

# THE LYCHGATE

## March 17, 2024



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

#### From Father Carefoote

Liminal spaces have always intrigued me. For those of you not familiar with the expression, “liminal spaces” (from the Latin word “limen” meaning “a threshold”) are defined as places of transition. We find them constructed by humans as well as by Mother Nature. They are often rather disorienting. As a result, they can be emotionally charged places, because they are, in a sense, neither here nor there. The waiting areas in airports and train stations, for example, are liminal spaces because they mark that intermediate point between the place of departure and our final destination. One of my favourite liminal spaces is a beach anywhere. It is neither sea nor is it land, but it is the “in-between”, and it holds so many wonderful possibilities. Liminal spaces are passageways, not places of permanent habitation. Here at St. Martin’s, our lychgate is a liminal space, created by former parishioners of generations past, to help us transition from the secular world to the sacred. Once you pass through it, you then find yourself in the liminal space of the garden, consecrated by the Divine Hand, before entering into the sanctuary itself, God’s dwelling among us. Too often, we rush through these liminal spaces without giving much thought to them and the role they play on our journey through life, so rushed are we to get where we are going. The church, in its wisdom, understands this tendency, and so, in the last two weeks of Lent, known as Passiontide, it consciously creates a liturgical liminal space for us. During this time, we shift from activity to contemplation. Our focus broadens beyond the Lenten disciplines we may have chosen for ourselves, and a spotlight now shines brightly on the Man of Sorrows, who came to bring us hope and salvation. This is not a static time, however. We will walk with him to Jerusalem, and on the way, we will become more and more privy to his troubled thoughts and his anguish. We will join the crowd that acclaims him as king, and watch in horror as that same crowd becomes a mob, turning against him. We will sit at table with him, sharing a simple but extraordinary meal, and then weep with him in a garden. Each one of these transitional moments leads us inevitably to the Cross, but even that is not our final destination. It is, however, unavoidable. Christ’s Passion is the most hallowed of all thresholds beyond which we glimpse the eternal life he has won for us. The celebration of Passiontide, therefore, is a liminal experience that must be savoured, and not consumed quickly.

Why does the Passion of Christ matter? There are, of course, deeply complicated theological answers to that question that echo across the centuries, from the days of the very first disciples. It was necessary, we have been told from time immemorial, because the sin-offerings of sheep and goats in the Temple of Jerusalem were ineffectual, that the blood of a perfect victim was required to restore humanity to its original innocence and relationship with God, that only the blood of Christ, offered freely, could redeem the children of Adam. While I bow before a mystery so great, I must say that, personally, these explanations have always left me a little cold. If the blood-offering of the Son of God was indeed required by his heavenly Father, then what does that say about the God in whom I believe? For me, it raises more questions than it answers. Nevertheless, to quote Dickens, “the wisdom of our ancestors is in it,” and so struggle with the answers, I must. For me, however, the “how” of our salvation has never been as awe-inspiring as the “why.” As the poet says, it wasn’t nails that held Jesus to the Cross, but love. That “love so amazing, so divine” still demands that we slow down to a snail’s pace in these fourteen days and give our souls, our lives, and our all to the One who loved us, even with his dying breath. In this liminal space, between the ministry of Jesus (which occupies the vast majority of the Gospels’ narratives) and the Resurrection (which stretches into eternity), we must simply rest and wait.

The people of St. Martin’s have occupied a liminal space for almost a year now, as the parish transitions from the known to the unknown, with one venerable pastoral charge giving way to a new one. By any metric, however, it has been a most fruitful time for everyone concerned. May that Love, which even death could not conquer, continue to guide us as we move into the next wonderful chapter in the life of this community of faith.

*Fr P.J. Carefoote, Interim Priest-in-Charge*

## 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

### 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

### Church Wardens:

Nadine Barmania

Jay Haddad

Phil Snider (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. For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.

### From the Parish Registers

Since September 24, 2023 (last  
*Lychgate*)

**Baptisms:** none

**Weddings:** Katie Duff to Tom  
Grainger, 10 February 2024

**Funerals:** None

## Holy Week and Easter

*Services Live-Streamed have an asterisk [\*]*

(Please use the link on the parish's web site)

- **Sunday, March 24**, Palm/Passion Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Eucharist; 11:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist\*
- **Monday of Holy Week, March 25**, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- **Tuesday of Holy Week, March 26** 10:00 a.m. Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- **Wednesday of Holy Week, March 27**, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- **Thursday, March 28**, Maundy Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Eucharist, Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altar\*
- **Friday, March 29**, Good Friday, 1:00 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday\*
- **Saturday, March 30**, Easter Eve, 8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil,\* 10:00 p.m. Resurrection Party
- **Sunday, March 31**, Easter Day, 8:30 a.m. Eucharist, 11:00 a.m. Sung Eucharist\*
- **Monday, April 1**, Easter Monday, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist
- **Tuesday, April 11**, Easter Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist

## Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday, March 20**, 8 p.m. Final Christian Education Lenten series on Psalms, followed by Compline
- **Saturday, May 11**, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Blessing of Bicycles in church garden
- **Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26**, St. Martin's participates in Doors Open Toronto 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26**, Art Fair in church garden 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Sunday, June 2**, FaithWorks Walkathon after 11 a.m. service
- **Saturday, June 15**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Neighbourhood Fun Fair in church garden
- **Sunday, June 23**: after 11 a.m. service Strawberry Tea
- **Sunday, September 8**, 4 p.m. Blessing of the Backpacks. 5 p.m. Parish Picnic, church garden
- **Sunday, October 6**: 3 p.m. Blessing of the pets, church garden
- **Sunday, December 22**: 4 p.m. Carolling in the Garden, church garden

## Annual Vestry Meeting 2024

By Ian Greene

The annual vestry meeting for St. Martin's took place in-person in the church hall on Sunday, February 25, after the 11 a.m. service.

Prior to the meeting, the vestry package was distributed to parishioners as an email attachment, and hard copies were available in the church. The package will be posted on the St. Martin's web page. It is well worth taking time to read the reports submitted by the parish ministries.

Peter Chauvin completed his two-year term as Chair of Management Board (People's Warden). Thank you, Peter, for leading Management Board for the past two years. Nadine Barmania, who had been Deputy Chair of Management Board, was elected as Chair of Management Board.

Jay Haddad continues as Chair of Parish Council (Rector's Warden), and Phil Snider was elected as Deputy Chair.

Nadine Barmania is also Chair of the Parish Selection Committee. She reported that names of candidates have been received from the Bishop and that interviews will begin in March.



Elaine Lumley presenting stewardship address, November 19, 2023  
– photo Philip Dawson

## Toronto Diocese Synod 2023

By Dale and Bill Keel

It was quite exciting for us to participate in the 2023 meeting of the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, November 17-18. — the 162<sup>nd</sup> regular session of Synod. A Synod is a gathering of lay and clerical members who constitute the governing body of the Church. Synod is made up of all the licensed clergy in the Diocese and lay members (non-clergy). At its annual vestry meeting, each parish elects lay members to attend the Diocesan Synod, which usually meets every other year. We were chosen at St. Martin's Vestry in February of 2023 to be the St. Martin's lay delegates.

2023 was the first time Synod met face to face since 2019! There was quite a buzz as members greeted old friends and met new ones as we gathered in the spacious ballroom of the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel.

While much of the time was spent considering administrative business, Bishop Andrew Asbil's main focus was on "Cast the Net", a visioning process to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next five years. This process, launched in 2022 and discussed in consultation with Synod Council, clergy, and parishes, resulted in 20 calls to action which were presented as a progress report with recommendations to Synod. The four main areas which emerged as priorities were:

1. Renewing spirituality. We are renewed daily in our spiritual lives and share our faith with others.
2. Inspiring Faith in Action. We seek justice for all, walk alongside those in need, and respond with loving service and prophetic advocacy.
3. Reimagining ministry. We support and encourage faithful and fruitful ministry by all who serve the life of the church.
4. Transforming Diocesan culture. We live and work as the Body of Christ, each member connected to the whole, and each valued for their unique gifts.

The charge to Synod was to seek creative and constructive ways to reach for these goals.

Perhaps the most inspiring part of Synod 2023 for us were various missional videos portraying new ways in which churches were meeting these challenges. For example, one church was initiating congregational hikes in the wintertime to share the beauties of nature, but also to realize the participants' need for each other's support whenever the way became slippery. Another church was instigating monthly parish breakfasts for fellowship and fun. At the pre-Synod meeting on Zoom we saw a video of yet another church where the priest and parish were preparing garden beds, the cultivation and produce of which will be shared with new Canadians.

While the reimagining of ministry will be challenging for parishes, it is comforting to realise that St. Martin's has for many years already been moving in a number of such missional directions. The beautiful garden, which is open to the neighbouring community, the community walks, the blessing box, the support for Romero House and the Redwood Shelter, the annual Advent Carol Service, and our enthusiastic participation in Doors Open Toronto are just some of ways in which St. Martin's is supporting and encouraging "faithful and fruitful ministry."

*[Editors' note: This article should have appeared in the December edition of The Lychgate, but because of technical issues it was missed.]*

## **Parish Profile: Fr. Harold Nahabedian and Janet Reid Nahabedian**

by David McKnight

Fr. Harold's earliest memory is of visiting his mother's parents in Brantford, Ontario, and of his grandfather buying him popcorn from a vendor going down the street. Both maternal grandparents were from families that fled the first Armenian massacre in Turkey, 1895–96. Harold's paternal grandfather died just before Harold's father, the 8<sup>th</sup> child, was born. The family escaped at the end of WWI in the aftermath of the second massacre in 1915. Harold's father, along with an older brother, was placed in an orphanage and moved from Constantinople to Corfu, to England, and finally to Canada in 1924 where they worked on farms until



**Fr. Harold Nahabedian and Janet Reid Nahabedian**

1931 when they had paid back their passage. They went to France to reunite with their mother, brothers, and sisters, and lived in Nice until 1936, when the older brother, Harold's uncle, died of TB. His father, who still spoke English better than French, decided to return to Canada where he was introduced to Harold's mother.

Harold was born in 1939 in Toronto where the family lived behind their carpet store on College Street. His parents were not churchgoers, but his grandfather, who had been a subdeacon in the Armenian Orthodox church, would chant the liturgy to the young boy. Harold was baptised at Grace Church Anglican in Brantford. While they lived on College Street, Harold went to Sunday School at St. Anne's on Gladstone. In 1955, they moved to North Toronto and Harold went to Lawrence Park Collegiate. During his teen years, he learned Armenian (he had not learned it at home) and was able to visit relatives in France who spoke only French and Armenian. At U of T, he spent his first year at University College but switched to Trinity College for second year to join his friend, George Baker, and graduated in 1963. He then joined the Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO) and taught school in Jamaica for two years. He then came back to Toronto, did an MA in Canadian History at the University of Toronto while living at Massey College, followed by an MDiv at Trinity.

While considering ordination in the Armenian church, he spent 14 months in Jerusalem at the



Armenian Patriarchate Seminary and a year in New York City as an assistant to the Armenian Archbishop, but then decided to seek ordination in the Anglican church. After one year working as Assistant Registrar at Trinity, he was ordained Deacon in 1973 in Toronto. He became curate at St. James Vancouver, an Anglo-Catholic parish. He was ordained priest there in 1974. In 1976, Canon Howard Buchner invited Harold to return to Toronto to be Chaplain at Trinity; a role he held until 1981. He was subsequently at the Cathedral briefly before becoming assistant priest at St. Thomas's, Huron Street. In 1983, he was asked to be priest-in-charge of The Church of St. Mary Magdalene. After five years, he was officially made Incumbent and was there 21 more years. For a time, he served as Regional Dean and a member of the Diocesan Planning and Development Committee. Over the years, he was a member of both the Anglican-Old Catholic and Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Theological Dialogue groups. In the 1990s, he was appointed Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese and served until he retired in 2009. But his active ministry was not over — he was asked to be priest at St. Alban's, the Church of England chaplaincy in Strasbourg, France. He still had relatives living in France and he agreed. He was there from 2010 to early 2013.

Janet Reid was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, where both parents were active members of St. Mary's Church until her father's sudden death from a heart attack when Janet was 14. Her much older brother had already left home, so Janet and her mother were left on their own. Janet graduated from high school at age 17 and attended the University of New Brunswick — happily on a full scholarship — getting a BSc in 1977. She considered studying medicine, but instead came to Toronto and did a teaching degree, BEd, graduating in 1978. During that year she sang in the Trinity Chapel Choir (where Harold was chaplain). Her final practice teaching placement was in the education department at the Ontario Science Centre, followed by a summer job and eventually a full-time teaching position for six years. It was a rewarding time, both for the experience at the Science Centre, and for travel

through rural Ontario. She visited reserves in the far north (including Fort Severn, the northernmost reserve in Ontario, on the shores of Hudson's Bay), and took on a five-week overseas project in Japan. During her time at the Science Centre, Janet completed an MEd degree at OISE in 1984, doing courses in evenings and summers. She also did a French immersion course in Québec. That came in handy, as her next job was teaching science at Lawrence Park Collegiate, including a grade 10 math class for the French immersion stream. At first, she taught a mix of science and mathematics, but eventually physics and chemistry. She taught at Lawrence Park for 26 years, retiring in 2010 — happily timed to join Harold in France.

During her first two years in Toronto, Janet attended several different Anglican churches but decided she needed to join a church community. She was drawn to St. Mary Magdalene's (SMM), by the liturgy and the music there, and, after a short time, joined the Gallery Choir. Singing had been an important part of Janet's life since grade 4. In addition to the church choir, she sang in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, in the Pax Christi Chorale, and she continues to sing in Schola Magdalena, a group of six women who perform medieval music, chant, and contemporary music *a capella*.



Interior of Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto  
— photo Church of St. Mary Magdalene

Janet — was already in the SMM choir when Harold came there in 1983 and they already knew one another from Trinity. Over the years, their relationship grew and they married in 1993. (There was no rule then about clergy marrying parishioners.)

After finishing at SMM, Harold and Janet had started to attend St. Martin's, even before their time in France. They wanted an Anglo-Catholic parish (Harold says that when he first came in it "smelled like church") and they knew Fr. Philip. They have certainly become involved in the parish. Fr. Harold is an Honorary Assistant. Janet leads the Greeters & Newcomers group, is a reader, and is a member of the Stewardship Committee. She has served on Parish Council, and we can all remember her as a cantor during the online-only services of the pandemic.

We are grateful to have Harold and Janet as part of our St. Martin's family.

## **Missional at St. Martin's**

By Kathie Waggoner on Behalf of the Missional Team

What is Mission? "It requires an outward focus, rather than inward. It calls us out of the building into the neighbourhood, and invites us to serve as Christ's hands and feet, and heart and mind" – Fr. Andrew MacDonald

The Missional Team would like to thank everyone who completed our short survey in January with suggestions for activities to help accomplish our mission and get us all "out of the building and into the neighbourhood." We were able to review all these suggestions and pass on some to appropriate groups in the parish. We hope over the year that you will recognize your suggestion and help us to welcome our neighbours into our space.

Once the garden is ready in the spring, we will start to make good use of it with Blessing of Bicycles on Saturday May 11 from 11:00–12:30. We invite anyone to bring their bicycles to get a safety check, reinforce rules of the road, get a blessing – and even a free hot dog!

Next, we invite families to enjoy our popular Neighbourhood Fun Fair on Saturday, June 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children especially enjoy the bouncy castle, games with prizes, face painting, participating in a scavenger hunt in the Church – and hot dogs. All for free! The Fun Fair is our gift to our community. We rely on your volunteering to undertake this event.



**Fun Fair 2022**

On Sunday, June 23 after the 11 a.m. service, we will again hold the very popular Strawberry Tea. This is for you to enjoy as well as our neighbours. Enjoy fresh shortcake with wonderful Ontario strawberries – and you can buy some to take home with you. If it rains, we will have the event inside.

After a break for summer, we will celebrate the new school year with a new event – Blessing of Backpacks on Sunday, September 8 in the afternoon before the parish picnic.

The Blessing of Pets will happen on Sunday, October 6 at 3 p.m. Bring any pets for a blessing – dogs, cats, hamsters, guinea pigs, bearded dragons, or other such pets. All are welcome. Have a picture taken with your pet, receive a blessing, and meet with like-minded neighbours.

Our final event of 2024 will be Caroling in the Garden on Sunday, December 22 at 4 p.m. Bring your voice to raise with others in Christmas songs and carols. We will have marshmallows for children to cook over an open fire and hot cider and hot chocolate to keep everyone warm.

In addition to all these events, the Missional Team maintains the Blessing Box. Please remember those in our community suffering food insecurities and bring donations for this box – non-perishable food, personal and household supplies, and, in cold weather, hats, mitts & gloves, scarves, hoodies and sweaters, and warm socks for those in need. You can put items directly into the box in the Lychgate or in





**Elin Goulden's pet dog Oliver being blessed 2023**  
– photo Philip Dawson

the designated box in the narthex. We also welcome books for our adult and children's libraries.

The Missional Team also welcomes our neighbours to play Pickleball each Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and in the evening from 6:30 to 8 and 8 to 9:30. We sincerely appreciate those of our parish family who volunteer to convene these sessions with our team members. This activity is self-funding as each player contributes 'a toonie a time'. Once our expenses are paid, surplus funds are donated to St. Martin's to help fund the other Missional activities mentioned above.

We are also working on some other new initiatives, but I'll save those for the next Lychgate. Please know that we could not do any of these activities without the help of our wonderful parish family. We rely on you to volunteer for events, and you do not disappoint us. Thank you so much! You make our garden space so very welcoming for our neighbours and others in the community.

If you have an interest in joining in the planning of these events, our Team welcomes you to join us.

Please contact Kathie Wagg by leaving a message at the church office to express interest. Our Team members are Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, Patricia Boulden, Jay Haddad, Tim Stephenson, Glen Storey, Alex Tinius, and Kathie Wagg (Chair).

## **Prince Emmanuel, Sheila, and boys become Canadian Citizens**

By Ian Greene



**Sheila Wadie, Prince Emmanuel Adjin-Tettey, Gordon and Gareth with Jay Haddad presenting cake – photo Peter Chauvin**

A few weeks ago, our parishioners Sheila Wadie, Prince Emmanuel Adjin-Tettey, and their sons Prince Gerald, Gareth, and Gordon were sworn in as Canadian citizens.

The family emigrated from Ghana to Toronto in August of 2020. To begin with, they lived a few blocks from St. Martin's, and within weeks of their arrival they joined the St. Martin's community. Prince Emmanuel is on the livestream team and is the IT member on Management Board. Sheila is on the FaithWorks committee and has helped with the Walkathon. The three boys attend church school. In 2022, they moved to Oshawa, but have continued to attend St. Martin's.

This past October, both Prince Emmanuel and Sheila graduated with Masters degrees from York University. Prince Emmanuel earned his Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law, and Sheila now holds a Master of Science degree in Management Practice.

On Sunday February 25, Jay Haddad, Chair of Parish Council, arranged for a cake to be served in honour of these achievements by Sheila, Prince Emmanuel and their three boys. (Prince Gerald was not able to be present because of a basketball tournament.)



Gordon, Sheila, Gareth, and Prince Emmanuel cutting cake — photo Peter Chauvin

## Doors Open 2024

By Roberta Laking-Kananaj

St Martin's will be participating in Doors Open the weekend of May 25-26. The theme this year is Toronto's "Hidden Histories," a survey of forgotten or overlooked sites and stories. If you are interested in helping out, or just offering ideas, please contact Roberta Laking-Kananaj by leaving a message at the church office.

## Afghan Family Moving Forward

By Ian Greene

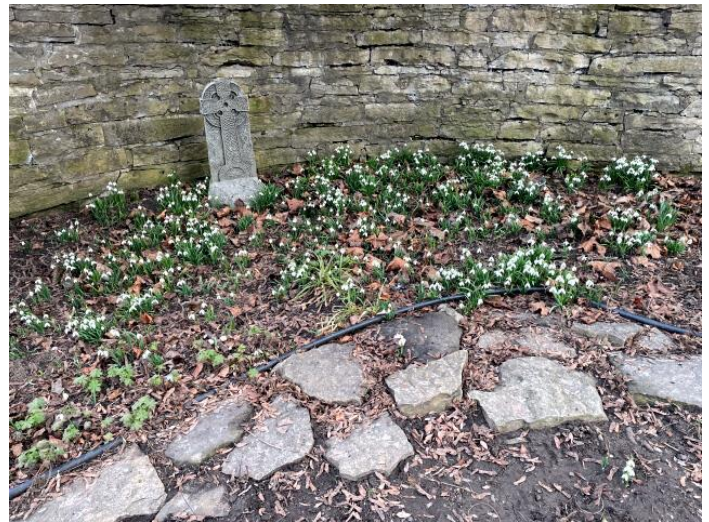
On December 1, the five members of the Afghan refugee family that St. Martin's is co-sponsoring

moved into stable accommodation in the Sheppard Ave. and Allen Rd. area, close to the Sheppard West subway station. The furniture, donated by St. Martin's parishioners and others, that the family was able to use has been transported to their new home. Furniture that they could not use was donated to the Furniture Bank, with assistance from Glen Storey and his trailer.

Attaulla passed his G2 driver's exam at the end of February and will work with a friend who owns a car to drive for Uber. Attaullah's wife Elnaz and her brother Firooz both found jobs at the beginning of March. All three are keen to continue their advanced education part-time. Maryam, mother of Elnaz and Firooz, is a professional seamstress and is exploring employment opportunities.

Saturday, February 24, the family met at St. Martin's with the support group to review plans for the next few months. Kaiwan, son of Attaullah and Elnaz, is now four years old. With permission, he enjoyed playing with the toys in the St. Martin's nursery while the adults made plans over lunch.

The family hopes to join a St. Martin's coffee hour in the garden in the spring or summer to meet parishioners. If you think you could help the family integrate into life in Canada in some way, please reach out to Ian Greene or Tim Stephenson.



Snowdrops in St. Martin's Garden, spring, 2024  
— photo David McKnight