

THE LYCHGATE

September 24, 2023

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



From Fr. Carefoote

As Christians who express our faith within a strong liturgical tradition, we are well aware of the importance of seasons. The pageant of our year moves from one season to the next seamlessly,

Advent blue gives way to Christmas gold, the colourless Lenten array yields to the triumphant white of Easter, followed by Pentecost green, the colour of life and growth. While there is admittedly an aesthetic appeal in all of this, we must never forget that there is a theological reason for these customs as well. The liturgy and everything in its service help us to express the incarnational character of our faith by invoking our five senses in God's service. Sight, sound, taste, touch, and smell raise our hearts and minds back to the unseen, untouchable God who took flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

The reality, however, is that there are also seasons within seasons, and never is that more apparent than in these next few months ahead of us. For some years now, Christians have observed the "season of creation," a time for believers of all stripes to renew their relationship with God their Creator and the created world around us. From September 1 until the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4, we consider what we can do to preserve God's creation which needs healing so desperately. Here at St. Martin's, we will honour this season of creation principally through the blessing of the animals on the afternoon of Sunday, October 1. This is not just a sentimental gesture on our part. Through this blessing we remind ourselves, as did St. Francis, that all God's creatures, in their simplicity, are intimately connected to us. Brother Sun, Sister Moon—even Brother Wolf!—are our mystical brothers and sisters in the Lord. (Though perhaps Brother Wolf should attend via Zoom!)

The season of creation, of course, coincides with the beauty of autumn. The rich colours of the fall garden usher in the season of gratitude, and despite the problems in our society at the moment, we have so much for which to be thankful. We will raise our grateful hearts and celebrate God's many gifts on Sunday, October 8, during Harvest Thanksgiving. This year we are still giving thanks for Father Philip's fruitful ministry in this parish over so long a time of growth. We also give thanks for the many members of the congregation who daily support each other and this community in their various and sundry needs. We give thanks for the listening ears and the caring hearts that make life so much more meaningful. We give thanks, above all, for God's word and sacraments celebrated at St. Martin's, as they sustain the life of this holy place, year in and year out.

As the days get ever shorter, the season of thanksgiving gently gives way to the season of remembrance, though the two seasons are very intimately linked. It has been said that love's last gift *is* remembrance, and certainly that will be the case this year as we recall with thanksgiving some of our longest-standing members who have now gone before us into the fulness of God's presence, marked with the sign of faith. Our celebrations of All Saints and All Souls take on special meaning as we remember them and all those who have touched our lives, encouraging us to be better Christians, servants of our God and of each other, so that where they have gone we might follow. The feast of St. Martin, observed on Sunday, November 12th, will also be an opportunity to remind ourselves that the remembrance of those whom we love, including our patron saint, is best expressed through the imitation of their virtues. Like Martin, we work to make the lives of those less fortunate than us more bearable. Our latest endeavour, to help Ukrainian refugee children integrate into Canadian society during twice-monthly gatherings in our parish hall, would certainly be something of which Martin would be proud. The conclusion of our season of remembrance and thanksgiving appropriately coincides with our annual stewardship campaign during which we reflect on the ways in which we can use our time, talent, and treasure in this parish to help make Christ's kingdom come on earth. Thus, another year will close as we look forward to that day of peace when we will all share in the citizenship of heaven.

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven" the author of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us. It is indeed our privilege to celebrate all these evocative and inspirational seasons, in their simplicity and their grandeur, with one another here in the beauty and peace of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. — Fr. PJ Carefoote

Church Directory



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

151 Glenlake Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

www.stmartininthefields.ca

Church: 416-767-7491

Interim Priest in Charge:

The Rev'd Dr. Pearce
James (PJ) Carefoote

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

Assistant Organist

Robert Hamilton

Church Wardens:

Peter Chauvin

Jay Haddad

Nadine Barmania (Deputy)

Office Administrator:

Andrea Zinn

Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

Children and Youth Pastoral

Associate: Finn Keesmaat-Walsh

(they/them)

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 opt to go paperless and in future receive it mostly by email by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at Lychgate1111@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday, September 27, 8 p.m.**, Christian Education final summer book club meeting on Zoom
- **Sunday, October 1, 4 p.m.**, Blessing of the Animals in the garden
- **Wednesdays October 4, 11, 18 & 25, 8 p.m.**, Christian Education series on Christianity and Culture in Toronto with Fr. Carefoote on Zoom
- **Sunday October 29, 11 a.m.**, start of Stewardship Campaign
- **Sunday, November 12, 11 a.m.**, Ministry Fair following 11 a.m. service
- **Saturday, November 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, Christmas Fair
- **Sunday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.**, Advent Lessons and Carols
- **Sunday, December 17, 4 p.m.**, Carolling in the Garden

From the Parish Registers

Since June 4, 2023 (last *Lychgate*)

Baptism:

Sebastian Barton Cooke, son of Joshua Cooke and Amy Badun, born 21 Sep. 2022, baptized 9 July 2023

Funerals:

Gail Renouf, died 1 June 2023, funeral 24 June 2023

Brenda Bodkin, died 8 June 2023, funeral 24 June 2023

Frances Jerry, died 12 July 2023, funeral 16 July 2023

Joy Fulford, died 31 July 2023, funeral 12 August 2023



Photo courtesy Phil Dawson

Parish Selection Committee (PSC) Update

By Nadine Barmania, Chair

The PSC has gathered information to prepare the Parish Profile, and to identify key concerns and priorities within the parish to inform the search for the next incumbent priest.

There was strong participation by parishioners in the parish survey between August 1 and September 10, 2023. The results of the survey will be summarized at the parish consultation meeting on September 24, 2023.

St. Martin's has 29 committees and groups including the altar guild, the choir, servers, readers, sidespeople and greeters, livestream team, children and youth ministry, coffee cohort, Parish Council, outreach and missional, education, communications, Management Board, stewardship, property management, garden, archives and history, library, administration, and scheduling. Our priest plays an essential role in all of these groups and committees.

In July, the PSC interviewed each committee or group leader to learn about the particular ministry of each group, the goals and challenges, and the manner in which our new priest can support each ministry. A summary description of our committees and groups has been prepared and will be available shortly.

We have scheduled a parish consultation meeting for **September 24, 2023** at the church after the 11:00 service. This will be an interactive meeting involving as many parishioners as possible in focused discussions about St. Martin's — who we are and where we are heading.

Next steps

The Parish Profile is a comprehensive document describing how we at St. Martin-in-the-Fields celebrate and express God's amazing love through our worship, ministries and

community. It will describe our gifts and our challenges. The Parish Profile will be completed in October and will be presented to Bishop Robertson to support his call for candidates for the position.

A number of candidates will be introduced to the PSC by Bishop Robertson for consideration. The timeline on completing the process and the appointment of a new incumbent is not firm. The PSC continues to move forward in keeping with the process set out by the diocese.

Contact

Please contact any member of the Parish Selection Committee with comments or concerns through the church office, st.martin.to.office@gmail.com, or you could leave a message at the church office at 416-767-7491 and one of us will return your call.

Nadine Barmania
Ron Cheung
Ian Greene
Jay Haddad
Anne Longmore
Patty McKnight
Cyriline Taylor
Kathie Wagg

Alternatively, you could speak to us during coffee hour after the 11:00 service.

The Parish Survey

By Ian Greene

On August 1, the Parish Selection Committee distributed a link to the parish survey to those on the St. Martin's email list and mailed it to those parishioners without email addresses. By the September 10 deadline, 90 responses had been received.

Following are the most important findings.

- The most important reasons why respondents attend St. Martin's are the Anglo-Catholic

worship style and liturgy, the music, and the clergy. The next highest categories were friends and fellowship, to contribute to parish life, and that the building is a sacred place.

- We asked respondents to rate the importance of 13 areas as we consider the future of the parish. Significantly, all of these areas scored high, though worship and liturgy, music, and pastoral care were at the top of the list.
- We asked respondents to identify the most important competencies required for a new parish priest. At the top of the list was “Ability to preach the gospel in a challenging, applicable, and relevant manner.” Close runners-up were “Ability to inspire and motivate others,” and “Genuine concern and empathy for others.” Next were “Ability to sing the mass,” “Availability to parishioners during times of crisis or stress,” and “Experience and desire to provide pastoral care.”
- The survey included an open-ended question about what new directions the parish should consider. Most emphasized the importance of creating stronger links with the surrounding community, especially younger people, where many may be hungering for a spiritual home. Though the Anglo-Catholic tradition is essential to St. Martin’s, the parish needs to develop other segues to faith for the community.
- Seventy per cent were involved in church ministries and committees. The average time devoted was 10 hours a month.

Of those who responded, about 40% were in the 65-80 age category, 25% were in the 50-64 group, nearly 20% were over 80. Nine ranged in age from 13 to 49. Half reported their heritage as Canadian, two-fifths as European, a sixth as other, a tenth as African or Caribbean, 5 per cent as American, and 7 as various other backgrounds. (When reporting heritage, respondents could choose all that applied, which is why responses add up to more than

100 per cent.) Nearly half of respondents have attended St. Martin’s for 25 years or more.

Nearly half of respondents live within or close to the parish boundaries. The rest live west or north of the parish, and some live east of the parish.

Two-thirds of respondents were raised in the Anglican tradition, and a fifth were raised as Roman Catholics. The rest were from a variety of backgrounds.

There were a number of open-ended questions. We were overwhelmed with the time and effort that parishioners put into answering these questions. All of these responses have been reviewed by the parish selection committee and will guide it in its work. As well, these responses will be beneficial to the new priest. Thank you so much for your contributions.

A more detailed report on the survey will be discussed at the parish consultation meeting on September 24, and copies will be available at the back of the church beginning on September 24.



Photo courtesy Phil Dawson

Christianity and Culture in Toronto

By Fr. PJ Carefoote

As part of this fall's Christian Education program, I will be offering a four-part illustrated lecture series entitled "Christianity and Culture in Toronto" beginning on Wednesday October 4.

- Oct 4: "Strangers in a Strange Land" will examine the challenges of church planting in the colonial era.
- Oct 11: "A Time to Gather Stones Together" will consider the major transformation of the city's urban landscape into the so-called "City of Churches" throughout the nineteenth century.
- Oct 18: "As You would have done unto You" investigates the role Christianity played in constructing the social safety net in Toronto.
- Oct 25: "The Old is Gone, the New is Here" explores the ways in which Christianity in the city waxed and waned through the twentieth century as a result of war, economic challenges, and immigration.

Each lecture will be presented by Zoom at 8 p.m.

Parish Profile: Jenny Formanek

By David McKnight



Jenny Formanek

Jenny Formanek was born in Wales on VE Day, 8 May 1945. Her parents had been evacuated from Croydon, south of London and subsequently her father enlisted as a Captain in the Royal Engineers. The family moved back to England after the war and then to Canada when Jenny was 8. Her father's job took them back to England when Jenny was 14 and she never settled. She lasted to complete school and one year of college and then moved back to Canada on her own in 1964. In Canada, she has only lived in Toronto.

She worked in administration in four different hospitals: Central, East General, Princess Margaret (when it was on Sherbourne), and Doctors'. Two of those, Central and Doctors', closed, but she denies responsibility. She liked the work at Princess Margaret the best, even when one of her duties was finding out-of-town radiation therapy for patients when Toronto had a shortage of treatment spots. Early on in her career, she attended Ryerson, now Toronto Metropolitan University, for certificates in Psychology of Human Relations and in Race and Ethno-Cultural Relations. Her final job was at an organization called the Self-Help Resource Centre.

Throughout Jenny's career, she did a lot of volunteer work, including at St. Stephen's Community House, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, with English as a Second Language, and at Romero House.

Jenny took early retirement at age 60 and has travelled a lot. For 13 years she spent three months every winter in Mexico where she volunteered (Do you see a theme?) teaching English to preschool children and travelled with a group called the *Vagabundos*. She says that her Spanish was pretty good at the time but is rusty now. She has also had interesting trips to Cuba, South Africa, Europe, and South America. When

not travelling, she sees her son, Mark, who lives near Hamilton. Closer to home, she has been involved in later-life learning and loves live theatre, especially the smaller Toronto companies. She reads, plays bridge, walks almost daily in High Park, and has a wonderful circle of friends.

Jenny has been an Anglican from birth. Her parents met in a High Church parish; her mother was in the choir, and her father was a server. As a teenager and adult, Jenny fell away from regular church attendance. One day, about 20 years ago, she was given tickets to a concert held in St. James Cathedral. She thought it beautiful and went back to church the following Sunday — and for the next 20 years! She was active on several committees and was chair of their Outreach Committee and was the Toronto Diocesan representative to PWRDF, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

After living in the area for 11 years, Jenny moved to St Martin's at Easter 2022. She found a warm welcome, even in the pandemic, and likes being in a community parish church and part of outreach in her own community. (She also prefers a ten-minute walk to a forty-minute subway trip.) She has joined the Outreach Committee and is once again a PWRDF rep. Jenny has quickly become a valued member of our parish family.

Fr. PJ Carefoote 19 years ago



Fr. PJ Carefoote with Edna Hajnal, 2004
courtesy Peter Chauvin

In 2004, Fr. PJ Carefoote, then working at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto, gave a tour to St. Martin's parishioners organized by

our parishioner Edna Hajnal. Parishioners were particularly interested in early Christian manuscripts.

Afghan Family Arrives

By Ian Greene

Earlier this month, all five members of the Afghan refugee family that St. Martin's is helping to support arrived in Toronto. Attuallah worked with the Canadian charity Books Over Borders to promote literacy and education throughout Afghanistan. Following the handover of power to the Taliban, Attuallah's safety could no longer be guaranteed, so St. Martin's co-sponsored his family's refugee applications to find safety in Canada.

Attuallah and his wife Elnaz, their three-year-old son, and Tariq's mother-in-law and brother are living in temporary accommodation provided by the family of one of the members of our support group. They are looking for long-term accommodation beginning in December. Their goal is to help search for long-term accommodation and to improve their English. Once they are settled and have employment, their goals are to advance their education beyond their undergraduate degrees. Attuallah wants to pursue a Masters degree in Sociology, and Elnaz a Masters degree in public administration. They are looking forward to meeting St. Martin's parishioners once they are more settled.

When we met with them for an orientation session earlier this month, they said that when their plane landed in Toronto, they felt "reborn."

Thanks to the generosity of St. Martin's parishioners and others, it looks like they have enough furniture and supplies for them until they find long-term accommodation.

Parish Profile: Isabel Vitkin

By Tim Stephenson

Isabel Vitkin joined St Martin's before the pandemic while she was completing her undergraduate degree at Western University. She grew up in a house on Glenlake with her parents and older sister and went to local



Isabel Vitkin with her parents, Alex & Hope, July 2021

schools such as Keele/Mountview and Ursula Franklin Academy. Her mother's roots in West Toronto go back to the 1880s. Her mother was a science teacher. Her father is of Russian Jewish descent whose family moved to Manitoba when he was 13. He arrived speaking no English but, in a few years, he was attending Queen's University on scholarship studying Engineering Physics. Isabel's parents met at Queen's where her mother was studying life sciences.

Her parents' motto was "Be personally happy and publicly useful" and they fulfill this in their own lives with Isabel's mom doing a lot of advocacy and volunteering with organizations such as Meals on Wheels and West Toronto Junction Historical Society. Her dad does his part working with cancer patients at Princess Margaret Hospital where he is a medical physicist. West Toronto is a comfortable world but when Isabel was thirteen, she spent three weeks in Cyprus visiting family friends and there she witnessed the strife between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. Ursula Franklin Academy is a small school and every Wednesday there were programs to expose the students to the larger world. One of these sessions was called "Reading the News" and students would choose a story and present it to the group. Isabel is fascinated by European and American history, and thus she chose topics that reflected this interest. Her other great interest is soccer, and her favourite team is undoubtedly

Germany, and her favourite players are Bastian Schweinsteiger and Thomas Müller.

Isabel completed her degree in English and History and started teacher's college at Western in September 2022. She had placements in the classroom and in December she volunteered to chaperone the school Christmas dance for teenagers who were only a few years younger than herself. She loved it, and the kids were in awe of someone who was so much like themselves and knew their music. These placements confirmed that teaching was a profession that she enjoyed, perhaps with a specialization in Classics (Phil Snider has shared some of his wisdom with Isabel).

Everything in Isabel's life changed on January 22, 2023. Isabel was driving back to Western after a visit home. The weather in Toronto was sunny, but on the 401 outside of London, she encountered a snowstorm. A serious accident occurred, and Isabel was rushed to London Health Sciences Centre and spent several weeks there because of the severity of her injuries. In mid-February she was moved back to Toronto and took her first steps. A doctor at West Park Rehab Centre, where Isabel spent six weeks, was a person of faith and saw it as truly miraculous.

An accident of this magnitude changes everything, but Isabel has seen many blessings and feels that her recovery has been staggering. Each day there has been progress. Today she can eat most foods and has a new appreciation for hamburgers, salads, and pizza as though tasting them for the first time. There were other small miracles; the card which St Martin's had signed was beside her bed and a doctor who saw it started a conversation about the power of faith. At West Park rehab, one of the highlights for Isabel was when Father Philip unexpectedly visited and the two of them chatted about the healing power of faith and the positive impact of people's thoughts and prayers. Isabel reunited

with the man who stopped his car and called 911 when the accident happened. He had been monitoring the London papers for any sign that she might have recovered, and it turns out he is an incredible man who is a teacher with three children.

Isabel would like to return to teaching. It might not be teaching English or Classics to high school students, but God will help in her recovery and reveal what she can do. Healing from injuries like these takes time, and Isabel is taking things day by day and accepting all of the challenges life presents her. She is looking forward to rejoining the St Martin's community as she is able.

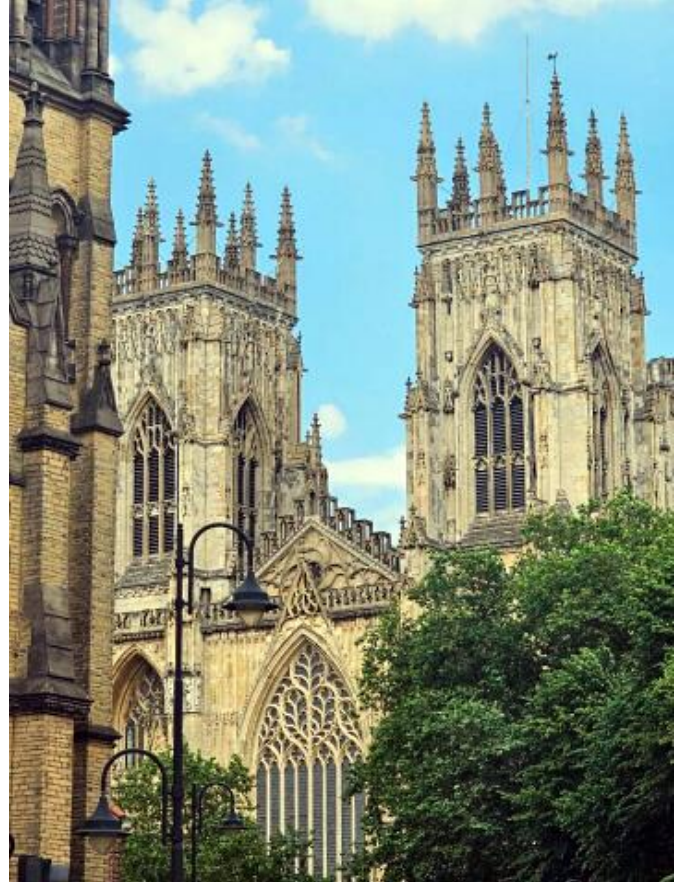
Summer Church Visits

By Ian Greene

Parishioners have posted bulletins of churches they visited during the summer. There were 12 this past summer, as compared with 9 in 2022, and 25 in pre-COVID 2019. This shows that we are slowly starting to travel again after what we hope has been the worst of COVID.

This past summer, there were 6 visits outside of Canada, compared with 3 in 2022. These included St. John in the Wilderness in White Bear Lake, MN, USA for the Feast of Independence Day; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton NJ, USA for the Ordination & Consecration of The Rev. Dr. Sally J. French; the United Benefice of Docking near Norwich, England for a Taizé Evening Service; choral evensong at Westminster Abbey in London England; choral evensong at York Minster Cathedral in York England; and St. Vincent's Scottish Episcopal Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland. Within Canada, there were visits to Grace Mennonite Church in Steinbach, MB; St. James church in St. Mary's ON; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Conestogo, ON; St. Paul's Bloor St. in Toronto; and the Cathedral of St.

James in Toronto. There was also a visit to a Tuesday noon service in commemoration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Maximilien Kolbe but there was no location on the bulletin.



York Minster Cathedral courtesy Ian Greene

Outreach

By Judith Kidd

The Outreach Committee is working with the Canadian-Ukrainian Congress to offer space every second Sunday afternoon to a support group for children with special needs, their caregivers and siblings. Their first meeting was the afternoon of Sunday September 10 in the garden and was a great success. We invited them to stay for the Parish Dinner, which they appreciated very much. Many of you will have met them on September 10 and will get to know them better in the future.