

THE LYCHGATE

March 25, 2018

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



From the Desk of the Rev'd Canon Susan Bell

There is something in devotional or Christian poetry that I find speaks to my heart and my head in ways that nothing else does. I have walked with this expression of the human soul for many years – in the gift of study of the poet George Herbert and can honestly say that his writings have formed me deeply as a Christian and an Anglican – following as he does the rhythm of the church year. In fact, his book of poetry called *The Temple* has been called a book of Spiritual Direction and that description really resonates. One of my favourites is called “The Elixir” – the first stanza of which reads,

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for Thee.

The spiritual discipline of searching for and seeing God’s hand in all of life is an important part of our walk through Lent. It is a journey of self-examination and heightened self-awareness – not for the worldly purposes of self-help but so that we can intentionally attempt to clear away the detritus that keeps us from a loving relationship with God. It is for the purposes of drawing us closer to Jesus and ultimately to draw us closer to each other as members of the Body of Christ. We intentionally set aside this season to search for the sacramentality of everyday life, and to see God’s provision all around us.

Herbert tells us that seeing and walking through the world with eyes that are attuned to God’s presence does something wonderful because whatever God touches is infinitely valuable and loved and redeemed. That is an Easter kind of realization because we are all transformed and made new by God’s love for us in the Resurrection.

Thus, as we approach the Week of Weeks for Christians, which is the culmination of all our discipline, we know that the Resurrection in every way “turneth all to gold” because it symbolizes hope and life – abundant life in Christ.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Mtr. Susan+



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

Area Chaplain:

The Rev'd Canon
David Luxton

Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd James Decker
The Rev'd Canon Harold Nahabedian
The Rev'd Canon Alyson Barnett-
Cowan

Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

Church Wardens:

Cindy Paget
Philip Savage

Secretary:

Margaret Allen

Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

Sunday School & Nursery

Grace Karraam 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 and Eilonwy Morgan:
iangreene0766@rogers.com

Since December 3, 2017

We have not had any baptisms or weddings since the last issue of the *Lychgate*. We have had three funeral services: December 15, 2017 – Fr. Donald Henderson; January 23, 2018 – Donald Hattey; February 24, 2018 – Norma Ventham.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 14, Saturday Service and Supper

Sunday, April 22, Newcomers event

Sunday, April 29, Farewell Tea for Mtr. Susan

Saturday, May 5, Mt. Susan's consecration as Bishop, Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton

Sunday, May 6, 12:30 p.m., Outreach Art Fair; 4:30 p.m., Ordination of Deacons, St. James Cathedral (Andrew Kaye, Jeff Boldt)

Saturday, June 2 (or 16), Quiet Garden

Sunday, June 3, Fr. Don Byers' Induction, Christ Church, Bolton

Sunday, June 10, Baseball game (St. Martin's vs. St. Mary Magdalene's)

Saturday, June 23, Fun Fair

Sunday, June 24, Faith Works walkathon

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25

8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Procession and Sung Eucharist

Monday of Holy Week, March 26

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 27

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28

10:00 a.m. Eucharist

7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday, March 29

8:00 p.m. Eucharist, Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altar

9:30 p.m. The Watch

Good Friday, March 30

10:00 a.m. Children's Service

1:00 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday

2:30 p.m. Sacramental Confession

Easter Eve, March 31

8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil (followed by the Resurrection Party)

Easter Day, April 1

8:30 a.m. Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Procession and Sung Eucharist

Easter Monday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Eucharist

Remembering James Muir

by Kathie Wagg



**James Muir, courtesy
Peter Chauvin**

Last summer was one of sadness for St. Martin's. We lost three very active members of our parish family – Anita Li, Ron McQuaig, and James Muir. While we know they are at peace and in a better place, we still miss them very much. It is James I would like to focus on at this time.

James came into our lives about five years ago. He had just arrived in

Toronto – from Ottawa, we later learned – and was “church shopping.” We certainly “lucked out” that he chose St. Martin's as his home parish – although he was also very involved in mid-week activities at St. Mary Magdalene's as well.

James was a passionate person – whatever he did, he did with passion. He was also a very private person and kept his various interests and activities separate. We have been able to learn so much more about James, things I would have loved to have known while he was with us.

We learned that James Alan Muir was born in Thunder Bay in 1954 – the third of five children. He completed his secondary education there, then moved to Winnipeg for his advanced education. He obtained his Master's degree in Food Sciences at the University of Manitoba, with specialized semesters at both McMaster and McGill Universities. He travelled extensively in his professional career with private industry and with the federal government in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, from which he retired early at age 55, living in Ottawa at the time. He returned to Thunder Bay for a couple of years, and then moved to Toronto and into our lives.

James' greatest passion was serving others – giving back to the various communities in which he participated. Those communities included the St. Mary Magdalene parish, the 519 Community Centre downtown, the Etobicoke Lions Club, Camp Nokomis, and, of course, St. Martin-in-the-Fields. How he was able to do as much as he did with all these organizations, I don't know. Maybe that was why James was always scurrying from activity to activity. When James walked,

he ran!

At St. Mary Magdalene's, he participated in weekly Bible study and cooked and served at their weekly Friday evening meals for the homeless in that area. He also sometimes attended their early morning service on a Sunday on the way to St. Martin's.

At the 519 Community Centre, James was the Team Lead of Volunteers for the Centre's many events and fundraisers, managing a large number of people. I am told that in this role, James had a talent for remembering everyone who assisted with the events and made them feel appreciated – no matter the level of their involvement.

With the Lions Club, James served as president one year and participated in every event the club organized. He was especially involved with Camp Nokomis – and loved any time he spent there. He was always involved with any of their fundraisers.

Here at St. Martin's, James was certainly involved. Together with Glen Storey and Jay Haddad – the Three Amigos - James was at the centre of anything that involved food and cooking. We will never again put bread in the refrigerator without hearing James tell us that we are altering the molecular structure of the bread. Some examples of his involvement were the Saturday Service and Suppers, the Pancake Supper, fundraising breakfasts, preparing and serving Out of the Cold dinners, and Clara's Café at the Nutcracker Fair. In addition, James was an active member of the Outreach Committee, the Health and Safety Committee, Parish Council, the Missional Team, Coffee Cohorts, Pickleball, and the Signage Change Committee. He also organized and participated in snow shoveling during the winter. If there was anything to be fixed or done at the church, James would be there with Glen to do it.

So how did James find the time to do all of this? I asked myself that as I learned the extent of his involvement in other locations. The answer? James was a person who belonged totally to whatever he participated in. He truly gave of himself to others and did so with joy and love in his heart. He maximized the talents God gave him, and for that, we are truly grateful. He was an example to all of what one person can do. If we can learn from his example, think of the impact we



**James playing pickleball
with Glen Storey,
courtesy Peter Chauvin**

could have on our world. God give us the strength to work in that direction. I thank God for giving us James and his example – even if for such a short time.

A Tribute to Don Hattey

By Jack Hattey and Eilonwy Morgan



Don with Jacqueline Hayden and Ann Castro, St. Martin's event, November 1999, courtesy Peter Chauvin

Our parish said another sad good-bye on January 23rd of this year, to Don Hattey, husband to Isabell and father of Jack, Doug, David and Catherine. Don was a faithful and

dedicated member of the parish, contributing much over the decades. Many will remember him as "Green Thumb," steward of the garden. Don did much more over his years with us.

To begin with acknowledging his contributions, one would look at his Order of St. Martin, bestowed in 2003, for both his activity as a greeter and for his dedication to the church garden.

Jack remembers that the focus on being a greeter came first:

"When Dad first visited St. Martin's when I was assistant organist, he was not impressed. The lack of welcome repelled my parents. He was particularly disturbed by the 'Black Cloud' at the door (the attitude of the sidesmen – there were only men at that time, of course). When Dad's mother died, I persuaded my parents to have the funeral at St. Martin's – the first in our family not held at a funeral home. Dad decided to join St. Martin's and fix the 'Black Cloud.'"

"So Dad took over the Sidespeople. It took a few meetings to persuade the Board to include women – it was the more conservative women who objected the most! Then he started recruiting at the door. It didn't take long to build and train a fine team to anticipate problems and be of service. As the liturgy changed in the 1980s, Don trained lay readers – there were no microphones – and headed up the readers for the first lesson. Don also recruited folks for the coffee hour and headed this up as well."

Eilonwy remembers well, as will most parishioners, seeing Don by the west door on so many Sundays,

greeting all who entered with a smile while opening the door for them. She also remembers Don in his separate identity as "Green Thumb."

From Jack, again:

"Don loved the gardens. He planted the locust trees, the Japanese Cherry trees, the maple in memory of his and Isabell's parents, and a number of evergreens as memorials. He also built the benches for the garden and donated the bench by the main door so that everyone could enjoy the garden. Don also fought to make sure the green roof over the 2002 extension of the church was a garden and not just grass." Don kept careful records of the various trees, shrubs, and benches donated as memorials and thanksgivings by parishioners over the years.

Eilonwy remembers hearing the practical argument that grass would not work over the green roof, as it would be difficult to lift a lawnmower up to trim the turf. In any case, the landscape of boxwood cross and accompanying hostas and other plants make a signature statement in our garden.



Don and Olivia Bell, courtesy Peter Chauvin

Don was key in the recreation of the garden after the construction project, alongside Margaret Drury-Gane and Ingrid Whitaker. He built up a team of over 50 people to get the garden ready in the spring and put it to bed in the fall.

Inside the church, according to Jack, "Don was also a craftsman... The processional crosses ... were in bad shape. Don refinished, painted, and fixed the crosses. At his funeral, we asked for the wooden cross. When Don came to St. Martin's in the early 1980s, it was in pieces. One of the servers had tried to repair it with nails. You wouldn't know it now. Don painted the tips with red and gold (originally just wood) and brought it back to life."

"The sanctuary lamps in the church are now on pulleys – they could not be moved in the old days. Don the engineer redid them."

"The first Easter Eve Dad attended, John Logan (Warden) used his hibachi to do the fire. Choking smoke was everywhere, flames abounded, and John hadn't thought about how to put it out. Dad recognized the fire danger and came up with a solution for the next year.

They built a kit – still in use today for the fire – with wood and a wok – with a lid – easy to put out when the time comes, plus a water spray bottle to put out embers.”

“But it was really Don’s interest in other people. He had an openness to folks’ needs and a willingness to reach out and help that contributed so much to the parish that St. Martin’s is today. I can’t tell you how many people who have told me since his funeral that they attend St. Martin’s because of the welcome they received from Don Hattey at the door.”

Norma Ventham

By Eilonwy Morgan

(This article is an excerpt from her profile in our 125th anniversary book.)



Norma Ventham

Guiding was the focus of her life, and indeed she guided literally thousands of young people.

Norma grew up in Halifax. She became a Brownie in 1939, in time for the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. She went on to Guides, and became a leader of both Brownies and Guides in Halifax. She had two units of

Brownies, and two units of Guides, and was a district commissioner.

When she took a transfer with C.I.B.C. to Toronto in 1973, Norma was looking for a break from Guiding. However, when she came to St. Martin’s, Father Jackson asked her to fill in for a Guide leader who was ill. “I said I would help until June. I made the mistake of not saying what year.” Norma led the Guides, Brownies, and Sparks at St. Martin’s from 1974 until 2010, and also led the Guide and Brownie groups at Howard Park Emmanuel United Church.

In addition to her work with Guides, Norma was very active in other parish activities, including the Altar Guild and Servers Guild. She was an active greeter, feeling strongly that a warm welcome to newcomers and visitors is an important part of the Christian message. Norma served as warden in 1979 and 1980, St. Martin’s first woman warden.

Norma watched with pride as “her girls” grew up and took their places in the world: lawyers, a dentist, nurses, TV or media personnel, a professional musician. She often wondered if their badge work sparked their



Norma Ventham (right) as Guide leader

interest in their chosen fields. Her assessment of her life in Guiding: “I’ve touched the lives of two thousand girls.”

St. Martin’s Blessing of the Bicycles

The Missional Committee

SATURDAY APRIL 28th

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

FREE

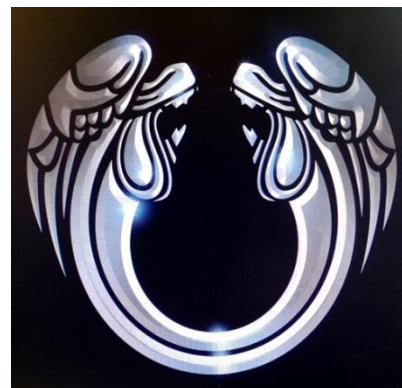
Bicycle Inspections; including tire pressure check and seat height adjustment.

Hotdogs and water.

All ages and any human propelled vehicles are welcome. The Blessing will be conducted by Mtr. Susan Bell and will start at 12:15 p.m.

Jesus Christ Superstar

By Eilonwy Morgan



As we mark Palm Sunday and enter Holy Week, some of us may be reminded of the musical from the 1970’s, Jesus Christ Superstar, which outlines in a rock opera format the events of the last week of Jesus’s life.

The production began first as a concept album, then moved to stage performance, and then became a film in 1973, directed by Canada’s own Norman Jewison.

The opera was composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber (music) and Tim Rice (lyrics). Its main characters include Jesus, of course, Judas, Mary Magdalene, Herod, Pilate, and Caiaphas. It begins with preparations for the arrival of Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem, and ends with the Crucifixion. It adds in “political and interpersonal struggles between Judas and Jesus which are not present in the Bible.” (Wikipedia)

The initial stage productions were controversial, particularly the first version which opened on Broadway in New York in 1971. At the time, Tim Rice was quoted as saying that he and Webber didn’t see Christ as God but simply the right man at the right time at the right place. That point of view is evident in the narrative; the script ends at the Crucifixion, with no mention of a subsequent Resurrection.

Some religious groups “considered such comments to be blasphemous, the character of Judas too sympathetic, and some of Judas’ criticisms of Jesus offensive.” (Wikipedia, again) Protesters picketed the theatre site at the opening of Jesus Christ Superstar on Broadway. One famous protest sign, addressed to the actors and the production crew, announced “God forgive them, they know not what they do.”

In the end, the Broadway production ran for two years. The London production opened in 1972 and ran for eight years. I saw the London production of Jesus Christ Superstar in 1973, at the age of fifteen. Visiting England with my mother that summer, the tickets were a surprise gift. As Mum was English-bred and always very proper, I knew that the show would not be to her own personal taste. She, however, knew that I loved theatre in general and musicals in particular. At the end of the performance, she confined herself to one careful comment: “It was scripturally correct.”

The film version was shot in Israel. Interestingly, most of the major roles were played by actors who had been part of the Broadway production: Ted Neeley (Jesus); Carl Anderson (Judas); Yvonne Elliman (Mary Magdalene); Barry Denman (Pilate); and Bob Bingham (Caiaphas). Yvonne Elliman had also sung the role of Mary Magdalene on the original concept album.

In a change of format, Jewison had the cast portray actors on tour in a bus. When the bus stops, the actors pour out of the bus, unload the costumes and props from the roof rack of the bus, and stage the opera against the backdrop of historical sites.

Versions of the production are still being offered. For example, here in Toronto, JDP Theatre Productions has scheduled performances March 16th to 18th. NBC is scheduling a live broadcast of the opera on Easter

Sunday. A full-scale production plans to tour across the United States in 2019.

Superstar indeed.

Arts for PARC and Bake Sale

by Almut Brenne-Davies

The Outreach Committee, in conjunction with the Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC), is holding its Arts Fair and a bake sale at St. Martin’s on May 6, 2018, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The event will take place in the garden, weather permitting, indoors if not. The purpose is to support the music program at PARC.

The Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre provides services to members of our community who might deal with issues such as homelessness, addiction, mental health, food security, and poverty. PARC provides services such as a drop-in, peer support program, and an outreach program, as well as supportive housing. PARC serves as a meeting place for partners, agencies, and enterprises who strive for social change in the Parkdale community.

Loving Our Children in Unique Ways

By Grace Karram Stephenson

In January, at the York Credit Area meeting, I was happy to find myself seated at a table with several parishioners from nearby churches, each responsible for their respective children’s ministry. The morning event concluded by asking us to consider practical ways we could enact our vision for the area churches. One enthusiastic woman at our table, who coordinates the nursery at St. Hilda’s (Dufferin/Eglinton), expressed her desire to learn from other churches and actually see what they are doing. This quickly led to dynamic plans for a Children’s Ministry Tour, which we undertook in February and March.

St. Martin’s hosted the first evening on February 1, followed by biweekly visits to St. Hilda’s, St. John’s West Toronto and St. George-on-the-Hill on March 14. There were two main goals of the tour: share what your children’s church is doing well and ask for advice on what could be improved. I was very thankful to have Father Philip and Bethanne Bell join me in sharing St. Martin’s vision for our families and in visiting St. John’s to see what we can learn from them.

It was an incredible joy to visit other churches and see their children’s ministry in action. I was inspired by the way St. John’s has children decorate liturgical banners and plant seeds for the garden. I was so impressed by

the nursery space at St. Hilda's that allows parents with babies to see and hear the service while providing all the needed amenities. I fell in love with the way St. George's tells their Bible stories through "Godly Play" – using sand boxes with figurines to dramatize the stories. The visitors to St. Martin's were also excited and spoke highly of our children servers, our children's pew, and the boxes at the back with toys for children who wish to stay upstairs (an idea I borrowed from St. George's Haliburton).

It was clear throughout this tour that each church is deeply committed to being a safe, welcoming place for families, yet each is going about this in a unique, context-specific way. At St. Martin's our children help serve food, join in as acolytes, and feel free to sit right at the front during the Eucharist. Each of the new ideas I have learned at our neighbouring churches can be tailored to suit St. Martin's and as we learn from other churches, I also look forward to hearing from our own church family and dreaming together of new ways to welcome our children into the family of God.

Mandarin Fellowship Retreat Day

By Fr. Philip

On March 17, Fr. Philip led a retreat of the Mandarin Fellowship at St. Martin's – the first time they have held their retreat day away from the Cathedral. The



Mandarin Fellowship is a ministry of our diocese reaching out mainly to new Mandarin-speaking immigrants. The Fellowship is anchored at St. James' Cathedral with outposts at St. George's on Yonge, and St. Thomas', Huron Street. Fr. James Liu and Ms. Morning Wang are the key pastors to the group. Most of the group shown here are preparing to be baptized or confirmed at the Cathedral at this year's Easter Vigil.

Used Glasses and Hearing Aids Wanted

By the Missional Team

St. Martin's Missional Team is always looking for new and innovative ways to engage our neighbours and become more active in our community. Hopefully you have noticed the box at the back of the church for collecting used eyeglasses (including prescription sunglasses) as well as hearing aids during the month of March.

The W.H.O. estimates that 150 million plus people around the world suffer from blurred or uncorrected vision. Lions clubs in Canada collect and clean used glasses and distribute them through "Optical Missions" free of charge to people in need in developing countries. The gift of glasses aids in learning and working and leads to a better quality of life for the recipient and perhaps might even let them read the Bible.

Lions clubs became interested in vision-related work after hearing the keynote speaker for the 1925 International Convention, Helen Keller, and have been collecting glasses now for 80 years. They are also well known for training guide dogs.

We are partnering with the Queensway Etobicoke Lions Club in this venture and hope to expand it to include the wider community through an outside collection box, possibly in conjunction with a planned Deacon's Box/Little Library.

Talk to your family, friends and neighbours and bring in their used glasses and hearing aids to help fill our collection box!

Your Missional Team consists of Mtr. Susan Bell, Kathie Wagg, Glen Storey, David Fleming, and Emily Bell.

Behind the Curtain at the Canadian Opera Company

By Dianne Doughty

A peek behind the scenes at the COC was a wonderful opportunity to experience firsthand the complexity of a production. The first of our four stops was "Props," packed to capacity with everything possibly needed for a show and those that "make it," from furniture upholstery to sewing drapes. Our guide, Maddie, is one of four appropriately titled jack-of-all-trades who do whatever is required – painting, building furniture, sewing, upholstery, or any other task as needed. The sophisticated paint room is equipped to not only paint props but also creates the vivid backdrops/scenery that transports us around the world. Yet what most captured everyone's attention was the Weapons Room. This walk-in sized closet, locked at all times, houses both real and



St. Martin's parishioners visiting COC, courtesy Larry Barwick

Librarian, we were treated to make our own opera "magic" by handling the conductor's baton. It was with some levity that we were told of a net in the orchestra pit to protect the audience from any flying batons! Apparently, batons have been known to liberate themselves from the conductor's hand and venture into the audience. Wayne also introduced the celesta to us, a special instrument that creates the delicate sounds associated with Tinker Bell-like movements. It's a beautiful sound - it really is!!



Wig section, COC, courtesy Larry Barwick

Next up - Wigs. This group handles all costumes from the neck up, including make-up, hair and accessories. Here the wigs are made, stored and displayed; my favourites were for Cleopatra. A wig takes approximately 40 hours to weave - one hair at a time. A striking set of aqua wigs with gondolas on top were designed to create the illusion of the famous canals of Venice for *The Marriage of Figaro*. The final stop was a visit to Costumes, where we viewed 2 costumes on display: Carmen and the second costume was a hybrid of a dress from *la Traviata* designed to match Papagena from the Opera for Young Audiences - *The Magic Victrola*.

Here's a neat factoid: The COC shares costumes and props with companies around the world and have multiple storage areas in and around the city that house the costumes, props, music and history of the COC. If

imitation weapons. Floor to ceiling shelves are lined with all the weapons used in any opera. The weight of a broad sword demands respect for those who use them.

Our next stop was at the Music Library with an amazing collection of books, records, DVDs, sheet music and boxes upon boxes of materials. After an educational talk by Wayne, the Music

you get the chance, a trip behind the curtain is well worth the time.

Sam and Family

By Kathy Mansfield



Iduey, Mirom, Sam and Ephraim, courtesy Kathy Mansfield

You may recall that St. Martin's sponsored Sam Gedney, a refugee from Eritrea, in 2014. A few of us went to visit Sam and his wife Iduey and family over the Christmas holidays. He and his wife and two children (Mirom and Ephraim) are doing really well. Sam is now working at Costco in

Mississauga and has daytime hours. At his last job he worked all night every night of the week to support his family. Currently, he wakes at 4:30 a.m. to get from his apartment at Bathurst and St. Clair to the Costco in Mississauga. He is very happy about his new job and really likes working at Costco.

Mirom is now three years old and has started daycare. Ephraim is now one year old and she also has started daycare. Iduey began English classes in January.

They are wonderful loving parents and we are so happy for them. They go to the Eritrean Church on Jane but they do still come occasionally to St Martin's at the 11:00 service to visit with their St Martin's family.

Of Note

By Jonathan Gentry

Our student assistant at St Martin's, Jeff Boldt, now has his Ph.D., having successfully defended his dissertation.

On November 26, 2017, St. Martin's celebrated our own Mary Conliffe having become a Canon. There was plenty of cake!



Photo of cakes courtesy Peter Chauvin