

# THE LYCHGATE

## August 30, 2020

### Special Church Re-Opening Edition



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

#### From Fr. Philip

Dear Fellow Parishioners,  
Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

These words of St. Paul begin a lengthy section of his letter to the Corinthians outlining the variety of gifts possessed by members of the church in Corinth. His argument in this part of his letter is premised on this initial statement quoted above which emphasizes each individual member in their unique giftedness, but sees all of them as members of one God-created community, the Body of Christ. Their identity and their mutual purpose are derived from this participation in the Body because through that Body they are connected to Christ.

This is something that I have been thinking a lot about in these last months as we have tried to adapt to a new world, the world of the pandemic. There have been huge challenges for so many whether in terms of health, of employment, of the care and education of children, or dealing with isolation and depression. We know that these challenges have also come in the midst of a world which is also trying to come to grips with the consequences of racism, of violence and war, of climate change and natural disaster. In the midst of all these forces which threaten to isolate us as individuals and pull us apart, I hold on to the promises of God who has called us in Christ into a new reality, to be part of something greater than ourselves or anything that the world can throw at us. In baptism, we have been made members of the Body of Christ, of a community created, supported, and encouraged by the power of Christ's sacrificial love. We are no longer alone. We live for Christ and for each other, and for the service of God's world.

While we have not been able to meet in person during these last months, I have had a growing awareness of our parish as a community, as a part of that great Body of Christ that stretches across time and space, that grounds us and energizes us for life in a challenging world. In phone conversations, through e-mails, in all manner of interactions on Zoom, in our prayer and in our mutual support, we have demonstrated that we are more than just a group of distinct individuals, that we are members of a fellowship in Christ that cares deeply for one another and for the community that surrounds us.

In September we will again be able to attend worship in person. The experience will be very different from what we have been used to. We will need to pre-register. There will be a limited number of people at each service. We will need to wear masks. We will not be able to sing. We cannot hold in-person Coffee Hours or other social gatherings. Some parishioners may feel that it is safer for them to attend worship using the livestream option at this time. All of this will be different, but what will not be different is that we will be coming together as the Body of Christ whether in person or by livestream. We will be coming together to be nourished by Word and Sacrament, to know the living presence of Christ in our lives.

As we do that, we continue to think and act as that Body of Christ, ensuring that we think of the other members of the Body before ourselves, just as Christ has put our health and salvation first. For example, we wear a mask to protect other members of the Body or we monitor our own health so as to protect others also. We make ourselves open to attending services that are not our usual practice in order that as many parishioners as possible may attend church in person during the course of a week. We volunteer to help with those important activities that make our public worship possible. We continue to reach out by phone, by e-mails and in Zoom coffee hours to support the fellow members of our St. Martin's community. In all these ways and more we live into our identity as members of the Body of Christ. And, in the strength of that fellowship, we reach out in love to the world around us to share something of the hope that we know in Christ, to share with others the blessings that we have received, and to work to create a world that reflects more clearly the Kingdom of Christ.

St. Paul is speaking to each one of us as he says, "You are the Body of Christ, and individually members of it." As we embark on a very different fall season, may we rejoice together as we share in the amazing grace of God and the power of Christ's love.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Philip

## 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

**Assistant Curate:** The  
Rev'd Alison Hari-  
Singh

**Honorary Assistants:**

The Rev'd Canon  
David Luxton

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:**

Jonathan Gentry  
Eilonwy Morgan

**Secretary:**

Margaret Allen

**Property Manager:**

Mark Kolberg

**Sunday School & Nursery**

Grace Karram Stephenson

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, September 13 – St. Martin's re-opens

Tuesday, September 15 – Bishop Anderson's discussion of *The Cross and The Lynching Tree*, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16 – Parish Book Club discussion of *The Screwtape Letters*, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22 – Bishop Anderson's discussion of *God and the Pandemic*, 7:30 p.m.

**Since June 28, 2020,**

**from the Parish**

**Registers:**

**Weddings:**

None

**Baptisms:**

None

**Funerals:**

None



**About *The Lychgate* Newsletter:** *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the editor, Ian Greene, at [iangreene0766@rogers.com](mailto:iangreene0766@rogers.com). For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.

**NOTE:** You can opt to go paperless and cancel your mailed copy of *The Lychgate*, and in future receive it only by email after the church re-opens, by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at [Lychgate1111@gmail.com](mailto:Lychgate1111@gmail.com).



Photos courtesy David McKnight:  
St Martin's Garden in August

## Special Re-Opening Edition of *The Lychgate*

This August 30 special edition of *The Lychgate* is to explain procedures for re-opening. The next regular edition of *The Lychgate* will be issued on September 30. (Photos courtesy Lynn McKnight)

### Key Links

To pre-register to attend all services, or to view the livestream of the 11:00 a.m. services, click on the appropriate link on the St. Martin's web page:

<https://stmartininthefields.ca/>.

### St. Martin's Re-opens Sunday, September 13

By Tim Stephenson and Ian Greene

*On the final page of The Lychgate, there is a step-by-step set of instructions for attending.*

*In this article, we provide more detail.*

Our church will open again on Sunday, September 13! There will be Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. However, because of COVID-19, the church will look different inside, and the service will be adjusted to comply with diocesan rules. The 11:00 a.m. Sunday service will be livestreamed for those who don't attend in person (see link above).

- There is a limit of 65 people who may be inside the church at any one time.
- Because of physical distancing rules, there are only places in the pews for 26 individuals or groups of up to five in the same family or "bubble" at each service, in addition to clergy, volunteers, and others participating in the service. Pre-registration is required for all services. To pre-register for any service please use Eventbrite on this link <https://stmartininthefields.ca/>, or phone the church at 416-767-7491 and leave a voice message in mailbox 3 for registration. Those who do not register in advance may not get into the service, although a limited number of spots will be reserved for newcomers.
- If your first choice of service is filled up, please consider registering for another service.
- Attendees should arrive 10 to 20 minutes early. They will be met by a greeter who will let them know about the COVID-19 precautions. **Masks**

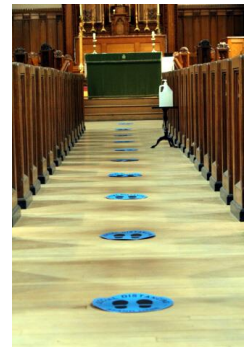
**will be required** for everyone entering the church. Please bring your own mask, but if you don't have one you will be provided with one.

- Upon entering the church, there will be a registration table to record your contact information. You must answer health-related questions and use hand sanitizer.
- You must keep your coat or jacket with you, as there will be no coat racks. The windows in the church will be open into the early fall to maintain good ventilation.



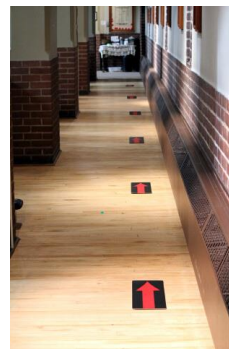
- A sidesperson will lead you or your group into the church. The collection box will be on a table at the back of the church. There will be no hymn books or prayer

books available; all parts of the service will be in the bulletins. The sidesperson will seat attendees in the designated pews with appropriate distancing. There are markers placed on the floor to indicate the six-foot social distancing gaps that must be kept, and direction arrows. The centre aisle is for walking toward the altar, and the north aisle



is for walking from the altar.

- A sidesperson will operate the elevator for those with mobility issues and provide hearing assist headphones for those who require them. Pews are colour-coded. Please see the sign as you enter to find out what colour service you are attending.



This is to minimize the amount of cleaning required between services.

- A new, smaller altar has been built, and has been placed at the top of the chancel steps. This is to minimize the degree of moving



Photos courtesy Lynn McKnight



around, and to provide better light for the livestreaming. There will be no choral or congregational singing at the 11 a.m. service. However, Jack Hattey will be playing the organ or piano, and there may be soloists assisting at the service. There will be one server at each service. **All will wear masks**, including the soloists and the presiding clergy member. Readers will walk up the centre aisle to a standing microphone and will return via the north aisle.

- During the service, attendees must **always wear a mask**. There will be no movement during the Peace as physical distancing must be maintained.
- People wishing to receive communion will move forward from the back as directed by the sidesperson. They will receive only bread without kneeling, and it will be distributed without any physical contact. Recipients will step aside, adjust the mask to consume the host, replace the mask, sanitize their hands, and then return to their seats.
- Church school activities for children and youth will not occur at the same time as the 11:00 a.m. service. As a result, children are required to sit with their parents or caregivers throughout the service. At the 11:00 a.m. service, there will be no toys for children to play with, but craft bags will be given out to older children to use during the service or take home. It may be that parents may not wish to bring younger children to the service if this will be too much for them. We plan to organize additional activities for church school members, including children younger than 8, on Saturday mornings or afternoons beginning in late September or October – more on this to come.

- After the service ends, the sidespeople will direct people out the main exit. Groups must be socially distanced while leaving the church. Fr. Philip or the celebrating priest will be outside to greet those leaving. People may remain in the garden for a short time, but **masks must continue to be worn**, and social distancing must continue to take place. No food or beverages will be served.



- Washrooms in the church hall will be available but should only be used on an emergency basis.

- Those who wish to view the livestream of the 11:00 a.m. service may do so by clicking on the appropriate button on the St.

Martin's web page at <https://stmartininthefields.ca/>. The livestreams will be archived and can be viewed at any time after the service from the same link.

- There will be a Zoom coffee hour at 1:00 p.m. every Sunday which any parishioner may participate in whether they have attended the service in person or have viewed the livestream of the service. Fr. Philip will email invitations to these Zoom coffee gatherings to the parish email list, but if you are not on this list and want to be invited, you need to send Fr. Philip your email address ([phobson@stmartininthefields.ca](mailto:phobson@stmartininthefields.ca)).



## Kid's Church in the Fall

By Grace Karram-Stephenson

What a strange spring and summer we have just survived! I use the term "survive" in its fullest meaning. In my conversations with parents of young children here in the parish, and in our neighbourhood, I hear how many are truly in survival mode. They are just trying to make it through each day without falling behind in their professional lives or becoming irritable with their children. Most families in Toronto have two working parents and the cessation of schools and daycares has placed an impossible burden on their shoulders. Several of my colleagues at the University of Toronto start their professional work at 5:00 a.m., spend their days with their children and return to work after 8:00 p.m. when the children are asleep. Those with toddlers or primary-age children are often the most exhausted, since few three-year-olds can occupy themselves for more than three minutes.

Our family survived only four days in March before we put in a frantic phone call to my parents. Our one-bedroom condo was not large enough to house JJ's energy, never mind providing John with a

workspace and Maelle a surface to do her e-schooling. We left Toronto for Ajax on March 25 and I am very fortunate to have healthy parents who were not worried about us bringing our Toronto germs to their large suburban home. You may have noticed my dad's workshop was even featured on the Good Friday video (see on St. Martin's YouTube channel: <https://stmartininthefields.ca/>).

Living intergenerationally for five months has certainly had its challenges ("Dad! Don't play the TV so loud – the kids are sleeping!" or "JJ, don't pick Grandma's tomatoes until they are RED!"). But the challenges are far outweighed by the many blessings we could not have imagined before we arrived. Maelle has learned to sew and she rides her bike around the neighbourhood with John each morning. JJ has learned to garden and watches the bunnies as they try to steal his small plants. Having extra hands to read to the children or take them for walks has been incredible. My mom assures me that having the kids hug her at bedtime makes up for all the spills, bumps and dirt rattling around her house. Grandpa claims he is happy too, although I think he'd be relieved to watch less Paw Patrol. These months have been precious.

As August draws to a close, there are many changes and uncertainties ahead. Like many families, we had to weigh the benefits and costs of enrolling our children in school this fall. The likelihood of them bringing home germs is high, and we may forfeit the grandparent help we desperately need, as we don't want to put our parents at risk. Yet we need to work and the kids need some return to "normal," so we have decided our children will go to school. Most parents we know are in agony, attempting to make the right decision with little idea of how school will turn out.

Ultimately, the challenge that is more pressing for our family is the housing crisis. We survived eight years raising our kids in a small condo, as Toronto's housing prices skyrocketed out of reach. But we have stretched out in Ajax and cannot fit back in our small home. We sold our condo in June and purchased a home in Guelph in the same neighbourhood as John's parents and twin brother. We are heartbroken that we will not be returning to St Martin's when it

re-opens, but thankful we will have more space in a time when our homes are our world. Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of my children's programs over the past four years. We will miss all of you!

We are not the only family experiencing difficult changes during this upheaval. In early August our Kids' Church team had a meeting to decide how best to support families as we re-open in September with restrictions and rules that prevent us from running kids' programs in the basement. It may be impractical for parents with young children to attend a Sunday Service since there will be limitations on movement and fewer bathrooms available. We plan to run a Saturday, social-distance story time in the garden for those with active kids. Parents will receive information by email about when this will begin – likely in late September or early October. For children who attend church, there will be paper bags with activities to complete in the service as they sit with their parents (see Lee Jeffrey's article for more details). Teen programs will continue (without food!) led by Phil Snider. Please spread the word that families are very welcome in these different forums, and that we know how hard it has been for everyone! Keep us in your prayers.

## **Activities for Children Attending Church With Parents**

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By Lee Jeffrey

As noted in Grace's article, we are planning activities for church school children in the garden on Saturdays starting in a month or so. For children attending church with their parents or caregivers, there will be craft activities in paper bags based on one of the Sunday readings. Each child will each receive one of these bags. They can work on the craft during the service, and then take the bag and its contents home after the service.

## **Youth Program 2020-21**

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By Phil Snider

September is usually a busy month for families. As the summer winds down, we begin to think about our children's return to school and usual activities.

At St. Martin's, that also means a return to our youth meetings.

Of course, this is not a normal September. The lingering COVID-19 pandemic is making planning for anything this September fraught. As a parish, we are slowly working towards a re-opening of the church in general in September. As part of that, we are working on plans to reconnect with our youth.

The coming of COVID-19 has made building and maintaining community very difficult and that has been particularly true when dealing with youth. I know I struggled with this in the early months of personal distancing and found it quite hard to keep in touch with people in general. However, I'm looking forward to reconnecting and to finding new and creative ways to encourage our youth in these times. They are an important part of our church and I know I have missed interacting with them.

For the coming year, our plans are still under development. We will work within the diocesan guidelines for activities, which means that we will have to maintain our physical distancing as well as other guidelines which will make our meetings rather different from the pre-COVID-19 days. I expect that we will be employing a mix of in-person and online activities over the coming year. More on this will be coming as we get closer to our re-opening on September 13!

## Would You Like To Help Out?

By Tim Stephenson

We already have volunteers for all of the special re-opening roles listed below, but we can always use more! Following is a description of the special volunteer positions needed during the re-opening phase of the church, and the person in charge of each section. Please contact the section heads if you would like to volunteer and haven't already let them know. The volunteers are in addition to the 26 "groups" allowed into a service, which means volunteers will be guaranteed a spot in the church.

### Greeter

The greeter will be the first point of contact for parishioners arriving for the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services and the Tuesday service. The greeter

would be located outside the main church doors to welcome parishioners and remind them that face masks are mandatory and social distancing protocols are to be observed inside and outside the church. They will offer a warm greeting to all and especially to those who may be visiting St. Martin's for the first time.

Contact: Dianne Doughty at: [doughtydg@hotmail.com](mailto:doughtydg@hotmail.com)

### Registrar

The registrar will record and monitor the numbers of attendees at each service, ensure the required personal information is collected, recorded and protected, and further ensure that the maximum number of attendees is not exceeded at any service. This role will be accomplished by a team of people sharing duties. Parishioners will be using both the online service, Eventbrite, and the parish phone system to pre-register and the registrar will make sure this process runs smoothly.

Contact: Kathie Wagg at [waggfamily@bell.net](mailto:waggfamily@bell.net)

### Sidesperson

The sidesperson will show parishioners to their seats at a safe distance from other people. The sidespeople will also help people who use the elevator or have any mobility issues. They will also assist in the movement of people during communion and when they exit the church. At the end of the service they will provide assistance to the cleaners to clean the pews and high-touch areas in the nave in preparation for the next service.

Contact: Glen Storey at [storeybook25@gmail.com](mailto:storeybook25@gmail.com)

### Cleaner

The cleaner will work with the sidespeople in the cleaning of the pews and touchable surfaces in the church between the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday. The cleaner will also clean the touchable surfaces in the washrooms such as tap handles (the cleaning of the toilets, sinks and floors is not required). This task should take no more than 15-20 minutes and would need to be completed by 10:45 a.m.

Contact: Kathie Wagg at [waggfamily@bell.net](mailto:waggfamily@bell.net)



### Livestreaming Assistant

We will be livestreaming the 11:00 a.m. service on YouTube each week for those unable to be in church in person. Two people are needed to help operate the livestreaming equipment. This involves operating a camera, audio equipment, and a laptop. Training will be provided.

Contact: Ian Greene at [iangreene0766@rogers.com](mailto:iangreene0766@rogers.com)

### **Summer Book Club Wrap-Up**

By Mary Conliffe

The Christian Education Committee hopes that you have had a wonderful couple of months of good reading, getting ready to participate in one or more of our September discussion nights on the three wonderful books that were recommended for Summer 2020.

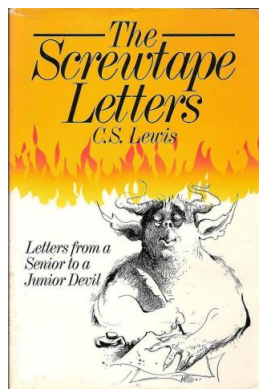
Bishop Jenny Andison is hosting two of them:

- September 15, 7:30 p.m.: James H. Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*
- September 22, 7:30 p.m.: N.T. Wright's *God and the Pandemic*

You can now click on her "coming events" webpage to register, here:

[https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-the-diocese/area-bishops/york-credit-valley-2/ycv\\_events/](https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-the-diocese/area-bishops/york-credit-valley-2/ycv_events/)

For those of you who wish to join the Parish Book Club discussion on C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*, please join us on Wednesday, September 16 from 7:30 - 9 pm via Zoom:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81801944501?pwd=WNWVY0ExSC9aN3A2MGJ1alhWcnVwUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 0194 4501; Passcode: 213965  
Or phone in at: 647 374 4685, or 647 558 0588,  
Meeting ID: 818 0194 4501, Passcode: 213965



St. Martins Summer Garden Photos courtesy of David McKnight

## Step by Step Instructions for Attending Church

**\*\*For all services, ensure that you pre-register on Eventbrite at this link on your computer, cell phone or tablet: <https://stmartininthefields.ca/>. If you do not have access to one of these devices, phone St. Martin's at 416-767-7491 and leave a message in mailbox 3 to register.**

**\*\*For all services, arrive 10 to 20 minutes early.**

1. Before approaching the church, **put on your mask**. If you don't have a mask, you will be given one at the church. **No one can enter the church who is not wearing a mask.**
2. Meet the greeter at the main entrance to the church.
3. When you enter the church you will see the registrar at the bottom of the steps. She or he will ask health-related questions, record contact information, and ask you to use hand sanitizer. A sidesperson will gesture you to proceed up the steps. You or your group must be socially distanced six feet from other persons or groups at all times.
4. There will be a leaflet for you to pick up from a table next to the collection box. If you wish to leave a donation, please insert it into the collection box.
5. A sidesperson will guide you to your pew. Keep your coat or jacket with you.
6. There will be no congregational singing.
7. There will no movement from your pew during the Peace to maintain physical distancing.
8. A sidesperson will indicate when you can move up the centre aisle for communion. You will receive only bread without kneeling, and it will be distributed without any physical contact. Recipients will step aside, adjust the mask to consume the host, replace their masks, sanitize their hands, and then return to their seats by walking down the north aisle.
9. At the end of the service, sidespeople will guide attendees out the main door of the church, while physical distancing is maintained.
10. Fr. Philip will greet attendees from outside the main door of the church while maintaining physical distancing.
11. Parishioners may stay in the garden for a short time to talk to others while maintaining physical distancing and **continuing to wear masks**.