

THE LYCHGATE

December 11, 2022

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



From Father Philip

What fun it was to be able, after the many months of COVID restrictions, to visit the Royal Winter Fair once more this past November. To watch the strength and skill of the horses and riders racing through the show jumping course, to enjoy a very different shopping and food experience, and best of all, to visit with the animals again — all this was a real pleasure. For me, my visit to the Royal Winter Fair is not only an annual tradition but in some ways a preparation for the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas. As I walk between the rows of cows munching away on their hay or visit the sheep newly washed and brushed ready for the show ring, my mind also moves forward to the account of the Nativity that comes to us through Luke's Gospel. The sights and sounds and smells of the animals bring me closer to that stable where the Prince of Peace was born on a cold winter's night. For Jesus was born not just in the midst of God's people but also in the midst of God's creation, among the animals that are also creatures created in God's love. The Incarnation, Christ coming to dwell among us, is a decisive moment not just for us as human beings but for all aspects of God's creation, including the animal kingdom. The wonderful image that comes to us in the Advent readings from the prophet Isaiah speaks of the coming reign of God in which predator and prey will dwell together in peace and harmony as all creation is transformed by the grace of God.

Those sheep at the Winter Fair also draw my attention once more to the shepherds who play such an important role in Luke's account. Shepherds at the time of Jesus had a difficult and dangerous job, living out in the open with their flocks, guiding them to pasture and water, and protecting them from the predators all around. In my travels to the Holy Land, I have seen the Bedouin in the scrub lands on the edge of the Sinai desert still performing this essential work today. But we know that shepherds were not welcomed by general society in Jesus' day. Living outside the regular life of society, they were often feared, looked down upon, and shunned. They were another of those groups pushed to the margins of society. It is therefore all the more surprising that it was to the shepherds that the angels came first to announce the birth of the Saviour, and that it was the shepherds who were the first to come to see this wondrous sight and to give thanks and praise to God. And yet, how fitting, for we know that Jesus had such a special concern throughout his public ministry for the poor and the marginalized, for those pushed to the edges of society. How fitting also that the shepherds came to pay homage to that babe born in a manger who would become for us our Good Shepherd, the one who would search for us when we are lost in sin or doubt or grief and bring us home, the one who would nourish us with his own Body and Blood that we might enjoy eternal life, the one who would die for us to save us from sin and death to ensure that we might enjoy the wonder of God's glorious kingdom.

May we this Christmastide join the shepherds in our journey to behold the wonder of the Saviour born for us. May God give us the grace to join our praises with the shepherds and the angels as we rejoice before that child born in a manger, a manger that became for us a throne of God on earth.

May you and all those whom you love know the blessings of the Christ child this Christmas as we celebrate with joy the wonder of Christ's birth.

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

Church: 416-767-7491

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon Philip
Hobson OGS

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 co-editors, 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 receive *The Lychgate* by email by sending a request to *The Lychgate* at Lychgate1111@gmail.com.

From the Parish Registers

Since October 2, 2022 (last *Lychgate*)

Funerals:

December 2 – Sharon Eileen Mitchell

December 3 – Jane Teresa Holmes

Christmas at St. Martin's

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant with Sung

Eucharist (family service)

10:00 p.m. Blessing of the Crib & Choral Eucharist

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Carols, followed by

Christmas Lunch (sign up before at the church)

Sunday, January 1, First Sunday after Christmas

8:30 a.m. Eucharist

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

Sung Eucharist

Sunday, January 8, Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Said Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday, December 14, 8 p.m.,** Christian Education series: Reflections on Bishop Asbil's Advent video on Joy (Zoom)
- **Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m.:** Carolling in the Garden (bring a flashlight)
- **Wednesday, December 21, 8 p.m.,** Christian Education series: Reflections on Bishop Asbil's Advent video on Love (Zoom)
- **Wednesday, January 18, 8 p.m.,** Christian Education series: travels to the Far East (Zoom)
- **Wednesday, January 25, 8 p.m.,** Christian Education series: Robbie Burns Night (Zoom)
- **Wednesday, February 8 & 15, 8 p.m.,** Christian Education series: Exploration of proposed Social Justice Vestry motion on social assistance benefits (Zoom)
- **Sunday, February 26:** Annual Vestry Meeting after 11 a.m. service
- **Tuesdays March 7, 14, 21 and 28, 8 pm,** Christian Education series: The Gospel of John, presented by Prof. Joseph Mangina (Zoom)

COVID Protocols at St. Martin's

By Tim Stephenson

The St. Martin's COVID protocols group met on November 19 to discuss the alignment of our protocols with the guidance provided by the diocese. We continue strongly to recommend wearing masks.

We looked at the upcoming events for Advent and Christmas and we are happy to be able to host the same events as in past years:

- The Advent Carol Service on December 4 was followed by a reception in the parish hall which was like the current coffee hour after the 11 a.m. service. We offered finger foods with coffee and tea. We recommended that attendees wear masks when not eating and drinking. Tables were dispersed throughout the parish hall.
- Carolling in the churchyard (December 18) will be the same as previous years before COVID with a fireplace, and we will offer cider and hot chocolate.
- Christmas dinner will be offered in the parish hall, and meals are available for take out or to be delivered. If you will be attending or want take out or delivery, please let Jay Haddad know (jay@campnokomis.com) so we have a good sense of the numbers.
- We are hoping to host Newcomer lunches in the parish hall in January or February. More details to come.

Musings from the November 26 Christmas Market

By Kathie Wagg for the Christmas Market Organizing Committee

After two years of totally virtual markets, we undertook a hybrid event this year. The auction was virtual on our Facebook page, but the rest of the market was in person – back to face-to-face. So how did this go?

CHRISTMAS MARKET



Saturday November 26
10 am - 4 pm



I asked a few Christmas Market attendees for their responses. Here are the questions and responses:

- Q#1 What brings you to St. Martin's Christmas Market?
 - I live in the area and have come to previous sales here. It was good to see you "back in business" again.
 - I go to church here so was pleased to support the parish and also enjoy the market. Missed the Café, though.
- Q #2 How did it feel to be back in person with so many other people?
 - I felt totally comfortable. I was masked – and so were the majority of those arriving for the market. Those who didn't have masks when they arrived, willingly took the ones offered.
 - I felt very happy to be back in person. Everyone was willingly masked and there was a good, positive energy in the space.
 - Felt just fine. I'm enjoying myself – and have made quite a few purchases.
- Q#3 How would you compare this event to our virtual events?
 - I found in person much better – I don't do Facebook so was not able to participate in the previous two years.
 - Much more fun in person.



Continuing a tradition from Nutcracker Fair – this photo 2018

• Q#4 As an organizer, how would you compare the work involved from this year to last year?

▪ It was more work with the virtual event and the time involved was more spread out as well, so I was not able to do personal things during that time.

▪ I agree that the time required for the virtual event was more spread out, but it did not require set up and take down activities which take a lot of time and energy.

• Q#5 Which format, virtual or in person, works best for the auction and why?

▪ Virtual is much better for sure. You get much more bidding action so the prices increase, which brings in more revenue for the church.

▪ Our sales results have been much better with virtual than they ever were in person. But we do need to advertise the virtual segment earlier and better.

But the big question: how did we do this year? At the time of writing, preliminary results are that we exceeded \$11,000 in revenue, a very good result.

There are so many people to thank for these results: the organizing committee, the volunteers, the many donors, and those that visited the market and bought our offerings, pretty well our whole parish family. That's what St. Martin's is all about!

Now is the time to start planning to make next year's event even greater! We do have knowledgeable people to help organize the event, but we need more to be involved. We especially need someone to manage the publicity. The work for this takes place *before* the actual market, but it is so critical to get the message out to ensure we have customers!

Do you have some knowledge in this area? If the answer is "yes," we need you! If your answer is "no," don't worry. We have help for you.

We also need help organizing other areas. The jewelry and accessories boutique, the bake table, and the handicrafts and Christmas décor areas all need organizational support. If you'd like to become involved with any part of the market, please speak to Tim Stephenson:

timjstephenson@gmail.com.

Without more organizing help, we are at risk of not being able have another sale next year. It is also a fact that new people bring new ideas and that can help us put on bigger and better events in the future. Please consider being involved. Pray on this — and speak to Tim.

A Close Encounter

By David McKnight



Queen Elizabeth at St. Michael's Hospital -- David McKnight

I never actually "met" Queen Elizabeth, but I was once in the same room. The Queen visited

St. Michael's Hospital on 2 October 1984. I was in the lobby as she left the building and took this picture. I like to think she smiled at me as I took the photo. (The man with her, Mr. Griffin, was chair of the hospital board.)

Upcoming Christian Education Events

By Judith Kidd for the Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee has been active again through 2022 with regular Wednesday evening sessions on Zoom followed by Compline. We are excited to announce that we are planning several new series through the end of 2022 and into 2023.

Advent: "Light One Candle"

This year we are presenting a series of four Advent reflections from Bishop Andrew Asbil that will form the core of our four-week Advent study. The videos explore the four themes of the season – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – with opportunities to pause and consider questions and ideas. The first sessions were on November 30th and December 7th, and will follow through during Advent on December 14th and 21st.



January: "All About Travel"

Jan 18: Travels and discoveries from the East. We hope to have one of our parishioners provide highlights of their travels to the Far East.

Jan 25: Travel through highland traditions on Robbie Burns' Day – spirits (liquid), music (bagpipes), words (poetry), and liturgical gifts.



Ian Greene to play bagpipes and tell stories at Robbie Burns Night January 25

February: "Social Justice"

February 8 and 15: Exploration of the proposed Diocesan Social Justice Vestry Motion. This will be an opportunity to get up to date information on the issue to be voted on at our

Vestry later in the month. The motion this year will be regarding Social Assistance Benefits.

Tuesdays during Lent: "The Gospel of John"

On Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, we are very fortunate that Joseph Mangina is available to speak to us about his new book on the Gospel of John. Please mark your Tuesdays in Lent for what will be a special series.

As always, each session will be followed by Compline. At this point we anticipate continuing to use Zoom rather than in-person.

We have had great turnouts for sessions this year and look forward to seeing even more of you for these up-coming series.

As always, if you have ideas for future sessions please contact our chair, Peter Muller at muller.peterj@gmail.com or any of our committee members including Peter Chauvin, Tim Stephenson, Mary Conliffe, Phil Snider, Judith Kidd, or Ian Greene.



Tristan, Zoe, and Penelope

Parish Profile: Tristan Major, Zoe Thiessen, and Penelope

By David McKnight

Although Tristan, Zoe, and Penelope will be new members of St. Martin's parish family for many, those with long memories will recall that Tristan and Zoe attended before, during their student days. In between, they have had interesting experiences.

Tristan was born in Kelowna, BC and lived there until completing an undergraduate degree in English. In 2004, he moved to Toronto to start graduate studies at the Centre for Medieval Studies at U of T. He lived in the residence at Wycliffe College where he met Zoe, also a resident there.

Zoe grew up in Vancouver. She grew up in the Anglican church although most of her family were Mennonite. (She notes that many will spot Thiessen as a Mennonite name.) She studied general arts and resource conservation at UBC

before coming to Toronto to do a nursing degree at U of T, which she finished in 2005. She started violin at age 5 and later learned guitar and voice. She started with classical violin music, but also likes bluegrass and improvisation. She played at some Wycliffe services with Jack Hattey, and he invited her to attend St. Martin's for the Easter Virgil. She had not experienced a high church Anglican service before (starting with the Easter Vigil is jumping in at the deep end!) and liked it.

Tristan joined Zoe and several other Wycliffe friends in coming to St. Martin's in 2005. He had not grown up in a church-going family but had started attending Lutheran and Reformed services with friends as a teenager. He liked St. Martin's too and even joined the Altar Guild one year and did some flower arranging.

Zoe and Tristan were married in 2007, in Vancouver, but continued to attend St. Martin's until 2011 when Tristan finished his PhD. They

then moved to Vancouver while he did a postdoctoral fellowship. Penelope was born in 2014.

Four months later, the family moved to Qatar where Tristan got a job at Qatar University teaching English Literature. They attended church at the Church of the Epiphany, Doha and Penelope was baptised there. Zoe played the violin at some services. The Christian congregations in Qatar all meet in a complex of four or five buildings. The Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches each have their own buildings, but other denominations share buildings.

The family left Qatar in 2021 and, after a short time in BC, returned to Toronto and St. Martin's in August 2022. Tristan has been appointed as a librarian at the Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies. Zoe worked as a nurse in Canada, but not in Qatar; she is planning to recertify as a nurse now.

Since returning to St. Martin's, Zoe has played the violin at some services including the Advent Carol Service. Penelope is very much enjoying the church school. Both Tristan and Zoe appreciate the liturgy at St. Martin's. Tristan likes the liturgical structure and its "celestial" aspect. Zoe admires the beauty of the services and is grateful for the community. She notes that there are many familiar faces, even after eleven years away, and thinks it speaks to the commitment and love of God in the community. Both are grateful for the ministry of Father Philip.

They are happy to be back at St. Martin's and we are happy to have them with us once again.

The Good Neighbour Project

By Judith Kidd

This short note is to make you aware of what has happened regarding the Vestry Motion that was passed last year. The purpose of the motion

was to identify newcomers in the parish neighbourhood and determine how we, as a parish, can best support them.

A small planning group comprised of parishioners who are familiar with parish resources, neighbourhood resources, experience working with newcomers, and lived experience have explored available resources and contacted organizations working with newcomers. It's clear that there are many opportunities to be a good neighbour! We also looked closely at the parish resources and the strengths that we can bring to the neighbourhood.

As a first step, it was agreed that we would start by adding value to groups that we are somewhat familiar with. We recently met with Francesca Allodi-Ross, Executive Director of



Romero House Headquarters on Bloor near Dundas West

Romero House and Sarah Buisman, Coordinator of Volunteers. One of the changes you might notice is the publication of volunteer opportunities for Romero House in our Sunday Bulletin for individual parishioners to become more connected with this organization that provides such strong support for refugees. And, watch for a "diaper drive" in the New Year.

In line with our "adding value" approach, we will also be looking for opportunities with The

Redwood and Feed It Forward. The Redwood is an agency in the parish that provides programs and services to support women and children survive and thrive without abuse, homelessness, and poverty. They work for social change through learning, collaboration, and advocacy. (You can support Redwood by purchasing decorations for the tree in the narthex.)

Feed It Forward addresses food insecurity and food waste. Their mission is to make a difference in the lives of those who are in need of assistance in securing nutritious food and a regular balanced diet. Visit their website at feeditforward.ca. Our Outreach Committee and Management Board have recently passed motions that funds raised during our Advent Carol Service (December 4) will be directed to Feed It Forward.

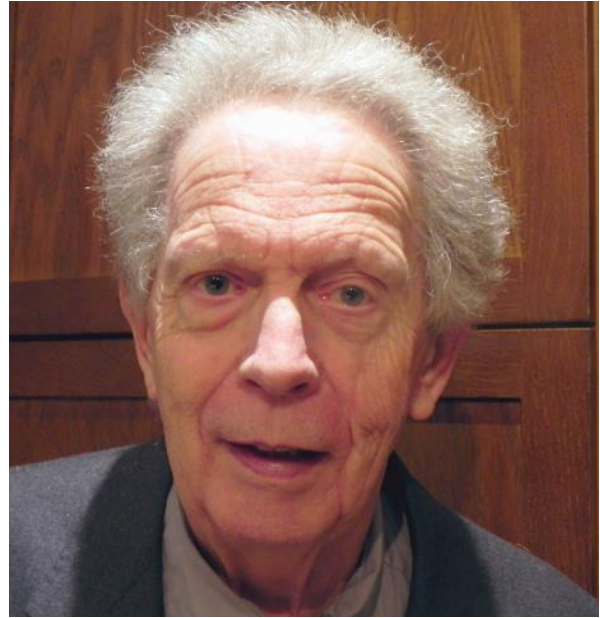
One of our resources is warm, clean space during the weekday. In addition to 'adding value' we are also exploring ways that we can meet the needs of the neighbourhood by using some of that space. For example, Lynn McKnight and I recently met with Parish Council to discuss initiatives using our available space like classrooms and parish hall for moms and tots and possible seniors' programs. If you are aware of neighbourhood needs that we can follow up on, please contact Judith Kidd at jdthv39@gmail.com or speak to Fr. Philip.

This note also allows me to publicly thank the valuable input and help from the members of the planning group who are Sheila Wadie, Mely Barwick, Larry Barwick, Glen Storey, and Jay Haddad.

And, if you would like more information or have suggestions on how we can better communicate about any of these groups please contact Judith and/or one of the committee members.

Synod Volunteer Needed!

By Jonathan Gentry



Jonathan Gentry

We take for granted that the Church is the Body of Christ and are often reminded that a body is made up of many different parts working together. This was brought home to me at the 2022 Synod of the Diocese of Toronto.

Bishop Andrew delivered an impassioned charge to Synod at the opening Eucharist. I urge you to listen to it

at: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/from-our-bishops/bishop-delivers-charge-to-synod/>.

Each of us will be required to respond as our parish considers the implications of how we each answer the call of Christ to "cast the net" as the church moves forward. We will be asked to consider where and how the net will be cast by ourselves, our parish, our diocese and beyond.

As we do that we will question our individual role and place within the Body of Christ.

One of the delights of attending Synod is meeting many of the members who have had an enduring connection with St. Martin's. This was difficult during the time of COVID restrictions. This year the opening Eucharist was an in-

person event and was attended by five members of St. Martin's plus several others with close ties to our parish.

The business meeting part of Synod was held online over two days and you can read about it here :

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/news/highlights-from-day-1-of-synod-2022/> and

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/news/highlights-from-day-2-2022/>

When these sessions took place in-person delegates were able to reaffirm connections with other members in a manner impossible online. Let us pray that future synods will be in-person.

It has been an honour and pleasure to represent the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto West as a Lay Delegate at the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto the last three times it has met. I am therefore ineligible to act as your Lay Delegate for the next two regular sessions of Synod. Thank you for your trust.

Please think about volunteering to become a Synod representative from St. Martin's in the future. You will find it interesting and rewarding.

St. Martin's Glasses Collection Program Fall 2022

By Glen Storey

For the last several years we have been collecting prescription glasses, sunglasses, and hearing aids twice a year, in April and October, in partnership with Lions International. They are dropped off by our parishioners and, more and more, by our neighbours in our special drop box that was at the east entrance to the church.

This past October we collected a total of 183 pairs of glasses plus numerous sets of hearing aids! They were delivered to a collection point in Mississauga and then shipped to Lions



International (Canada) in Calgary. They are cleaned, repaired, and graded, then sent to different areas in Asia for distribution.

There will be another collection in April.

St. Martin's Refugee Sponsorship

By Andrew Egerton for the Refugee Sponsorship Committee

In the October 2, 2022 edition of *The Lychgate*, Ian Greene wrote that St. Martin's hopes to co-sponsor a refugee family of five from Afghanistan, working with the Canadian charity Books Over Borders. In that article, we introduced you to Tariq A. (not his real name, which is withheld to protect him and his family). We can now report that St. Martin's and charity organization AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) have entered into a co-sponsorship agreement to bring Tariq and his family to Canada, working with the charity Books Over Borders. I am a volunteer with Books Over Borders, and the chair of the sponsorship committee for Tariq and his wife, brother, toddler son, and mother-in-law.

Before the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in 2021, Tariq worked with Books Over Borders to promote literacy and education. His work focused on distributing books of traditional Afghan tales in their native languages by establishing an extensive distribution network.

The Taliban revile Tariq and are set on destroying his vast organization, which has a stellar list of accomplishments in education, health, and the promotion of human rights.

Tariq and his family continue to hide from the Taliban because of the risk to their safety. However, the co-sponsorship agreement with AURA provides an opportunity to give them a future of their own by bringing Tariq and his family to Canada safely.

The family is currently seeking passage to Pakistan. Once there, AURA will file the sponsorship applications with the Canadian government. After the applications are filed, the family could arrive in Toronto in a few months or a few years, depending on circumstances.

What is required now is the funding to bring the family here. The fundraising goal is \$75,000, of which \$55,000 has now been raised mostly through Books Over Borders, and \$5,000 from the current refugee-support fund at St. Martin's. The money will provide the family with the financial support they need for their first year in Canada. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please mark "for refugee fund" on your donation cheque to St. Martin's.

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

Summer Church Visits Revisited

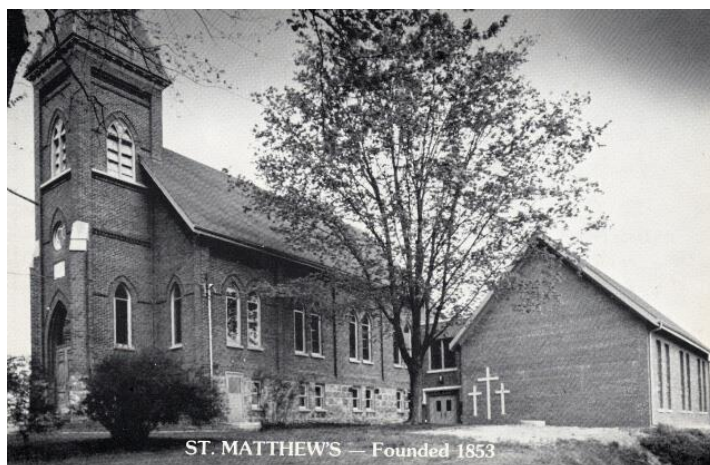
By Ian Greene

In the October Lychgate, we highlighted two churches visited by St. Martin's parishioners during the summer: St. Bartholomew's in Ottawa, and St. John in the Wilderness in Minnesota. There were nine churches in total visited by St. Martin's families during the summer – compared with 25 in 2019. This year, three churches visited by parishioners were outside of Canada. In addition to the Minnesota church, these were Bourne Abbey Church,

Lincolnshire, UK and the Stiftskirche near the Melk Abbey in Melk, Austria.

The Canadian churches visited, in addition to St. Bartholomew's, included St. Paul's in Halifax, St. Paul's in Nanaimo, St. Barnabas in Victoria, St. Peter's in Catalina, NL, and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Conestogo, Ontario.

Jane and Joe Rodzilski told me that they often attend St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Conestogo when they are staying at their cottage north of Kitchener. St. Matthew's was built in 1854 and rebuilt in 1892. According to Jane and



St. Matthews Church Conestogo Before Fire

Joe, "the original church mixed the Gothic style in the windows and spire with the Italian style in the brackets under the eaves. A horrific fire in 2003 totally destroyed the worship space. However, according to local legend, the one thing left unscathed was the one-hundred-year-old wooden statue of Jesus which rested on the altar – a true miracle. Generous donations poured in, and by 2005 not only was a new worship space built, but also a very large addition, providing church school rooms, a large kitchen, and a hall for social events. The church is a central hub of the village and a very



St. Matthew's Church Conestogo Rebuilt

welcoming presence to us when we're at our cottage."

Ways to Reach Out This Christmas

By Fr. Philip

There are two specific ways to help our fellow parishioners and neighbours this Christmas. You can purchase a decoration (\$5 to \$20) to place on the Advent Tree located in the narthex of the church. All proceeds go to support the women and children at risk living at the Redwood Shelter in our parish.

You can also make a contribution to Christmas Cheer. Your donation will help us to purchase Christmas gifts for shut-ins in the parish, provide gifts for a family of refugees at Romero House, and provide food support for people in need in our surrounding community. You can use e-transfer(s) for your donation(s) making sure to mark Advent Tree or Christmas Cheer with your transfer. Please contact our Treasurer, Philip Conliffe (pcconliffe@rogers.com) if you need further assistance with e-transfers to the parish. Thank you.



Christmas Eve Pageant – this one in 2018. There will be an in-person pageant again this Christmas Eve at 7 pm.

St Martin's 2023 Calendars For Sale



St. Martin's Calendar 2023 April -- David McKnight

This photo is from the St. Martin's 2023 calendar that is now available for \$12 each with many more such beautiful photographs of the garden and church, a perfect Christmas present!



December 24, 2021, St Martin's Garden





Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem, St. Martin's Garden, December 6, 2022 – Ian Greene

