

# THE LYCHGATE

## October 5, 2025



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

### Rector's Message

One of my favourite stories in the Scriptures is the Feeding of the Multitude, when Jesus takes a few fish and some loaves of bread and feeds a hungry crowd. The story is recorded in all four of the Gospels\* and in both St. Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, it occurs twice.† There are many variations of the story: sometimes Jesus feeds 5,000 people and at other times only 4,000; sometimes he has five loaves, and at other times, seven. I like to think that there are many different versions because this is something Jesus did on many different occasions throughout his ministry.

Of course, the miracle is about God's constant, enduring love for his people, as they journey through the wilderness. It's a sign of the promise of the Resurrection, of the gift of new, more abundant life given to those who place their hope in Jesus Christ. Have you ever noticed that Jesus has nothing to give the crowds until someone steps forward and offers to him what they already have? Out of that offering, Jesus gives an abundance.

What do you offer to Jesus? With Harvest Thanksgiving and our annual Stewardship Campaign fast approaching, this is an important time to consider what God has given you and what you have to offer: imagine the abundance that might follow.

Like many parishes, St. Martin's is in a time of change and transition. We have new members, eager to become disciples and take part in our ministries, while some of our older members are having to step back because of age or fatigue and are looking for new ways they can offer themselves. How will you offer yourself to God and neighbour in this place in the coming year? Our Diocese is also in the midst of a Season of Spiritual Renewal. This autumn, each parish is being asked to consider the 20 Calls in the Cast The Net vision and select which two or three we feel called to commit to in the coming years. Keep an ear open for a parish gathering when we will meet to review these. How is God calling us to his service in this in this place at this moment?

In St. John's version of the miracle, Andrew and the other disciples are convinced that God cannot do anything with a few loaves of bread and some fish: "But what are they among so many?" he asks, looking out over the large crowd. You may think that nothing can come from what you have to offer but we must place our hope in God who promises to bless us more abundantly, in ways we cannot even imagine, when we show up and offer what we have been given.

\* See Matthew 14:13–21, Mark 6:31–44, Luke 9:12–17, John 6:1–14.

† See also Matthew 15:32–39 and Mark 8:1–9.

Fr. Nicholas Hatt+  
Incumbent

## 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

### Incumbent:

Fr. Nicholas Hatt

### Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd Canon  
Alyson Barnett-  
Cowan

The Rev'd Canon David  
Luxton

The Rev'd James  
Decker

The Rev'd Michelle  
Childs-Ward

The Rt. Rev'd Victoria  
Matthews

### Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

### Church Wardens:

Nadine Barmania

Phil Snider

### Office Administrator:

Rebecca Eacho

### Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

### Pastoral Associate for Children's and Youth Ministry:

Finn Keesmaat-Walsh (they/them)

### Sexton:

Bernard Sanders

**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 [office@stmartininthefields.ca](mailto:office@stmartininthefields.ca). For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to <https://stmartininthefields.ca>.

### From the Parish Registers

Since June 8, 2025 (last *Lychgate*)

**Baptisms:** Dylan Bunn, May 4, 2025

Joan Dalamba, June 8, 2025

Brahma Hagood, August 24, 2025

### Funerals and Burials:

Elizabeth Longmore, May 31, 2025

Philip Renouf, July 19, 2025

Lex Byrd, August 2, 2025

Stephen Rawson, Harry Rawson, September 19, 2025

**Weddings:** None

## Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, October 5**, 4 p.m., Blessing of the Animals in the Garden. Please bring all family pets to this event.
- **Wednesday, October 8**, 8 p.m., Christian Education, Cast The Net
- **Sunday, October 12**, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Harvest Thanksgiving
- **Wednesday, October 15**, 8 p.m., Christian Education, Cast The Net
- **Saturday, October 18**, 6 p.m., Beatles' Fundraising Dinner for Heat-it-Forward, with a talk by Beatles' expert, our own Piers Hemmingsen
- **Sunday, October 19**, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Feast of St. Luke with Prayers for Healing and Anointing, followed by Parish Visioning Session on the Diocesan 20 Calls (look for updates in the bulletin)
- **Sunday, October 26**, Annual Stewardship Campaign Lunch and Launch
- **Tuesday, October 28**, 10 a.m. Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude (in the Chapel)
- **Sunday, November 2**, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Feast of All Saints (observed)
- **Monday, November 3**, All Souls' Day (observed) (See bulletin for time)
- **Wednesday, November 5**, 8 p.m., Christian Education, Theology of Christian Death
- **Sunday, November 9**, Patronal Festival (Feast of St. Martin of Tours). Leading up to Remembrance Day, our fence will again be posted with installations to honour those who 'walked these streets' and served in the two World Wars.
- **Wednesday, November 12**, 8 p.m., Christian Education, Theology of Christian Death
- **Saturday, November 29**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Christmas Market at St. Martin's
- **Tuesdays, Nov. 25 to December 16**, 7:30 p.m., Christian Education: Bishops' Advent Study
- **Sunday, December 7**, 7:30 p.m. Advent Carol Service
- **Sunday, December 21**, 4 p.m., Carolling in the garden. Be sure to come and raise your voices to the glory of God!

## Parish Profile: Alex Tinius

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By David McKnight

Alex Tinius was born in Fürstenwalde, East Germany, a town about 50 km from Berlin that is becoming a commuting suburb. His mother and two sisters still live there. His father was a plumber, and his mother operated the emergency hotline for the autobahn.

Alex's first thirteen years of school were in Fürstenwalde, then he commuted to Berlin for a degree in geology at the Freie Universität Berlin. Thinking of a career in paleontology, his thesis examined the flight apparatus of early birds, with a focus on *Confuciusornis*, a fossil bird from northeast China. During his undergraduate years he discovered a passion for writing, first as a blogger, and later as a journalist writing daily articles for the online version of a popular games magazine.

Seeking to further his investigations into the flight mechanisms of early birds, in 2009 Alex started PhD studies in zoology at the University of Calgary under the guidance of Prof. Tony Russell, a prominent figure in comparative anatomy. Prof. Russell induced a subject shift to the shoulder girdle of modern lizards—living animals are better to study movement than pieces of fossils in stone. Having received his PhD in 2016, Alex returned to Germany and puzzled over his next career steps.

During his time in Calgary, Alex built on an interest in music. He learned to play guitar, ukulele, banjo, and various other instruments, and developed his brand 'Goemon5' from a blogger to an outlet for singing and songwriting. [ [www.goemon5.com](http://www.goemon5.com) ] Building on an earlier interest in photography Alex also won some photography prizes, worked as a sports photographer and created music videos for artists plus a special DVD production for a 2016 children's project of the Calgary Opera.

After returning to Germany, Alex tried for a year and a half to make a living in the arts, but found that neither music nor photography earned enough to make a living. Being a man of many talents, Alex started a job providing programs for the Parkclub, a youth and culture club in Fürstenwalde, and taught music and creative writing at a junior high school.



Alex in his lab

While working out his career plan, Alex published the results of his doctoral thesis, which caught the attention of Prof. Luke Mahler at the University of Toronto, a leading expert in anole (lizard) ecology. He invited Alex to work in his lab, an arrangement that evolved from a

one-year contract in 2019 to a postdoctoral fellowship lasting five and a half years in total. During this time Alex's anatomical investigations spread from the pectoral (shoulder) and pelvic girdles of *Anolis* lizards to their appendages (legs), and finally to the head skeleton of South American armoured catfish.

When funding ended in June 2024, Alex found himself without a job, but with plenty more to discover. Through prior experience as steward and bargaining team member with CUPE 3902 academic labour union, Alex was elected first as lead steward and later as third vice president.

From his first months in Calgary, Canada has felt like home, more so than Germany. Alex has Permanent Resident status and hopes to become a citizen within the next two years.

Although the Roman Catholic Church always had a presence in his hometown, it was not well respected. The East German government did not officially prohibit religion, but discouraged religious practice, leading to a stigmatisation of the RC church that lasted well beyond the fall of the Soviet Union. Alex's first encounter with people of meaningful faith was in Calgary, where he met people for whom church meant more than superficial observance. However, he did not become a believer. Although he visited many churches over the years, he did not attend any regularly before he came to St. Martin's. He considers himself an atheist: he has respect and

admiration for believers but cannot himself believe in God. He does believe that people have the capacity to make the world a better place.

Music brought Alex to St. Martin's. His roommate at the time was a music teacher who had urged him to join a choir at U of T. Without any prior choir experience he joined the Hart House Singers as a tenor but found the experience lacking in value. Practising Verdi's Requiem was a challenging experience, but the conductor did not spend any meaningful time on the tenors, and Alex learned all the critical parts from YouTube videos at home. He attended our Carol Service in 2019 and enjoyed it. He asked Jack Hattey whether there was a spot for a "baritone who can fake a tenor." Jack welcomed him. Covid soon disrupted things, but Alex persisted and has found the experience "fantastic." He has learned a great deal, enjoys singing with people who know what they are doing, and likes learning new material all the time.

There are many paths to a destination: Fürstenwalde to Calgary to Toronto; geology to early flight to blogging, photography, and music. Music has brought Alex to St. Martin's, and we are grateful.

## Christian Education this Fall

By Mary Conliffe and Phil Snider

Having enjoyed this year's Summer Book Club, including an author's (online) visit – the Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig discussing her book "Encampment" – the Christian Education Committee now turns its attention to some wonderful new series coming up for the autumn months. Thanks to OWL technology in the Guild Room, all of our sessions in the 2025–2026 year will be hybrid – both in-person at the church and online over Zoom. Please join us in whichever way is preferable for you.

In October, we will be gathering on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the *Cast The Net* vision of the Diocese of Toronto and to start considering how the 20 Calls are being lived out here at St Martin's. The Diocese is inviting each parish to identify which of the Calls will be their own focus over the coming year or two, and these two Christian Education sessions will get us thinking about how God is directing us to dedicate our energy. We hope that our wonderful

Diocesan coaches, Bill and Cathy Matthews, who came to know us so well during our search for our new rector, will help walk us through this process. To learn more about *Cast The Net*, the process and workbook we'll be using, and to read the 20 Calls, please visit the Diocesan website:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-us/cast-the-net/> or check out the 20 Calls poster on our bulletin board.

In November, we will gather on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, in keeping with All Saints and All Souls Days, to focus on *End of Life* considerations. How do we prepare for death, both spiritually and materially? Father Hatt will walk us through the theology of a Christian death, and we hope to also speak about how each of us can plan for it – including such practical matters as funeral planning, wills and estates, and making wishes known to loved ones. These sessions are intended for everyone, even those for whom dying still seems a long way off!

For Advent, we will gather on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. from November 25 to December 16<sup>th</sup> for the Bishops' Zoom Advent Study. Like last year, a different bishop each week will offer an Advent reflection with time for break-out group discussion. (Online participants will be placed in random groups, but those of us who choose to attend in the Guild Room will form our own private break-out group... plus enjoy good snacks.)

More information about all these gatherings will be shared as we get closer to the dates, including the Zoom links sent by email.

Your Christian Education Committee is already looking ahead to 2026 and starting to plan, but we are always open to new ideas! If there is a subject you'd love to hear more about, or a topic that you can offer yourself, please let us know.



**Parish  
Dinner,  
Sunday  
September  
7 – Phil  
Dawson**

## From Romero House to the Canada-US Border Rights Clinic



By Jenn McIntyre

It's been a couple of years since you may have seen me in the St. Martin's sanctuary as a server — or at refugee support meetings at St. Martin's.

A lot has changed for me, both personally and professionally, since I left my role as Executive Director at Romero House. For many years, Romero House was not only my workplace but also my home.

Leaving the position in 2023 created space to imagine new possibilities.

My partner, Matthew, and I moved to Halifax in May 2023. We were excited to begin an east coast adventure in a beautiful city with a strong community spirit. We've enjoyed coastal hiking, rock climbing, the live music scene, and slowly integrating into the local activist community.

In the spring of 2024, I helped launch the Canada-US Border Rights Clinic, a virtual project that provides free legal services to migrants in the U.S. who are seeking asylum at the Canadian border. I work with two wonderful lawyers based in Montreal and Toronto. Together, we share a mission of ensuring the border can be a place of safety. Sadly, that is not the reality for many vulnerable people.

Since January of this year, migrants in the U.S. have faced daily risks of arrest, detention in deplorable conditions, and deportation to situations of great danger. For those with family in Canada, the border represents hope. But too many are turned away because they are not adequately prepared — or they arrive even though they are ineligible under the confusing Safe Third Country Agreement, usually due to lack of information.

Detention is almost certain for those returned to the U.S., and family separation is all too common under the convoluted rules.

Our clinic couldn't have come at a better moment. We are working hard to make sure migrants arrive at

the border well informed and well prepared, and we challenge border decisions we believe are wrong. The demand is overwhelming for our small team — over 1,200 inquiries in the past year — but we are doing our best to keep people safe and help families reunite.

One highlight of the past year was receiving a photo of a mother embracing her seven-year-old child after he crossed the border to join her in Canada. As discouraging as the news from the U.S. can be, we are grateful to play a small part in offering hope.

To learn more about or to support the Border Rights Clinic, visit: <https://canadaborderclinic.org/>

Wishing all of you at St. Martin's peace and grace as you continue to support refugees in your neighbourhood.

*Note from Jen: I was fortunate enough to be in Toronto this past June 16 and be able to attend the funeral for Edna Hajnal, a St. Martin's parishioner. Edna was an ardent supporter of Romero House and refugee support. She created the ongoing links between St. Martin's and Romero House. At the reception after the funeral, I met Ian Greene, who asked me to submit this article.*

## Bulletins from Summer Visits, 2025

By Ian Greene

The striking feature of the summer bulletins posted by our parishioners from their summer church visits was that five of six were from Canada, compared with only two from Canada in 2024. There were none from the United States — a first since we started keeping track of bulletins from summer visits about twenty years ago — and only one from the United Kingdom.

The bulletins posted were from:

- · Christ Church, Lion's Head, Bruce Peninsula
- · Church of St. John The Evangelist, London, Ontario
- · St. Aidan's in the Beach, Toronto
- · St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, Toronto
- · Grace Mennonite Church, Steinbach, Manitoba
- · The United Benefice of Docking, Fring, Sedgford & Stanhoe, Norwich, United Kingdom

One parishioner mentioned that the reason they don't collect as many summer bulletins from

summer church visits as in the past is that they watch the St. Martin's service on their device rather than seek out a local church.

### **Excerpt from St. Martin's CHURCHNEWS dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1956**

Submitted by Jonathan Gentry, St. Martin's Archivist

#### **WEST END CLERGY PLAN SUMMER VISITS TO PARK**

The Rectors of St. Jude's, St. John's, St. Martin's and St. Olave's are planning to hold open-air teaching sessions in High Park this summer. On Sunday afternoons in July and August an Anglican priest and several lay people will form the nucleus of a group of people which is hoped will gather to hear the Faith presented and to hear questions answered. The prayers of faithful people are asked for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this venture. Several foreign-language speakers will be invited to communicate in their own language with the many New Canadians who visit the park on Sundays.

*(Archivist's Note: Only two of those four parishes exist today. In 1956 our CHURCHNEWS was published weekly.)*

### **Outreach: Reflections From Romero House Camp at the Anishinaabe Spiritual Centre**

By Kathy Mansfield



Photo from Retreat – Kathy Mansfield

Romero House is a "community of welcome" for newly arrived refugee claimants in Toronto's west end. It is a charitable organization offering transitional housing and

immigration and settlement support "in the spirit of good neighbours." There are five houses in our church neighbourhood. It is one of the many local communities that the Outreach Committee supports – both in-person and financially.

Some of you may know Romero House from the famous street party that is held in June each year on Wanda Road or their Christmas dinner celebration that is held at St. Martin's on Christmas Day. Many of you may even have attended the Howcroft Lecture series held most years at St. Martin's and hosted by Romero House. Romero House's afterschool program for children is also hosted weekly in our parish hall.

Each year Romero House offers many of its residents a break from city life with a retreat to a special camp located at the Anishinaabe Spiritual Centre located on Anderson Lake, approximately 100 km west of Sudbury. This camp adventure has been happening for 28 years.

Approximately 50 people attend the camp. The purpose is to offer residents a much-needed break and time away to be with their friends and family. Many workers and volunteers are involved in creating and organizing the camp experience to make it safe and fun for everyone, including families with small children.

Jay Haddad hosted the Romero Camp senior staff for a day at Camp Bellaleo, where his son Zak is Camp Director, to cover many safety protocols from missing camper search, to fire or waterfront emergency, to understanding the effectiveness of the 'buddy system' for both swimming and hiking. The Romero staff were very appreciative of this training (plus Phil Devine's gourmet lunch!) and began to implement many of the safety protocols demonstrated at Bellaleo.

I volunteered at Camp Romero as the Camp Nurse for ten days. This volunteer work is an example of one of the ways St. Martin's Outreach demonstrates being present in the community and being good neighbours. My role as Camp Nurse allowed me to share this time with so many wonderful individuals and families.

It is truly remarkable to hear what many have given up in their home countries to seek refuge in

Canada. Journalists, engineers, and medical doctors are but a few of the professions left behind to start a new life chapter here in Canada. I was very moved, not only by their courage, but also their resilience. I was particularly moved by the joy and sense of conviviality experienced by the families.

There were many camp activities including swimming, canoeing and special themes such as Olympic Day. While the ten days were very busy, it was wonderful to participate and share in the many activities that camp provided.

The Anishinaabe Centre hosted specialized activities, such as 'The Rose Tea', a ceremony for women and children in a traditional teepee on site, led by Eddie MacDonald, the Spiritual Director at the Anishinaabe Centre. Each Sunday, we attended a Roman Catholic Mass at Church of the Immaculate Conception in M'Chigeeng on Manitoulin Island. See:

<https://www.tvo.org/article/how-this-northern-ontario-church-puts-reconciliation-on-display>

I am sharing a reflection written by Eddie MacDonald as I found it so moving and captured the spirit of the families there: "They came from Afghanistan, Iran, Uganda, Peru, and more – different faiths, cultures and languages. Fleeing from their homeland in hope of safety, they began the week guarded, sitting only with those who spoke the same language. In the first 'Sharing Circle,' conversation slowed for Spanish and Farsi translation. Trust felt scarce within the circle.

"The week brought small acts of community together: washing dishes, cleaning bathrooms, taking out garbage, cooking and sharing meals from their cultures. Slowly, they began to talk to one another, laugh, and connect. One group activity that stood out was a long table covered with white mural paper. Participants were asked to draw on the paper what weighed heavy on their hearts. Then they walked around viewing one another's drawings. One picture showed eight stick figures with the words: 'My family and friends all died.' Another drew the flags of different countries they passed through before reaching Canada. In those images they saw humanity in one another: shared love, shared loss, shared need. By the end of the week

strangers had become friends. Final reflections were filled with hope: I now know I am not alone. We are together with this migrant heart; we feel stronger with all the love that has been shared."

Eddie further reflected that this is the remedy the Gospel points towards: to love despite differences, to risk connection even when division feels easier, to seek the image of God in every face. Unity is not built by ignoring differences but by entering into them with open hearts. In the love they shared, I saw what the Lord calls us to: communion stronger than fear, compassion deeper than division.

## Our new Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Michelle Childs-Ward

By Ian Greene



Fr. Michelle Childs-Ward was born in Alliston, north of Toronto, and grew up in the nearby hamlet of Rosemont. She rode a school bus to Alliston, where she attended grade school, and then

graduated from Banting Memorial High School in 1997. She studied anthropology and medieval history at York University and graduated with her B.A. Hon. in 2001. She pursued a Master of Divinity at Trinity College, University of Toronto, during which time she decided to become a priest. She graduated in 2005 and was ordained in 2006.

She served her curacy at Trinity Church Port Credit and was incumbent of St. John's Weston 2008–2014. Most recently, she served for ten years as the incumbent of St. George's on-the-Hill and chaplain of Kingsway College School. Over the years, when she had a Sunday off, she would drop in to a service at St. Martin's and always enjoyed the liturgy and sense of community.

She is the devoted wife of John Ward, who recently retired. She and John are both avid golfers and enjoy spending part of the winter in warmer climates where they can enjoy the sport. As a result, Fr. Michelle does not seek another church incumbency

but prefers to be part of a parish where she can continue to exercise her passion for preaching the gospel and connecting with a community. She enjoys the conversations between services with Fr. Hatt, Bishop Victoria, and Canon Alyson and having found a place with colleagues of a similar outlook on life and church; and she is happy to be able to contribute to the “richness of the tapestry” of St. Martin’s.

In addition to golf, Fr. Michelle swims early mornings three or four days a week. She is a member of the Norseman Masters Swim Club. She is an avid reader, especially of science fiction and fantasy, and is also a painter. She enjoys her garden, which is pollinator friendly. She is cat-mum to Mira and Luna, her Abyssinian girls.

She is delighted at having been appointed to serve the St. Martin’s community as an Honorary Assistant.

## **The Saga of Speed Bumps on Indian Grove**

By Ian Greene

Parishioners may have noticed the construction work to install speed bumps on Indian Grove. This was the result of a concerted effort by Indian Grove residents since the fall of 2020 to have speed bumps installed to counter what had become known locally as the “Indian Grove Speedway.”

Most Indian Grove residents, from Annette south to Bloor Street, noticed a significant increase in speeding on Indian Grove during the COVID lockdown. Parents with young children were concerned, especially after a young child was nearly struck by a speeding car. Residents organized a petition with 70 signatures that they sent to our city councillor, Gord Perks, requesting speed bumps on the street. Several St. Martin’s parishioners who live on Indian Grove signed the petition.

In 2022, there were several Zoom meetings between city staff and Indian Grove residents, two traffic studies, many email exchanges, explanations from city staff that they needed to consider other alternatives, and assurances that city officials would eventually bring a recommendation to City Council.

The COVID period ended, all of us got busier with our activities, and we nearly gave up on the traffic

situation on Indian Grove, which was just as bad as before. Then in early September this year, speed bump signs went up on Indian Grove. On September 17, construction began to install the speed bumps. By the time of publication of *The Lychgate*, construction may be finished.

The Indian Grove Speed Bump Saga illustrates not only that the wheels of bureaucracy move slowly, but also that persistent efforts by dedicated citizens can bring about changes for the better, however long it takes.

## **They Walked These Streets Project**

By Ian Greene



**They Walked These Streets Display at St. Martin’s,  
November 2024 – David McKnight**

St. Martin’s will again participate in “They Walked These Streets; We Will Remember Them” project by displaying on our fence posters of WW I and WW II veterans who lived in our area and who were killed in service. This will be the second year of St. Martin’s participation. The project is now in its sixth year.

Posters of soldiers from the parish and the neighbourhood who lost their lives will be displayed along the Glenlake Street fence, adorned with poppies made by school children. The posters will use our logo to show parishioners of St. Martin’s.

Our neighbour Christopher Moore has written the feature article about this project in Canada’s History Magazine. The magazine is sold in the neighbourhood at Book City and at Shoppers Drug Mart and can also be found at Indigo Books.