

THE LYCHGATE

June 30, 2024



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

From Father Carefoote

I write this, my final article for the *Lychgate*, on the eve of the feast of *Corpus Christi*. Owing to the liturgical and emotional shift in tone that occurs at the very end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrated on Maundy Thursday, there is no real opportunity at that time to honour the Sacrament of the Eucharist that Jesus gave to us as his parting gift. *Corpus Christi* was therefore established as a separate feast to remedy that situation. It was first celebrated in the year 1246, interestingly enough, in St Martin's Church in the city of Liege, and quickly gained in popularity throughout Western Christendom. At the end of the thirteenth century, it was officially added to the church's calendar. The feast was particularly popular in England and was the occasion for the annual performance of the "Mystery Plays," especially in the city of York, until those festivities were completely suppressed, along with the feast itself, at the time of the Reformation. While the majority of Anglican parishes in Canada do not yet celebrate *Corpus Christi*, the national church allows for its celebration without legislating its observance. As more and more of the faithful come to appreciate the central role played by the Eucharist in sustaining our Christian lives, however, it is becoming a more common celebration in the Anglican world once again.

The feast is not a new one to us at St Martin-in-the-Fields. *Corpus Christi* was first celebrated in this parish on June 16, 1927, long before most other Anglican churches had ever considered it. No doubt, its observance was a nod to the central role the Eucharist was already playing in the life of this community. While most other Toronto Anglican parishes at that time were celebrating Morning Prayer as the main service three Sundays out of four, St Martin's was marching to the beat of a more ancient and different drummer. The first surviving vestry book from 1915 proves that the Eucharist has always taken pride of place at 11 a.m. in this church on the Lord's Day, and so it has remained for 109 years now (if not longer). Frequent communion was one of the hallmarks of the Anglo-Catholic movement of which St Martin's is so justly proud. Although the feast of *Corpus Christi* will be long over by the time you are reading this article, our summer Gospels this year, beginning in July, will provide an extended meditation on the meaning and centrality of the Eucharist to our Christian lives. This only happens once every three years, but those appointed Gospels are meant to focus our attention on Jesus as the true and living bread from heaven who gives life to this community and to the world.

What does it mean to be a Eucharistic community? First and foremost, it means that Christ is always at our centre and around him we prayerfully gather. It means being a place of love, in imitation of the Founder of the feast, who willingly and selflessly gave his life for us all. It means sharing that love, not only with the persons sitting next to us in the pews, but also with those dwelling beyond our doors. As far back as the fourth century, the great archbishop of Constantinople, St John Chrysostom, challenged those who came to the altar rail saying, "Do you wish to honour the Body of Christ? Do not despise him when he is naked. Do not honour him here in the church building with silks, only to neglect him outside, when he is suffering from cold and from nakedness. Feed the hungry and then come and decorate the table." The Eucharist, which has always been at the centre of St Martin's worship, is the ever-present memorial of Christ's love, and binds us together as equals. Our backgrounds, identities, social positions, all prostrate themselves before the One in whom there is neither Jew nor Gentile, rich or poor, male or female.

It is fitting that this summer's season of meditation on the Eucharist will conclude with the arrival of our new incumbent, Father Nicholas Hatt, because the Eucharistic community, of necessity, must gather around its priest. May he find prayerful support from this community of love and encounter Christ in your company.

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

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 by email and on the parish website. 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 March 17, 2024 (last *Lychgate*)

Baptisms:

Taisa Jane Dusanowskyj, daughter of Adrian Dusanowskyj and Larissa Rozdzilski, born Sept. 15, 2023, baptized April 28, 2024.

Sophie Jane Elizabeth Banks, daughter of Daniel and Nicky Banks, baptized June 16, 2024.

Weddings: **Danny Nie and Julian Coyne**, married June 17, 2024.

Funerals: **Lawrence Wayne Palin**, September 3, 1941-June 5, 2024. Requiem Eucharist on June 8, 2024.

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, July 7**, 11 a.m., and every Sunday July through September 1: children and youth informal church school in church garden (inside in case of rain)
- **Sunday, September 1**, 11 a.m.: first Sunday that Fr. Nicholas Hatt is with us
- **Sunday, September 8**, 11 a.m.: first Sunday of fall season Church School
- **Sunday, September 8**, 2 p.m.: blessing of the backpacks
- **Sunday, September 8**, afternoon: parish picnic in church garden. The church will supply barbecue chicken and corn on the cob, and ask parishioners to bring appetizers, salad, or dessert along with something to drink.
- **Wednesdays, September 11 and 18:** Zoom discussion of summer book club books (Details to appear in bulletin and by email.)
- **Sunday, October 6**, 3 p.m.: blessing of pets
- **Saturday, November 23:** Christmas Market
- **Sunday, December 22**, 4 p.m.: carolling in the garden



Cherry blossoms at St. Martin's, May 5, 2024

Fr. Nicholas Hatt will be our new Incumbent

By the Parish Selection Committee



In September, St. Martin-in-the-Fields will welcome Fr. Nicholas Hatt as our new Incumbent. He is coming to us from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and

PEI, where he has been the Rector of St. George's Round Church in Halifax since 2018. He holds a B.A. in Classics and Contemporary Studies from King's College, Halifax, 2003; a Master of Divinity from the Atlantic School of Theology, 2008; and a Master of Arts (Classics) from Dalhousie University, 2018. He was ordained a deacon in 2015 and a priest in 2016.

From 2008 to 2018, he was Dean of Students at the University of King's College in Halifax. He also served as the Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mount Uniacke, N.S, and as a priest at King's College Chapel before his appointment at St. George's.

Although Fr. Hatt is sad to be leaving St. George's Round Church, he is excited to be joining us at St. Martin's. He writes, *"My time in ministry in Halifax has taught me the need for a deeply inclusive Gospel that is informed by our past, open to the world, and rooted in our encounter with Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament and neighbour. I look forward to our labours together in the Gospel, building upon the solid foundation laid by so many at St. Martin's."*

Missional Activities at St. Martin's



Blessing of bicycles -- Philip Dawson

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

Missional activities since the last Lychgate have been successful. Blessing of Bicycles saw both many repeat visitors and new cyclists

visiting us in the garden. Our annual Neighbourhood Fun Fair enjoyed great weather and entertained many of our friends and neighbours in the community. About 80 children showed that they had completed at least six activities to get a prize. Thank you to so many of our parish family for giving of your time and talents for this event. The Strawberry Tea is on June 23rd and we hope many will attend to enjoy fresh Ontario strawberries and all that goes with them.

Ongoing activities supported by this team are the Blessing Box and pickleball. Please remember those less fortunate by providing donations of non-perishable food and personal and household supplies for those in need. We do need children's books as well. You can put your contributions directly into the Box, or deposit them in the designated box in the narthex. For those travelling this summer, please remember to bring back personal supplies from hotels that you do not use.

Pickleball will not be meeting in the summer but will be donating \$700 of surplus funds to St. Martin's for Missional activities. This brings the total of funds donated to \$1,700 this year.

Our next activities will be in the fall. Blessing of back packs is on September 8 and blessing of pets/animals is on October 6.

The Missional Team is so very grateful to Fr. Carefoote for his support of our activities in the community. He attends all our events. In fact, he blessed all bicycles and riders on the same day that he left for Ireland! We did make sure that he was



Fun Fair bouncy castle – Philip Dawson

able to leave on time. We will miss him once his time with St. Martin's is completed at the end of August.

But we are looking forward to having Fr. Hatt join us for our two activities in the fall – and beyond!

Parish Profile: Danny Haotie Nie

By David McKnight

Danny Nie is one of the newest members of St.



Martin's. In the short time he has been with us, he has become fully involved in the parish.

Danny was born in Luzhou, Sichuan, China, a "small" (pop. ~4 million) city about 175 km from the major centre of Chongqing (pronounced chong-ching; pop. >30 million, the largest city in China). He grew up speaking the Chongqing dialect and learned Mandarin and some English in school. He attended university in Chongqing to study law but did not like it and dropped out to go backpacking. He spent a year backpacking in China and then set out on an eight-month trip to Tibet, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, the UK, Jordan, and Egypt.

From his late teens, Danny has been an Anglophile and liked almost all things English — except football and Harry Potter. He learned English basics in school, then more from friends. In a pub, he met an official from the UK consulate in Chongqing who arranged a job for Danny as an intern in the consulate for three months. This helped his English even more.

Once back in China from his travels, he got a job in the Chongqing branch of a British architecture firm. Then, introduced by someone he had met in Nepal, he heard of a job opportunity in Shanghai that

would involve a lot of travel. He interviewed and got the job with Greenroad International Logistics which was providing logistical support to Chinese state companies doing business overseas. And travel there was. Starting in May 2013, he worked in Togo, Benin, and Niger, with business trips to Morocco, Algeria, Armenia, and periods back to China. Then came postings in Cameroon, Kuwait, and Georgia. (From there he travelled to Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine). Posted in Kazakhstan, he covered Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. He returned to Shanghai in June 2019, but found that the pay was less there than when abroad, where accommodation had been provided.

He left the company and moved to Thailand to pursue an interest in stand-up comedy that had started when he was in Egypt on the backpack trip. He was only there a few months when COVID began, and he returned to Chongqing. He was able to do some stand-up and even organized a comedy club.

In February 2021, he met Julian Coyne at a comedy event in Chongqing. She is a Canadian who had been teaching public speaking and phonetics at universities in China for eight years, four in Chongqing. Her mother is a professor of medieval studies; Julian is named after Mother Julian of Norwich whose optimistic writings inspired people during the time of the Black Plague. Danny and Julian began dating three months after meeting. (Spoiler: they are now engaged.) Danny had been looking for work and got job offers but all outside China. Julian wanted to come back to Canada, so they left China in July 2023.

First, they went to Houston, Texas, where Julian's parents live, then to Toronto. At first they lived in the High Park area and now are near Eglinton West and Dufferin.

While he was working in Kazakhstan, Danny was introduced online to the early writings of Jordan Peterson on biblical stories and belief. Peterson wrote that one should build a system of behaviour acting "as if" God exists, even if one is an atheist. When he was back in Chongqing, an online friend suggested that Danny attend church and found him an underground church in Chongqing. He started to

attend in May 2021. It was a Dutch Reformed Calvinist church; he was not baptized until he moved to Houston where, ever the Anglophile, he attended an Episcopal church.

Planning for the move to Toronto, Danny looked for Anglican churches online and found St. Martin's. He moved to Canada on December 29, 2023 and came to St. Martin's on the 31st, his third day in Canada. He was warmly welcomed by the people and Fr. Carefoote. He has attended regularly since then, Sunday and Tuesday. (He does not have a work permit yet.) He has joined the choir and done some serving. He finds the church beautiful and loves the liturgy and music, both new experiences for him. He also finds that everyone at St. Martin's is nice and more accepting than some churchgoers he encountered before; here he found gentle, normal people.

We welcome Danny to our church family.

UPDATE: Since the above was written there have been developments! Danny and Julian were married on June 17, 2024, at St. Martin's. Danny will be heading to China for a two-month training program before taking up a job in Monterrey, Mexico for a Chinese car parts company. Julian will join him in Mexico, but they expect to move back to Toronto after that job and we will see Danny again at St. Martin's. We wish both of them well and look forward to their return.

Tribute to Fr. Harold Nahabedian

By Rev. Canon David Luxton



Presentation of portrait June 9: Fr. Luxton, Janet Nahabedian, Robert Kananaj, Jay Haddad



Portrait of Fr. Harold by Robert Kananaj

This year marks Fr. Harold Nahabedian's 50th anniversary as a priest. It should be commemorated, and I thought it would be a good idea to commission an artist in the parish, Robert Kananaj, to create a portrait of Fr. Harold and Robert produced a wonderful portrait.

On Sunday, June 9, during coffee hour I presented the portrait to Harold in the presence of the parish to commemorate all the congregations Harold had served for 50 years.

Unfortunately, Harold could not be present because of a sudden but temporary health issue. However, Janet Nahabedian took the portrait wrapped by the artist to present it to Harold in St. Michael's hospital that very day! Fortunately, Fr. Harold was not detained for long in the hospital.

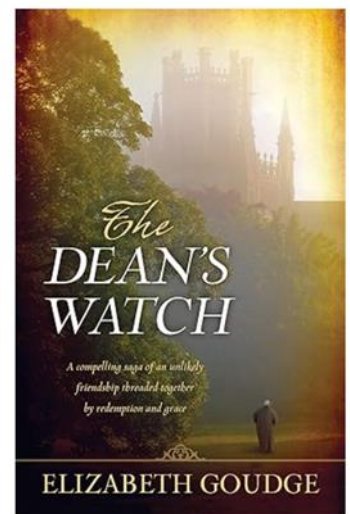
On Saturday, June 22, Fr. Harold participated in a Eucharist at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene to give thanks for his 50 years of service.

St. Martin's Summer Book Club 2024

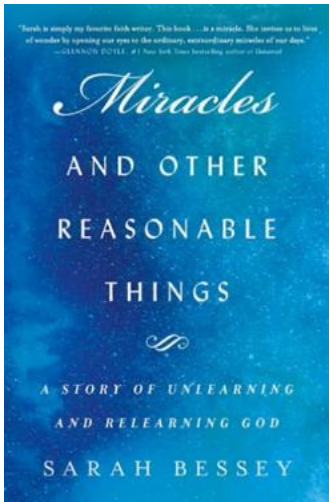
By Mary Conliffe and Phil Snider

Attention, parish readers! The Christian Education Committee is excited to share our Summer Book Club picks for 2024. We have selected two great books for your summer reading pleasure, as usual one a novel and the other a work on spirituality.

The Dean's Watch by Elizabeth Goudge, written in 2012, follows the ministry of the Dean of an English cathedral as he interacts with his colourful



parishioners and neighbours, particularly a watchmaker who is struggling in his relationship with God. This book is described as "abounding in Grace" and we look forward to sharing our reflections on it when we gather over Zoom on Wednesday, September 11.



In *Miracles and Other Reasonable Things*, the Canadian writer Sarah Bessey writes about miracles from both a theological point of view and, more importantly, from her own experience recovering from injuries sustained in a serious car accident. She looks at miraculous healing, dealing with chronic pain,

and how God can appear in the midst of suffering. Her account is both faithful but open to the complications that attend suffering. We look forward to exploring these issues at our Zoom gathering on Wednesday, September 18.

Both books are available for borrowing through the Toronto Public Library system or from our own parish library. If you prefer to purchase your own copies, they are easily found with your favourite bookseller, or from Mary Conliffe who will have a few of each available at coffee hour for \$20 per book.

Happy Reading and see you at the Book Club meetings in September!

Creative Inclusion Program

By Judith Kidd

You may recall, early last September, hearing about the new Creative Inclusion Program, part of our Outreach Committee programs. It is somewhat different from the other organizations that Outreach supports in that the group actually meets in the parish hall every two weeks and members of the committee attend to provide support. The program is organized by and for refugee families from Ukraine who have children aged 8 to 13 with special needs. Although the working language in the

sessions is Ukrainian, we all seem to be able to communicate.

The sessions usually are attended by about 15 families along with volunteers from the Ukrainian community who develop and lead the sessions. And, while the sessions can vary, they usually have two parts, a craft session and then a short physical activity. The programs are clearly valued by the parents as well as the children. Over the past nine months, new families have joined the group and special sessions for the girls and their mothers have been added to help them with their self-confidence.

The program is not just a benefit for the Creative Inclusion group. All of us from the Outreach Committee who have participated in the support group have been not only inspired by this resilient group who are dealing with such unimaginable difficulties with such grace but have also been reminded of the importance of community.

Below are photos of some of the creative projects done by the children.



Walkathon

By Judith Kidd

Despite a weather forecast predicting frequent rain showers, on June 2 fifteen water-resistant walkers from St. Martin's joined up with 20+ volunteers and families from the Creative Inclusion group, part of St. Martin-in-the-Fields' outreach program. The



Walkathon participants

group of Ukrainian refugee families with children with special needs meets every two weeks in our parish hall.

As in past years, the walkers took a ferry to Hanlan's Point, walked to St. Andrew by-the-Lake, had a short service in the beautiful church, and a picnic break (and a bit of a rest for some of us) in the church's garden. Revived, most of us carried on to the Ward's Island ferry and home.

One missing element from all previous walks was the treats from the wonderful ice-cream stand at the ferry dock — it had recently burned down. A good reminder that bad things do happen to all of us! We all need support.

The walkers completed their walk, not only in a rain free afternoon but with a wee bit of sunshine on Ward's Island. Everyone enjoyed the excursion!

Ordination of Carol Shih

By Ian Greene

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 4 p.m., the Reverend Carol Shih, who was the Children and Youth Pastoral Associate at St. Martin's in 2022-23, was ordained to the sacred order of priesthood at St. Timothy, North Toronto. More than a dozen parishioners from St. Martin's attended the ordination.



Bishop Andrew Asbil at ordination of Rev. Carol Shih



Strawberry Tea June 23 -- Philip Dawson



Fun Fair June 15: kite flying, scavenger hunt, axe throwing with safe axes, face painting -- Philip Dawson