

THE LYCHGATE

October 1, 2017

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



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

When Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones visited the parish several months ago, as we walked back to his car after coffee hour, we spoke about the work I was doing at Havergal College at the time, and about the importance of school chaplaincy, of preparing young people in spiritual formation and religious education. And we spoke more broadly about how important it is to find ways of reaching out to people around our parishes, especially those people who in their day-to-day life have no contact with a church, or any faith affiliation. And, of course, we spoke about what a particularly special place St. Martin-in-the-Fields is, and how well situated it is to do that work.

The conversation we had has stayed with me for quite some time, because it highlighted for me a particular aspect of parish ministry that I have found quite helpful. I meant to share it with you in a sermon, but never got the chance. So here it is:

How would our perspective of ministry in this neighbourhood be different if we felt called to serve as a chaplaincy in this neighbourhood? Chaplaincy, whether it's in schools, hospitals, prisons or in the armed forces, exists to meet people where they are, in their joy, in their sorrow, in their doubt and in their faith. It extends the hand of invitation, even if just for a short time, into a relationship not just with us, but also with God, who we know through our faith in Jesus Christ. And most importantly, it often meets people who don't even know that they needed the ministry of chaplaincy in the first place.

That sounds an awful lot like the work of a parish church in 2017 – chaplaincy to this neighbourhood of High Park/West Bend, and all its many families and residents. Chaplaincy is deeply missional, because by definition, it requires an outward focus, rather than inward. It calls us out the building into the neighbourhood, and invites us to serve as Christ's hands and feet, and heart and mind.

In June, the parish hosted an incredibly successful Neighbourhood Fun Fair, welcoming about 325 people into our garden over a span of four hours on a beautiful day. In December, we welcomed about 75 people on a rather frigid evening to Carolling in the Churchyard. And both of those things were accomplished with little more than what God has given us – resources to accomplish them, and a desire to welcome others in hospitality, in a reflection of God's grace, peace and love – regardless of the outdoor temperature. It's the work of mission and invitation. It's work of chaplaincy in the parish setting, because it meets people in their own context, and responds to their needs – even if that need was simply a break from the holiday bustle to sing some carols. It's work we can do that invites them into our share in God's life. This is work that God continually equips us to do, because the greatest gifts we have to accomplish it are the Spirit to lead us, and our faith to see what's possible.

But however it is that we view our work in this shared ministry, words can't express how much I've enjoyed the time that I've spent serving with you all in that work. In these two years that quickly turned into almost four years, I've had the opportunity to work alongside incredibly wonderful clergy in Fr. Philip, Mtr. Susan, and our honouraries, our two Fr. Davids, Mtr. Alyson, Fr. Harold. It's been a privilege to work with such a committed team of servers, lay readers, choristers, and people who perform such dedicated ministry from week-to-week with such faith and dignity.

And I've had the pleasure of working with a parish full of people deeply committed to doing Christ's work, and serving God's mission through this parish. As I head out to serve the people of St. Luke's, Dixie South in Mississauga, I know that my time here has prepared me well for years of ministry ahead. You will remain in my prayers always,



Fr. Andrew

Church Directory



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

151 Glenlake Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

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'd James Decker
Rev'd Canon Harold Nahabedian
Rev'd 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 Karram Stephenson

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 14th

Deanery bus tour

Sunday, October 22nd

Newcomers' Lunch

Sunday, November 5th

Parish Fair (Time and Talent)

Celebration of New Ministry for Father Andrew, St. Luke's, Dixie

Saturday, November 11th

Tour of Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, U of T

Sunday, November 12th

Patronal Festival at St. Martin's. Bishop Stephen Andrews, Principal of Wycliffe College, will be the preacher at the 11 a.m. service.

Saturday, November 18th

Annual Nutcracker Fair

Saturday, December 9th

Advent Quiet Day at St. Martin's, jointly hosted by Holy Cross Priory and St. John's, West Toronto. The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, will be the speaker.

Sunday, December 10th

Advent Carol Service, followed by reception

Sunday, December 17th

Caroling in the churchyard

Since June 25, 2017

Baptisms- August 20 – Wesley Kaye

Weddings – September 23 – Raven Seager & Kyle Alkema

Funerals – July 15 – Ronald McCuaig;
August 22 – Anita Li; September 23 – James Muir

Parish Profile: Brenda and Frank Bodkin

By Ian Greene



St. George's Church, Basseterre, St. Kitts

St. Kitts is a tiny but gorgeous island in the Eastern Caribbean, population about 55,000 together with neighbouring Nevis. There are nine Anglican parishes on the island, and St. George's, which dominates the skyline of the capital of Basseterre, dates from 1670, although the current church was rebuilt in 1869.

This magnificent church, with its historical pipe organ, is where Frank and Brenda Bodkin met and were married. While in high school, both were involved in church activities such as singing in the choir, Sunday School, and Anglican Young People's Association. Frank became the Chief Server at St. George's, and was also a lay reader.

The people of St. Kitts value education. Both Frank and Brenda attained the highest levels of education available, and then became government employees. After their children, Don and Debbie, were born, Brenda and Frank decided to move to Canada so that there would be more opportunities for their children. After arriving in Toronto in 1965, they looked around for an active, high Anglican parish where they would feel at home. They eventually found St. Mark's in Parkdale. The priest there was Dr. Graham Cotter. A native of Jamaica, Dr. Cotter understood the Anglican tradition of the West Indies. Dr. Cotter and his wife Evelyn (both were University of Toronto professors), welcomed the Bodkin family and made them feel at home. After Dr. Cotter learned about how extensively the

Bodkins had been involved at St. George's, they were recruited to a number of activities at St. Mark's and the Diocese of Toronto. One of the first projects was the mounting of a Eucharist in the West Indian tradition to celebrate the independence of Barbados in 1966. After approval from the Diocese of Toronto, Frank trained all of the servers for the service. The Bodkins became deeply involved with church life at St. Mark's, and at one time Frank, Brenda, and their two children all sang in the choir. Frank and Brenda also worked with Dr. Cotter on another of his projects -- the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians (CFTWIC). CFTWIC raises funds for scholarships for poor children in the Anglican Province of the West Indies, as well as funding for theological training, and repairs to churches in the Province of the West Indies. Frank is still very active in fundraising for CFTWIC, so be prepared to purchase a ticket to their annual fund-raising banquet!

After Frank and Brenda retired, they decided to search for another Anglo-Catholic parish closer to home. In their search, they came across St. Martin's, where they not only appreciated the liturgy, but also the fabulous music. They valued the warmth of the parish, and the energy of the families with young children.

Both Frank and Brenda found work with the Ontario Public Service not long after arriving in Toronto, and both continued their education part-time at the University of Toronto and Ryerson University in order to attain more senior positions. Brenda pursued studies in business management, and graduated from the University



of Toronto. She worked for the Ontario Public Service (Ministries of Health, Housing and Attorney General) for 32 years before retiring in 1996. Frank's career included work at Princess Margaret Hospital, and the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture in the Ontario Public Service. He took continuing education courses in accounting.

Frank and Brenda ensured that their children, Donald and Deborah, had excellent educational opportunities. Donald became a successful lawyer, and Deborah became a Certified Public Accountant, and also holds a B.Comm. degree. She is a Director in the firm Allegion Canada Inc. Debbie has three wonderful children, all pursuing advanced education. From time to time, the children and grandchildren accompany Brenda and Frank to church at St. Martin's.

Brenda and Frank were "born and brought up" in the Anglican church. They were involved in many church ministries in St. Kitts, St. Mark's, and in the Diocese of Toronto; at St. Martin's they are still active. Frank serves on the Management Board and is co-chair of the Stewardship Committee. Brenda is a reader, and helps with the Nutcracker Fair. They spend Toronto's cold months – January to May – in St. Kitts, where they are both still active in activities at St. George's church. If you happen to visit St. Kitts during our winter, Frank and Brenda invite you to let them know. They will introduce you to one of the treasures of the Anglican Church in the West Indies – St. George's. They are grateful that Hurricanes Irma and Maria left St. Kitts with only minimal damage.

Changing Perspectives on Church Security

By Eilonwy Morgan

As mentioned in two previous editions of the Lychgate, Bruce Fisher's collection of previous years' bulletins and parish newsletters has been providing interesting accounts of parish events and perspectives. Below is an excerpt from the parish newsletter of September 18, 1955. It is entitled "House Of God And Gate Of Heaven Should Be Open Always To All":

Not long ago the Rector [Father Bothwell] visited a church over whose doors were carved the words of Jacob in Genesis 28:17, "This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." But when he tried the door (it was on a week-day) he found the gate of heaven securely locked! There are few things more disappointing than locked churches. Do they presuppose that no one would ever really wish to enter except at a service time? Or do they infer that cautious men have the right to bar the doors of a house built and dedicated to the glory of a magnanimous God? Either way, they are surely wrong.

Everyone should know that St. Martin's Church is never locked by day or night. Its quietness and beauty stand open at every hour to anyone who will enter, be he a devout man, a wanderer without shelter, or a thief. Moreover, now that the evenings are longer, the church is lighted each night until about 10:30 p.m. to welcome all who wish to spend some time in silence or in prayer. We should all use the house of God more for that purpose. It will be so used when more people realize that it is open daily and waiting to give to each visitor a fulfilment of the ancient Divine promise that "In this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts."

Ah, the 1950's... back when Toronto was smaller, Dad worked and Mum stayed at home, families were large, everyone went to church, and people did not have to lock their doors... or the church's doors. That continued on for some time. Growing up in the sixties and seventies in Lethbridge, my parents did not lock the doors of our house. They finally began to do so in the eighties.

One might ask if unlocked doors are truly risky for a church. From the newspaper headlines, we hear more about vandalism via slogans and symbols spray-painted on the exterior walls of churches or synagogues or mosques, or fires set outside their premises. We don't hear as much about theft from inside their unlocked premises.

Such thefts still occur, though. Most of the time, they likely go unreported. Occasionally, they are reported. From the Daily Freeman community newspaper of August 3rd of this year: "Three Greene County [N.Y.] residents are facing multiple felony charges after allegedly entering

about a dozen churches in Greene, Ulster, and Albany counties-most of them unlocked-and stealing collection boxes and other property."

Closer to home, one heard of a less pecuniary theft in Ontario earlier this year. According to the C.B.C., St. James' Anglican Church in Ingersoll, Ontario, reported the theft in May of 200 turkey pot pies, taken from a freezer on the church premises. The pies had been intended for a fund-raising event for church repairs.

The issue of security becomes even more complicated when religious congregations rent out space during the week to outside user groups. Doors have to be left unlocked, or keys issued for those doors. If meeting rooms are the space provided, then the main worship space has to be secured. We face this issue too. At St. Martin's we have locks on the exterior doors, and regular user groups have a key for access to the basement where the meeting rooms are located. We have separate interior locks on the upstairs doors leading to the nave and chancel.

This is a departure from the ideal expressed by Father Bothwell in 1955. Yes, we have locks on the doors of the church, and others inside. However, we have our chapel located downstairs. In addition to its use for the Tuesday 10 a.m. weekday said Eucharist, it is available for private reflection and prayer throughout the week whenever the church is open, which includes most mornings. As well, Mattins takes place Monday to Thursday at 9 a.m. in the choir stalls. Furthermore, in contrast to 1955, our church is used by others throughout the week, serving people not on our parish list, and this is also part of our ministry.

Plus, of course, we have our ministry to the local community through our garden, well-used by residents in the neighbourhood each week of the year.



Fun Fair June 24 – a great success!

Library News: The Blessing of Books

By Samantha Thompson

As we settle in to the busy routine of fall and the days become shorter, it's still important to carve out time in the week for learning and reflection. Our library at St. Martin's offers resources to do just that in an easily browsable and relaxed setting in the Guild Room. Not only can books be a blessing but as you'll read below, they can also be blessed!

New books for a new library section

Part of our library's mission is to acquire books with a Christian perspective that may not be commonly available in a public or academic library. We've also been taking a hard look at library subject areas that are badly in need of updating. Librarians noticed that the Pastoral Care category of our library was particularly outdated. (Books on how to protect your kids from the flower people or how to integrate that newfangled television set into your Christian journey are not all that applicable to life in the 21st century.) It's also a fact that some sensitive topics are more openly talked about (and written about) today than they were in the past.

After some soul searching we renamed the former Pastoral Care section "Life Stages" to reflect the fact that it deals not just with clerical care of parishioners, but with a Christian perspective on facets of life for many or all human beings. Books in Life Stages will concentrate on how our faith illuminates birth, death, and everything in between including sickness and health, marriage, separation and singleness, childrearing and elder care, and our sense of vocation that runs like a thread through all of these roles and circumstances.

Although the Life Stages section doesn't yet cover all these topics, we've made headway in covering some difficult subjects which weren't yet represented in the section. For example, the tragic illness of dementia is seemingly touching people and families more frequently than it used to. This disease strikes at the heart of individual identity and confronts us with many practical and theological questions. Our library has acquired two books addressing the care and circumstances

of those suffering from dementia from a Christian perspective. The first, *No Act of Love is Ever Wasted: The Spirituality of Caring for Persons with Dementia* by Jane Thibault, deals with spiritual facets of the everyday care of loved ones affected by the disease. The other, *Dementia: Living in the Memories of God* by John Swinton, includes theological reflections on the meaning of the disease within a Christian worldview.

Other new books in the Life Stages section gently help children confront difficult and painful subjects. Four are from the popular “Elf help” series. These are picture books addressed to children but ideal for shared reading with an adult. The simple illustrations of gnome-like families dealing with life provide a safe way for children to digest a real world that may have become more frightening. The perspective is broadly Christian and provides non-sugar-coated but sensitive comfort, advice, and perhaps most important, openings for children to talk to adults about tough topics. Our recent acquisitions include:

- *What Happens When Someone Dies? A Child's Guide to Death and Funerals*
- *When Mom and Dad Divorce: A Kid's Resource*
- *Mad Isn't Bad: A Child's Book about Anger*
- *Sad Isn't Bad: A Good-Grief Guidebook for Kids Dealing with Loss*

For adults seeking advice and support as they struggle with how to talk to children about death and dying, another new acquisition offers just that in Joseph Primo's down-to-earth *What Do We Tell the Children? Talking to Kids About Death and Dying*.

Suffering a life-changing illness is also a kind of death of the person we used to be. We will all at some time have to live with an illness or chronic health problem that will challenge our ideas of and relationship with God, as author Marva Dawn well knows. She offers hard-won biblical and theological perspectives on living with sickness as a still-whole person in *Being Well When We're Ill: Wholeness and Hope in Spite of Infirmary*.

Lastly, no matter our circumstances, we can all benefit from the wisdom of Christians writing about the expression of vocation in

diverse times and places over two millennia. Our sense that God has a purpose for us throughout the changes inherent in life is addressed in historical excerpts collected and interpreted by William Placher in *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*.

You'll find all these books in the Life Stages section of the library (that is, unless someone takes them out before you). In the pages of such books, we can be blessed by wise Christians who have travelled the way before us.

Blessing the library

Join us after the 11 o'clock service on November 5th (the same day the Church commemorates the communion of saints) for a short service of dedication and blessing for the refurbished and reborn library.

This will be an occasion to thank God not only for the talents and time of parishioners who have helped to give the library its fitting new look and home, but also for writers, thinkers, and illustrators over the ages who, thanks to books, are our spiritual and intellectual companions.

And remember: it's a blessing to take out a library book, and it's a blessing to return one (for the person who may need to read it after you). Hey, we're librarians. We had to say it.

Diocese welcomes social justice consultant



Elin Goulden started as the diocese's new social justice and advocacy consultant at the beginning of April. Before taking on this position, she had been working since 2010 as part-time parish outreach facilitator for York-Credit Valley, serving as a liaison between area parishes and the

diocese on matters of outreach and social and ecological justice. She was also program coordinator for the Inter-faith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) from 2013-2015, and support staff for the Anglican Church of Canada's task force on the theology of money in 2015.

Ms. Goulden's academic background includes degrees in law and theology. Her prior work experience includes service at all three levels of government, including work for the Public Interest Law Centre of Legal Aid Manitoba and for Environment Canada, as well as working as a legal editor for several years before beginning her theological studies. She received her M.A. in theology in 2008 and taught two Diploma in Lay Ministry courses through Wycliffe College in 2008 and 2009.

Ms. Goulden is passionate about connecting the day-to-day life and work of the Church with the biblical call to justice and wholeness for all of God's people and creation. She has long been inspired by Isaiah 1:16b-17: "Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow," as well as the cosmic vision of redemption in Christ portrayed in Colossians 1:17-20: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together... and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross." She and her family are active parishioners at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto.

(reprinted from The Anglican, June 2017, with permission)

Clay Pots Needed

Don Hattey is collecting small clay pots for his fall and winter planting projects. If any parishioners have some to spare, please bring them to the church and Jack Hattey will take them home for his father.

Computer Needed

If anyone has a PC desktop or laptop to give away, Aster would be happy to give it a new home. Let Aster or Ian know.

Bulletins from Summer Church Visits

By Ian Greene

A perusal of the 18 church bulletins that our parishioners brought home and posted in the narthex indicates that we travelled less than in 2016, when there were 41 bulletins posted. In particular, there were just two bulletins from the U.S., compared with six from 2016.

The favourite destination was Canada with eight: four from other churches in Ontario, two from Alberta, one from Quebec and one from Manitoba.

There were three bulletins from the United Kingdom, two from New Zealand, and one each from Italy, Ireland and Jordan. The Jordanian bulletin was posted by Maria Hayes, who visited St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in Madaba. The church is located near where Moses viewed the Promised Land from Mount Nebo before he died. In the church is a mosaic constructed in 560 A.D. which depicts the major biblical sites in the Middle East.



Change Ringing, St. James, July 17



September 17 Baseball: St. Martin's vs. St. Mary



Father Andrew Slugs One



Maëlle Demonstrates T-Ball