The Order of St. Martin was presented after the November 13 Patronal service to two wonderful women: Adrienne Beecker, and Eilonwy Morgan. Following are excerpts from their letters of nomination:



Adrienne: "Every time I see Adrienne she exudes such positivity and joy. She works tirelessly for the community through her long involvement

in Out of the Cold and other programs. She is also a leader at church with her involvement in Outreach, Altar Guild, the Nutcracker Fair, Church School, and many other activities. But above all her work, it is her spirit of selflessness and happiness that shines through all that she does. Adrienne is not a self-serving or boisterous person, but shows the light of Christ in her quiet example."

Eilonwy: “There is much evidence of her faithfulness at St Martin’s and her life of grace, perhaps mostly in her dedication to the parish 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary: her initiative, energy and enthusiasm for “Doors Open Toronto”, for her masterful authorship of the magnificent history book, and her ongoing quiet dedication to the Archives. For many years she was a very able and thorough Treasurer. But the Order of St. Martin is a “faithful witness” award, and to that end, Eilonwy demonstrates her Christian faith in her whole life, most impressively, the way she chose to grow her family through adoption. One of the most impressive things about Eilonwy is how she manages to accomplish so much, so modestly. She is genuinely humble. For that reason alone, she reflects to me the light of Christ.”

### **Musical Intern at St. Martin’s**

By Jack Hattey

This fall has seen a new addition to our musical line-up. For the first time, we have a musical intern from York University. Derek Hodges is in his second year at York, studying music, and for the first time this fall, the organ. A musical intern is rather like a theological student from Wycliffe or Trinity. They are not employees, but rather students beginning to learn the ways of the church and

church music. Before attending university, Derek was in the military for a number of years, and this has allowed him to go to university. He has played guitar at one Saturday Service and we hope to hear him play the organ from time to time as he starts to learn about the instrument.

By Derek Hodges

I am a full-time student at York University, currently studying classical guitar and organ. My focus has recently shifted towards church music and the performance practice and musical idioms that are associated with this domain. I am carrying out a musical apprenticeship at St. Martin’s with the help of Jack Hattey, and under the supervision of Stephanie Martin, who had introduced me to the church. I am quite new to the organ, but I hope to work towards providing musical excellence to the community at St. Martin’s.



**Advent Carol Service**

**December 4**

