THE LYCHGATE October 2, 2022

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



From Father Philip

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out like shining from shook foil.

These famous opening lines from a poem by the nineteenth century Jesuit priest and poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, speak to the wonder of God's creation. Creation, for Hopkins, is not some passive object to be taken for granted, but is an environment charged with divine grace, a place to encounter something of the electrifying love of God. But Hopkins' poem goes on to rue the blindness of human beings to that grandeur, their indifference to those signs of God's presence, and their ill treatment of that creation such that it is "seared, bleared, and smeared". Yet, despite it all, Hopkins rejoices that "nature is never spent" but that there continues to live "the dearest freshness deep down there."

As we approach the festival of Harvest Thanksgiving, we are called to rejoice once again in the incredible variety and richness of God's creation, to give thanks for the bounty of the harvest, and to pray for grace to make that bounty available for all. This is a time of year in which we truly give thanks, in Hopkins' words, for the grandeur of God.

Yet we are all keenly aware of how humanity has not only taken the creation for granted but has actively despoiled it. We are clearly called by God to another way.

In his thoughts on creation, collected in the encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls us to think about the approach to creation of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis approached the world around him as he approached members of his family, as Brother Sun and Sister Moon. He approached that world not as an object to be exploited, but as an intimate friend, as a fellow creature created and sustained by the love of God. As a friend to creation, we are also called to be its steward, caring for the immense gift that God has shared with us.

But as Christians we are called to take one further step. We are called to be not only friends and stewards of creation, but also priests of creation. This is a concept that undergirds the work on creation of the Anglican-Orthodox International Theological Dialogue of which I am a member. As members of God's Church, we understand a priest to be someone who is called to take the gifts provided by God's grace, and to offer them back to God in thanksgiving. In and through that offering, God acts to renew and transform, to bring life and joy. Our Harvest Thanksgiving is thus a sign pointing to our lifelong vocation as followers of Jesus Christ, to be those called to give up our lives in wonder and thanksgiving, thanking God for the incredible gift of his love.

This Harvest Thanksgiving may our eyes be opened to the grandeur of God and may our hearts overflow with a passion to give thanks for all God's mercies both in word and deed.

Church Directory



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

151 Glenlake Ave. Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

www.stmartininthefields.ca

Church: 416-767-7491

Incumbent:

Hobson OG

The Rev'd Canon Philip

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
The Rt. Rev'd Victoria
Matthews

Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

Church Wardens:

Peter Chauvin Tim Stephenson Jay Haddad (Deputy)

Office Administrator:

Andrea Zinn

Property Manager: Mark Kolberg

Children and Youth Pastoral

Associate: Carol Shih

About *The Lychgate* Newsletter: *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the coeditors, Ian Greene and David McKnight, at 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 in future receive it partly by email by emailing *The Lychgate* at <u>Lychgate1111@gmail.com</u>.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, September 28, 8 p.m., Christian Education series: discussion of Rachel Held Evan's *Searching for Sunday*
- Wednesday, October 5, 8 p.m., Christian Education series: discussion of Rachel Held Evan's *Searching for Sunday*
- Wednesday, October 19, 8 p.m., Christian
 Education series: Faith Journeys
- Wednesday, October 26, 8 p.m., Christian Education series: Faith Journeys
- Wednesday, November 2, 8 p.m., Christian Education series: Faith Journeys

From the Parish Registers

Since June 26, 2022 (last Lychgate)

Baptisms

Hailey Zhiyu Marks on July 24, 2022, and Jania Daniel on August 21, 2022 **Wedding**: Briana Bradstreet & Brodie Ward on August 6, 2022.

The death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, the beginning of the reign of King Charles III.

The month of September has marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. The Queen died as we were preparing *The Lychgate*, without time for proper acknowledgement. We welcome your comments for the Advent edition of *The Lychgate*. Please send them to iangreene0766@rogers.com

COVID protocols

By Tim Stephenson, Chair, Parish Council
There are no recent changes to the COVID
protocols for St. Martin's. We still require
everyone entering the building to wear a mask.
There is no expectation for physical distancing
when sitting in the pews. Everyone is asked to
use hand sanitizer on entry to the church and
before and after receiving communion.

The COVID protocol group continues to meet regularly and will communicate any changes in bulletins and announcements.

Christmas Market

By Tim Stephenson





Saturday November 26 10 am - 4 pm



After two years of online Christmas Markets, this year the date is November 26 and most of the events will be in-person. We need your help to volunteer, donate, and shop. This is an important community event that brings the parish and our neighbours together. More information will be in future church bulletins. Thanks in advance for your support.

An update on planned activities:

- Silent Auction Susan Goddard is heading up the Silent Auction
- (susan.educan@gmail.com and 647-444-2272). She will hold the auction online prior to the Christmas Market and it will close on Nov 24. Winners can pick up their items on Nov 26.
- Bake Table Kathie Wagg
 (waggfamily@bell.net) will chair this activity.
 We look forward to your baked goods and frozen entrees.
- Handicrafts/Christmas decor Nadine
 Barmania (njlbarmania@gmail.com) and Elaine

Lumley would appreciate any donations. Please think of knitting, crafts, and other gifts that would make Christmas special.

- Jewellery/Accessories Maggie Knight (<u>maggieknight46@yahoo.ca</u>) is running this table, a place for great and surprising finds.
- Children's Activities Carol Shih and Gayne Brawn (<u>carol.shih@mail.utoronto.ca</u>) will be looking for volunteers for the activities they plan.

Many thanks for your support.

Parish Profile: Cyriline Taylor

By David McKnight

Cyriline Taylor was born, as
Cyriline Stuart, in
Ellerton, St.
George Parish,
Barbados, the
eldest of nine
children. She
grew up in St.
Luke's Anglican



Church there, the fourth generation of her family in the parish. (Lolita King and Sandra Cave, both St. Martin's parishioners, are also from St. Luke's — not a surprise for Sandra; she is Cyriline's sister.) It was an active parish: morning service, Sunday School in the afternoon, and, once children were a bit older, back for Evensong at 7 pm. Sunday School was serious; the children were expected to memorize the Collects. There were also AYPA (Anglican Young People's Association) and both a Girls' and Boys' Brigade. The young people were taught ballroom dancing by the parish priest, who taught while wearing his cassock!

Barbados was very Anglican at that time. The primary school had a strong association with the church and the priest visited frequently.

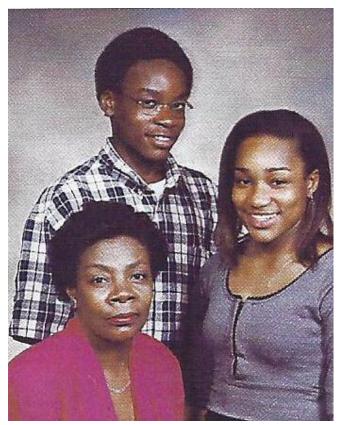


Photo of 'leaders of the uniform groups' outside the vicarage of St. Luke's in Barbados. Cyriline Stuart is on the extreme right, and Rev. Walter Henry Fairweather is in the centre.

Scripture was a subject in the St. Michael's secondary school, an all-girls high school where the students sat British Oxford-Cambridge overseas exams. When she finished high school, there was not yet a full university in Barbados so, like many of her classmates, in 1967 Cyriline moved to Canada for university.

For two years, Cyriline lived in Mimico, but in 1969 she moved to an apartment at 77 Quebec Avenue that she shared with three of her sisters. They sought a place to worship and on an evening stroll found St. Martin's. It was unlocked (different times!) and they looked in and were happy with the smell of incense. They went to church and were given a very warm welcome by Fr Jackson who soon visited them in their apartment. Cyriline has been in the parish ever since, continuing even when she moved to Streetsville. Sandra is also still in the parish; the two other sisters eventually moved back to Barbados.

Cyriline graduated from the University of Toronto in 1974 with a degree in Sociology. In 1976, she married Reginald Taylor and they moved to Streetsville. In 1979, Cyriline completed a Master of Education degree, also at U of T. She started a career as a teacher with the Toronto District School Board and taught at several primary schools, eventually becoming the principal of Parkfield Junior School near Eglinton and Martingrove. Reginald was also in education and was a department head in the Peel Board. Their children have kept up the family tradition. Cara, born in 1982, is a French immersion teacher with the Peel Board and Christopher, born in 1986, did a PhD in history and teaches history at Waterloo University, specializing in migration and ethnic relations in Canada. Cyriline retired in 2001 and Reginald died in 2011.



Cyriline, Christopher and Cara Taylor from Parish Directory, 2000

Volunteer work has been important to Cyriline. In 1982, an association of women from her high school formed "The Barbados St. Michael's Alumni (Tor.) Inc." that, in addition to social events, did a great deal of volunteer work for the Cancer Society, the Sickle Cell Foundation, and its major beneficiary, the Herbie Fund at SickKids where several of the members worked. In 2007, Cyriline and others from the group were given volunteer service awards from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship for 25 years of service to the community.

A fourth generation "cradle Anglican", the church has always been important in Cyriline's life. At St. Martin's she is currently a member of Management Board and The Stewardship Committee. Prior to the pandemic, she was also a Reader and Sidesperson and she hopes to return to those activities.

Cyriline appreciates many things about St. Martin's. She admires Fr Philip's leadership and notes that of his predecessors. She cannot say enough good about the music. (She has three favourite hymns she hopes to hear every year: O Come All Ye Faithful, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and The Strife is O'er.) She loves the beauty of the garden and of the building. She particularly mentions the Memorial Window at the west end, but likes all the glass, the architecture, and details. She has grown up in the Anglo-Catholic tradition and holds it dear. She is grateful that so many have stepped up to make services possible throughout the pandemic and being able to attend via livestreaming is a strength and encouragement. (She joins a streamed service from Barbados at 8 am before joining St. Martin's at 11.)

Cyriline values all that St. Martin's offers to help her to fulfil her mission and spiritual journey.

Office Renovation

By Peter Chauvin

Earlier this year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the completion of our church building. Since the church building was completed in May 1922, there have been many changes, improvements, renovations, and extensions to the building and grounds.

In living memory, we have seen the kitchen relocated from the east end to the west end of



Office prior to renovation, courtesy Peter Chauvin

the basement in the 1980s; the refurbishment and modernization of our organ in 1980 and 2012; the extension of the church building footprint in 2003 with new classrooms and washrooms, an elevator, and enlarged Narthex; and then the complete repair and refresh of the church interior incorporating vibrant colours and beautiful stars on the ceiling. More recently, we saw the renovation of the Guild Room and the Chapel; and the revamp of the Vestry and service preparation area. In every case, significant contributions by the parishioners of St. Martin's, in financial commitments and volunteer time and handiwork, have resulted in exceptional outcomes.

One project was probably long overdue. The church office, in what was originally the stage for the church hall. Since then, the church office had become a rather haphazard collection of furniture, old typewriters and other ancient electronics, and mountains of paper and stationary supplies with electrical extension cords leading here and there, phone wires



Start of renovation, courtesy Peter Chauvin

randomly coming through the window frame, old lighting, and cramped work spaces — simply a measure of many years of hard use.

The topic of renovating and updating the office has come up several times over the last decade, but real traction developed in early 2022. Once Management Board was supportive of the concept, Lynn McKnight, with input from Mark Kolberg, Jack Hattey, Fr. Philip, Adriana Balen, Andrea Zinn, and Peter Chauvin, came up with plans and a budget that were approved by Management Board on March 21st. Parish Council also provided its full support for the project. A special Vestry was held on April 23rd to obtain approval to use money from the Memorial Fund to pay for the project.

The first task for Lynn and team was to empty the office of all contents so that the space could be completely gutted – moving pipes, tearing down walls, relocating electrical and



Lynn McKnight in renovated office, courtesy Peter Chauvin

communications equipment, and installing new lighting – even moving the office door and adding a window to it. In the meantime, a temporary office was established in the Guild Room and the music library was permanently relocated to the St. Cecilia Room. There was a lot of moving and moving again of boxes, files, and office equipment.

As part of the renovation, the St. Cecilia Room was partly gutted, cleaned up, and storage spaces improved. Jack's old "office" is now a drier, brighter spot for the music library.



Completed renovation, courtesy Peter Chauvin

The renovation is now complete, and the office is a bright, airy, and inviting workspace. The window to the south has been cleaned up and actually lets in light. There are plenty of available electrical receptacles and USB ports. The entire space of the office has been redesigned and every square inch has been put in use. There are now two spacious work stations in addition to the main desk. There is a meeting table with a white board for committee meetings and other activities. Modern lighting and bright walls really open up the space and the office equipment is now smartly positioned for maximum utility. Lynn McKnight, who managed the entire project has done a wonderful job. We are very grateful for her time and talents.

On September 25th, immediately after the 11 o'clock service, we had a special ceremony starting with a procession to acknowledge Lynn's work and celebrate the completion of the office and St Cecilia Room. There was cake, of course, in spite of the rain!

Parish Profile: Robert Snow

By David McKnight



Robert Snow joined St. Martin's parish in 2015, but his connection is strong and starts much earlier than that. His grandparents, John and Gertrude Snow were members of the parish in

the 1980s. His parents, Christopher Snow and Bryn Woodall, met at St. Martin's although they did not start dating until later. His maternal grandmother, Shelley Gorman, is a current member. Strong connection indeed.

Robert's father, Christopher, became a priest in Newfoundland and served in the four-point Catalina parish that also included Newman's Cove, Port Union and Amherst Cove. Robert was born in 1989 in Clarenville, the nearest hospital. When he was age three, the family relocated to St. John's where his father was an associate priest in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. They were still in St. John's when Robert started school but moved back to outport life in the community of Port de Grave where he did grades 2 and 3. Then it was back to St. John's to the parish of St. Michael and All Angels for the next 11 years. That was enough to finish high school and start at Memorial University. During this time, his mother encouraged him in his interest in the performing arts and film making. Also during this time, he was a server at St. Michael and All Angels, one readily available at any time in answer to the call of the priest, his father.

In 2009, his father became the priest of Grace Church Milton, so while his parents, brother, and sister moved to Ontario, Robert stayed in St. John's to finish university. He lived with his Snow grandparents during term and came to Ontario for holidays. In 2011, he completed his BA studying English Literature, History, and Classics. He also did some courses in theatre and TV production. With encouragement from an instructor who had worked at the CBC, he considered becoming a journalist. Next, he moved to Ottawa for a master's degree in journalism at Carleton University. While in Ottawa, he joined the servers' guild at St. Barnabas church and found the ritual of the Sunday services to be a welcome during his studies.

He graduated in 2013 and moved to Toronto and started work with the government of

Ontario; since 2014 he has been in the Cabinet Office, as a video producer and technical advisor. He operates camera equipment and edits footage into social media content. This work has allowed him to travel all over Ontario; his work has taken him into auto plants, railway maintenance sheds, and even behind the scenes in the Toronto Zoo panda enclosure.

Since coming to St. Martin's, Robert has been active as a member of the servers. He is at home with Anglo-Catholic liturgy and enjoys the way the servers work with each other and encourage those who are learning.

Robert has also been much involved with the live streaming of our services. The experience and expertise he brought from his professional role were very valuable when the parish was purchasing equipment and setting up procedures. He gives credit to Ian Greene for his leadership and enthusiastic recruiting. He believes it's important to train a strong team to spread out the livestreaming work across the volunteers and encourage long-term involvement.

Robert is at home at St. Martin's. He was raised in the Anglican Church and the Anglo-Catholic tradition and has many family ties with the parish. He has found the people to be warm and welcoming, and he is happy to be part of this Christian community.

Children's Church Program

By Ian Greene

From July 3 to September 4, a children's craft table was available every Sunday thanks to our Children and Youth Pastoral Associate, Carol Shih. Each Sunday, there was a focus on the "Fruit of the Spirit" to echo the birth of the Christian Church and continue the message of Christian growth. Kids reflected one aspect of the fruit each Sunday: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and



Carol Shih with summer masterpiece

self-control. Each Sunday, the children contributed to a "masterpiece" craft (shown here), which symbolized the fruits of the spirit. Between one and six children joined the craft table each Sunday.

The fall-winter children's church program started on September 11. The church school classes are following the same lectionary that St. Martin's uses. Children would learn from one of three readings (Old Testament, Epistle, or Gospel). This Fall, they will work on 'what matters to the growth of Christian life' through November 20. The materials for the teachers are part of the same "Spark" series that was used prior to COVID. Teachers for each age group are provided with teacher's resources with plenty of ideas, and there are age-appropriate handouts for the children. So far, eight parishioners have volunteered to help as teachers or teacherhelpers on one Sunday a month. However, more are needed so that we can cover all age groups. If you are available to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Carol Shih at carol.shih@mail.utoronto.ca.

COVID interrupted the wonderful rhythm of teaching and learning that we had developed for children at St. Martin's. However, we are one of the few churches in our area with a good children's church program, and so the program

will grow. We firmly believe that with God's help, "if you build it, they will come."

The Travelling Sign

By David McKnight

If you were to look in the rectory garden of St. Thomas' church in St. Catharines, you would see a sign that is familiar to the people of St. Martin's. Indeed, this sign used to hang at the corner of Keele and Glenlake and point the way to our church. The suspicious among you might think there is a tale of clerical pilferage here, but the story is more mundane. In the 1980s, a new sign with less rust was put up and The Reverend Canon Kevin Bothwell, then a lay member of St. Martin's, asked John Logan, one of the wardens, if he could have the old one. Since then, it has been in gardens in Toronto, Orangeville, and Guelph following Kevin and Toni from parish to parish. St. Martin's has a way of building a fond loyalty.



Parish Dinner September 11

By Ian Greene

St. Martin's again held an in-person parish dinner in the church garden early in September. It was wonderful to be able to talk to our fellow parishioners in person, and share salads and desserts donated by parishioners, and to engage in real conversation. Thanks to Tim Stephenson,



Parish Dinner, courtesy Peter Chauvin

Jay Haddad, Glen and Lindsay Storey, and everyone else who made this wonderful event possible.

Parish Fun Fair September 17

By Ian Greene



The parish returned to its tradition of hosting an annual neighbourhood fun fair on September 17. We had a "bouncy castle," lots of games at which children could win tickets to redeem for prizes, and a BBQ to provide hot dogs. It was so successful that they ran out of prizes to give away. We got to know our neighbours and make



connections. Thanks to Kathie Wagg, Glen and Lindsey Storey, Peter Chauvin, Tim Stephenson, Carol Shih, and other members of the missional team for putting all this together! How wonderful to be able to have such an engaging community event again.



Randall Pilson entertaining at fun fair, courtesy Peter Chauvin

Summer Church Visits 2022

By Ian Greene

Every summer, prior to COVID, we invited our parishioners to collect church bulletins from the churches they had visited during their travels, and to post them on the bulletin board at our church's front entrance.

This summer, sort-of post-COVID, we had just four postings, including one from St. John in the Wilderness in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, and St. Bartholomew's in Ottawa. In 2019, there were nine from Canada (four from Toronto, five from Ontario and the rest of the country), six from the United States, two from Trinidad and Tobago, five from England, and one each from Scotland and Ireland. There was also one from Cambodia.

What this indicates is that although the COVID pandemic appears to be waning, we are still hesitant to visit other parishes during our summer travels. In addition, no doubt some of us have forgotten to collect the bulletins of the churches we have visited during summer vacations. Remember next year!

In this issue, we highlight two churches from which we received bulletins. The other two will be mentioned in the Advent Lychgate.

The Parish Church of ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

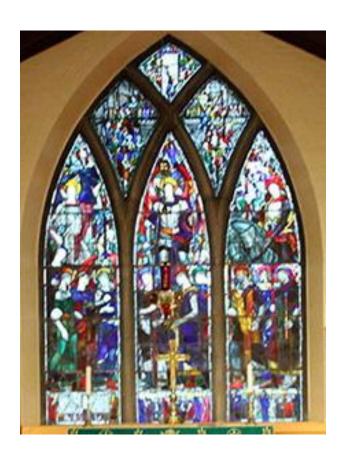
2175 1st Street, WBL | 651.429.5351 | www.stjohnwilderness.org

The church of St. John in the Wilderness is in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, close to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Its web site says that "While St. John's is a traditional Episcopal parish, we strive to be a place of welcome, refuge, prayer, learning, service, and challenge for all. At St. John's you will find an intimate, caring community that finds more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty." The bulletin states that the celebrants are "The Gathered People of God."



St. Bartholomew's Anglican church in Ottawa is the church closest to Rideau Hall, the Governor-Generals' residence. A particularly

striking feature in the church is the stained-glass window behind the altar. The East Window, unveiled in 1919, is the only work in North America by renowned Irish artist Wilhelmina Geddes. It commemorates staff members of the Duke of Connaught, Canada's tenth Governor General, who were killed in WWI. The window, in An Túr Gloine style, depicts a fallen soldier being welcomed into Heaven by other "warrior-saints." Referred to as The Ottawa Window, it's been hailed as "a masterpiece, truly a triumph for Irish Art". It is well worth a visit next time you are in Ottawa.



St. Bartholomew Window

St. Martin's Refugee Sponsorship

By Ian Greene

St. Martin's hopes to co-sponsor a refugee family of five from Afghanistan, working with the Canadian charity Books Over Borders.



https://booksoverborders.org/

Before the Taliban took over in Afghanistan in 2021, Books Over Borders worked to print and distribute books to libraries, schools, and villages in Afghanistan to ensure that both girls and boys would have access to books that they could learn to read and enjoy, and their distributor was Tariq A. (full name not given because the family is at risk). After the Taliban took control of the country in 2021, Tariq became a target of the new regime. Tariq, his wife, their toddler son, and his wife's mother fled to Iran. Tariq's brother fled to Pakistan. St. Martin's and Books Over Borders has the assistance of AURA, the Anglican and United Church Refugee Assistance charity, which works closely with Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



https://www.auraforrefugees.org/index.php

Because of the urgent need to register a refugee sponsorship for this family to protect their lives, the Parish Council and Management Board of St. Martin's held an emergency Zoom meeting in early August and approved St. Martin's involvement under certain conditions currently being worked out. Books Over Borders has raised the majority of the funds necessary for the sponsorship application, and they have a

support group already formed in Toronto that covers all the necessary supports such as housing, schooling, and health. Tim Stephenson and Ian Greene will work closely with the sponsorship group and will reach out to St. Martin's for additional support as needed.

After the sponsorship application is approved by the Canadian government, it is impossible to predict how long it will take for the family to arrive in Canada because there are so many unknowns. For example, four of the five family members are presently in Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with Canada, so they need to get permission to travel to another country to make their refugee application before Canadian officials. The sponsorship of St. Martin's should make that process somewhat easier. The family might arrive in Toronto anywhere from a few months to a few years from now. We ask for your prayers to make the shorter interval possible.

We will keep you updated on the refugee sponsorship in upcoming issues of *The Lychgate* and bulletins.

Lambeth Conference 2022

By Ian Greene

At the Sunday services on July 31 and August 7, Bp. Victoria Matthews presented us first with a historical overview of the periodic gatherings of world-wide Anglican Bishops at the Lambeth Conferences, and second with her commentary on what has transpired at this year's Lambeth Conference.

Bp. Victoria's homilies are well worth reviewing, and can be accessed on the "live stream a service" button on the St. Martin's web page, https://stmartininthefields.ca/.

Bp. Matthews was supposed to have attended this conference when first scheduled in 2018, but it was postponed twice – first to try to find a resolution to differences on same-sex marriage, and then because of COVID, and so she did not attend. However, Bp. Susan Bell, formerly our long-time Associate at St. Martin's, and now Bishop of Niagara, did attend.

From the Lambeth Conference web page: "Convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2022, the Lambeth Conference is an international meeting of Anglican bishops. The conference discusses church and world affairs and the global mission of the Anglican Communion for the decade ahead.

"The conference theme is 'God's Church for God's World - walking, listening and witnessing together.' The conference will explore what it means for the Anglican Communion to be responsive to the needs of a 21st Century world.

"Meeting around every ten years since 1867, the Lambeth Conference is one of the four Instruments of Unity in the Anglican Communion. The 2022 meeting will be the 15th Lambeth Conference."

There is much deeper meaning behind these generalizations, and we recommend Bp. Victoria's homilies to you.



Bp Susan Bell (left) and husband Tom Bell (right, Music Director and Organist at St. James Cathedral Toronto) at closing of Lambeth Conference