
St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

2021 Vestry Report



Clergy

The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent

The Rev. Canon Dr. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant

The Rev. Gail Marshall, Deacon

Churchwardens

Rector's Churchwarden

Karen Lee

People's Churchwarden

Stuart Watt

Deputy Rector's Churchwarden

Lianne Thompson

Deputy People's Churchwarden

Marguerite Locke

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74th Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of the Vestry Clerk
3. Appointment of Parish Tribunal / Scrutineers
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 73rd Annual Vestry Meeting
6. The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter
7. Rector's Report
8. The Wardens' Report
9. Social Justice Vestry Motion
10. Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
11. Presentation of 2022 Parish Budget
12. Appointment of Auditor
13. Reception of Reports
14. Rector's Appointments
15. Nominating Committee Report & Parish Elections
 - People's Warden
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 - Lay Delegates to Synod
 - Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod
 - Stewardship
 - Envelope Secretary
 - Assistant Envelope Secretary
 - Nominating Committee Chair
 - Scrutineers / Parish Tribunal
16. Baptisms, Weddings & Burials
17. New Business
18. Prayers of Thanksgiving
19. Adjournment
20. Dismissal

The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2022



Beloved Siblings in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

As you gather today for the annual vestry meeting, we as your bishops wanted to write to you united as a College, to assure you of our prayers, gratitude and love for you in the face of the challenges facing our Church at this time. We want to encourage you and to assure you of our support, as we look back on the past year and anticipate the one that lies before us.

Our life together continues to be shaped by a little virus called COVID-19. Most of us had hoped that we would be back to our pre-pandemic ways by now. Yet we seem to be entering into the third year of this pandemic, and we are in the midst of an incredible fifth wave. We have learned to adapt, shift, change, open, close, move online, Zoom, sing through a mask, and much more. None of us could have imagined that we were capable of doing all of this, for as long as we have, when we closed our church buildings for the first time in March 2020.

To say that we are tired – worn out, fed up – would be an understatement. We wonder: how much longer? Unfortunately, while we may be finished with this pandemic, this pandemic is not quite finished with us.

*“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*

Just as the Lord commissioned Joshua to take on leadership from Moses and to lead the people forward into the land that had been promised, so God commissions us to be faithful even in the midst of this anxiety. As with Joshua, God promises to be with us wherever we go. And God’s faithfulness to Israel on the cusp of new life in a new land, renews our hope for our own deliverance.

In the crucible of this pandemic, there are signs of God's light and life all around us, and we have been so moved by the ways that strength and courage have been shown by the people of our Diocese this year. The movement to virtual worship, the leaving behind of our buildings for a time, the reliance on community that has been formed and nurtured online – these are all signs of the resilience born of our faith in Jesus Christ. They are reminders that the Lord our God is with us wherever we go – even through this season of deep challenge – and that God has not abandoned us.

God's accompaniment has been made known in other ways too. In the midst of this pandemic, we as a Church have been coming to terms with issues of systemic racism and bias. The rollout of anti-bias and anti-racism training in 2021 – and the participation of almost all our active clergy – is a sign of God's transformative work in us as a Church. We still have much to do to combat racism and bias, but these steps bring us closer to the Church we are called to be. The ABAR workshops will be rolled out at the parish level in the coming year, and we strongly encourage your support and participation. The apology to the LGBTQ+ community in June was a further step in the Gospel work of justice, dignity, and inclusion. May Christ continue to be with us as we seek to be transformed in His likeness.

The Gospel of Christ has good news and hard news. The good news is that we have hope in Jesus, who is our unchanging rock and our constant salvation in the midst of the storms and tribulations of this life. The hard news is that we are called to serve others in Christ's name. Service is sacrificial. Service is rewarding. Service is at the heart of our faith. Thank you so very much for your service to the Church and to the glory of God this past year. We are speaking here to all the baptised: our hardworking churchwardens, treasurers, musicians, administrators, Sunday School teachers, ACWs, outreach workers, altar guilds, sextons, our now-indispensable tech volunteers, and so many more. To our beloved clergy, both priests and deacons: you pour your heart and soul into your God-given vocation, and we see you. We are grateful beyond words for the super-human effort you have tirelessly made to build up the People of God during this pandemic.

At such a time as this, when we are deeply unsettled, when we would prefer the comfortable to the challenging, Christ is calling us to look for the opportunities that are being presented anew: how can we partner with a neighbouring church to do more effective and robust ministry? Do we need to have all the answers before we set out on the journey of missional exploring and engagement? What are we afraid of, and how can the good news of Christ allay our fears and embolden our hearts to venture into the

unknown? How can we put "the movement of the Spirit" into words, phrases, and invitations to which new disciples can respond?

Without a doubt, we are all tired; yet recently, we your bishops are also hearing something new. You are beginning to dream again. And we know that when the Church dreams...things change.

*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your children will prophesy, your young will see visions,
your elderly will dream dreams." (Joel 2:28)*

May you have a creative, hopeful and inspiring vestry meeting today, as we enter this new year with the strength and courage of the One who accompanies us on our journey. We are praying for you all.


Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Andrew Toronto".

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Riscylla Shaw".

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Kevin Robertson".

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

Rector's Report

Submitted by the Rev. Philip Stonhouse

"What can we say in response to all of these things? If God is for us, who can ever stand against us?" (Romans 8:31)

I'll tell you, there have not been any dull days at St. Matthew's as together, we have been working through these strange days. I really mean that; I feel like we have been doing it together. I have appreciated your support, the way you have worked alongside me, the way you have adapted when needed, the way you have been patient and present (even if often online). With all this change, which has been difficult at times, there has also been a lot of possibility. And God has been working through it with us.

Throughout the past year, one of my goals was to help you become a little more familiar and friendly with your Bibles. This is something we can all do whether we are at home or together. To facilitate this, the discipleship team and I have helped to create courses, Bible Studies, discussions, Sermon series' and offered some daily or seasonal resources.

Looking back on Discipleship. For courses, we offered: 1) How to read the Bible, 2) The Trinity, and 3) The Questions of Faith. For Sermon Series' we offered: 1) The Lord's Prayer through Lent, 2) What is God's Kingdom? through Easter, 3) The Present Spirit through Pentecost, 4) The Gospel of Mark through our regular time 5) The Incarnational Family through Advent and Christmas and 6) Christian Unity through Epiphany.

As always, we did special short invitational Bible Studies: over Lent it was on the Lord's Prayer, and over Advent it was on how we can help the incarnate Christ. A big thank you to Dawn Mercer for continuing to lead our year-long Tuesday Night Bible Study. This coming Lent we will be doing a study on turning back to Christ as the source and answer to our needs as opposed to trusting in the idols that cannot fill our needs. Please reach out if you would like to be a part of future groups or studies.

My continual hope through all of this is to open up to you this beautiful book of God's revelation of Himself to us. This is really a lifelong task, as we always have many ways to grow in discipleship, but I hope that during the past year you have become a little more comfortable opening the bible or seeking resources that help you open it. I am always happy to help if you want guidance or are finding it difficult. When COVID concerns are reduced we expect to have additional GIFT groups available.

Thank yous. Throughout 2021 I worked to empower many of the groups that help support this parish. I'd like to make particular note of the newly formed Inclusion

Working Group with a focus on Anti-Racism. Thank you to that group, especially Kareem, Iain, Dawn, and Marilyn, for helping to look forward and leading different conversations within the church. Thank you to Mary and Sandra for leading the Chancel Guild; to Bruce for leading us in song and organizing the readers – and big congratulations to Bruce for receiving the Order of the Diocese. Thank you to Deborah for leading our amazing welcome team who have continually kept people connected by phone and otherwise. Thank you to the Messy Church Team for the amazing gift you have given our young families. Thank you to Bob and the prayer ministry. Thank you to the Tech team and especially to Mary Anne for helping me to train and guide them. Thank you to the wardens for all you have done through this last year and a half; there are not words to express my thanks. Thank you to the staff for your adaptability and care. There are so many people to thank through this whole church and I am sorry for those I have missed. I just look at the beautiful variety of people, gifts, and service that is happening in this church and I am so thankful for all that God has given us in you.

Family Ministry Role. At the end of last year, we said goodbye to Jeff Bonner and his family. I am thankful for all they have done to support this church and praying that Jeff will continue to grow in faith and ministry wherever God leads him next. We will be looking for someone to fill the role, but first we want to review the role itself and see what our needs are.

AV work. The wardens and I are in the process of upgrading the church sound and AV. Please look for future updates and fundraising.

There is so much happening within this church and there is a lot I couldn't mention. I have loved seeing our long-time members beside many of our new members serving to lift up God's name in this place. I am excited for when we can start to really invite people in and move out to share the good news that we already know.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

God bless you all.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

Warden's Report

Submitted by Karen Lee, Stuart Watt, Marguerite Locke, and Lianne Thompson

2021 is officially over and now we welcome 2022. Despite 2021 being a challenging year due to COVID-19, we are pleased to report that the ministries of St. Matthew's have continued to flourish.

We are grateful to Rev. Philip Stonhouse, our Priest-in-Charge (now incumbent), for his leadership and abilities and keeping our 'ship' on course. We are also grateful for Rev. Merv Mercer, and the staff and volunteers whose significant contributions have supported our ministries. While we were not always able to gather in person to worship, we are most fortunate to have an amazing Tech Team that allows worship, special events and meetings to continue. As a result of Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook, the message of the Good News has been able to reach many that would not have been possible without this technology.

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of our Organist and Music Director, Tyler Versluis. We not only thank him for our weekly worship services music but also for the many musical events which took place in 2021 under his leadership.

In late December we bade farewell to Jeff Bonner, our Family Ministry Associate. We thank him for all that he brought to this ministry and wish him well in his future endeavours. In August, Colin Hall and family moved to Goderich, Ontario. We extend our thanks to Colin for his dedication and skill in taking St. Matthew's online as well as being our on-site technical expert.

During the year, aside from our worship services, many activities and events continued. We acknowledge the Soup's On team lead by Deborah and Nancy Hurn and assisted by many volunteers, who prepared weekly meals for the Toronto Urban Ministries. We thank the Welcome Team, who have ensured that many of our parishioners have continued to be connected, by telephone, cards, and visits as appropriate. In November, lead by Marguerite Locke and Team, St. Matthew's hosted a Christmas Market and Silent Auction. Many thanks to the team for their dedicated work. Funds raised were directed to assist in offsetting our deficit.

With the parishioners' support and some assistance through the federal government's CEWS program we have been able to financially end the year 2021 with a small surplus. Full details can be found in the Financial Statements included in the Vestry Report. We extend thanks to David Oakden, Treasurer, and Anita Wakeman, Accounts Administrator, for the preparation of these reports.

The Wardens wish to thank Clergy, Staff, Volunteers, and St. Matthew's Family and Friends for the continued prayers, commitment, time, energy, and financial support in 2021! Thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve God and you in this capacity.

And we are reminded that with God's Help and Guidance, together we can do more than we can ask or imagine!

Justice for Workers

2022 Social Justice Vestry Motion

"We, the vestry of St. Matthew's, Islington, urge the provincial government to support Ontario's most vulnerable workers by passing legislation to implement the following measures:

- 1) 10 days of employer-paid sick leave per year for all workers, without requiring workers to submit doctor's notes, with an additional 14 days' sick leave during public health emergencies.
- 2) Require employers to give workers a minimum number of hours per week (based on the job) and to give reasonable advance notice of work schedules.
- 3) Require employers to provide equal pay and benefits to all workers doing the same work, whether they are part-time, temporary, or contract workers, and regardless of immigration status."

The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee of the Diocese, with the support of the College of Bishops, commends the above motion for parishes to consider and present at their upcoming Vestry meeting.

The Bible calls us to justice for those who are most vulnerable, including vulnerable workers in our society. After God's people were brought out of slavery into freedom, they were reminded to treat their hired labourers – including "sojourners in the land" – with fairness and dignity (Deuteronomy 24:14-15). Likewise, Paul's letter to Timothy repeats the adages "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain" and "The labourer deserves to be paid." (1 Timothy 5:18)

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that many workers in essential workplaces – from healthcare and long-term care facilities to manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics, farms, food processing industries and grocery stores – are precariously employed. This means that they are not only low-paid but that their employment is also characterized by uncertain hours and/or a lack of workplace benefits and protections. For instance, workers who make less than \$33,000 per year are also those least likely to have paid sick days. Part-time workers not only are frequently excluded from workplace benefit programs, but face uncertainty about their hours of work from week to week, making it difficult to plan their lives, arrange for childcare, or accept other employment to be able to make enough income to meet their needs.

Precarious work has a harmful effect on the physical, mental, and emotional health of workers, and their families, with repercussions felt in the wider community. During the pandemic, we have seen many workplaces become hubs of COVID-19 transmission. When the employment laws allow employers to hire people at sub-poverty wages and in dangerous working conditions without adequate protection, these workers pay for this with their health and even with their lives.

Low-wage workers who lack employment benefits and face erratic schedules are also overwhelmingly likely to be vulnerable due to gender, racialization, immigration status (such as newcomers and migrant or undocumented workers) and disability. Decent work is thus not just a matter of economic justice, but a matter of gender and racial justice as well.

The 2017 Changing Workplaces Review examined the growth of precarious work in Ontario and recommended measures to level the playing field for vulnerable workers. Many of these measures were included in Bill 148 brought in by the previous provincial government. However, after a new provincial government was elected in 2018, many of the provisions of Bill 148 were repealed or reduced.

Paid Sick Days allow people to stay home and not pass on illness to co-workers and customers. They also allow parents to stay home with a sick child without jeopardizing their income or job security. A recent study found a 40% reduction in flu transmission when paid sick days were introduced. Had Ontario had paid sick days before the pandemic hit, our rates of workplace-related COVID transmission would have been significantly reduced.

In April 2021, after months of pressure and with COVID case numbers soaring, the provincial government finally brought in a temporary provision for three paid sick days in certain circumstances. This provision not only does not provide enough days; it is only available for certain reasons related to COVID, requires the worker to apply for the benefit, and is set to expire in July 2022. Also, this measure entitles the employer to be reimbursed by the government for providing the benefit. In other words, public funds are being used to subsidize those employers unwilling to provide this benefit while those who already do so have been covering the cost themselves. This is not fair to the good employers.

While 10 sick days might be enough in ordinary times, during public health crises like the COVID pandemic, additional days are needed to allow workers to comply with testing and self-isolation requirements, which can quickly use up a worker's allotted sick days.

Fair Scheduling: Uncertainty over the number of hours of work and what one's schedule will be makes it difficult for workers to know how much money they will make, or to arrange childcare, never mind supplementary income-earning opportunities or additional education and training to help them find better jobs. This creates mental stress, jeopardizes the health of workers, and keeps them from being able to give their all to their work. Having to juggle more than one job because hours are uncertain at one workplace is one reason that COVID-19 was so easily spread in long-term care homes during the first wave, due to care workers working in multiple facilities. Allowing workers to know the minimum hours number of hours they can expect from a particular job, and giving them reasonable advance notice of their schedules, would help them plan their childcare and other work or study arrangements, bringing greater stability into their lives.

Equal Pay for Equal Work: Allowing discrimination in pay and benefits between full-time workers and those who are part-time, temporary, or contract workers makes employers more likely to create precarious jobs. It can even create situations where workers earn less than minimum wage, because of what is taken off by the temp organization or subcontractor. Bill 148 abolished these distinctions, but that provision was repealed after the current government came to power. It's time to treat these workers equally for doing equal work.

In addition, migrant workers and others who do not have permanent residency status are at risk of deportation if they speak up about dangerous working conditions or unjust treatment. These are some of the most vulnerable workers in Ontario, and they must be able to enforce and exercise their rights as well.

The pandemic has taught us that when workers are protected, all of us are better protected. More importantly to us as Christians, we need to realize that when we advocate for justice and dignity for workers, we are re-aligning ourselves with God's desire for our life together.

St. Matthew's Church Register for 2021

Weddings

Don Purser & Suzan Jones
September 18, 2021



Baptisms

Levi Keith Davidson
February 7, 2021

Ally Irene Violet Knight
August 8, 2021

Jeffrey Malekimood
August 12, 2021

*"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in Heaven."*



Deaths

Bill Scott
January 11, 2021

Gwen Maxwell
March 1, 2021

Muriel French
April 29, 2021

Kathleen MacInnes
May 16, 2021

Milton Dorman
June 15, 2021

Joyce Nicholls
July 9, 2021

Doug Hartry
December 4, 2021

Carol Jones
December 14, 2021

"Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

Operating Fund Budget

Submitted by David Oakden

St. Matthew's Anglican Church Comparative Income Statement and Budget

	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
	2021	2020	2021	2022
Envelopes / PAG	177,186	173,398	180,100	181,150
Open Offerings	268	863	2,000	1,000
Seasonal Offerings	20,660	17,990	17,500	18,500
Room Licenses	75,169	72,773	79,100	79,812
Memorials	2,760	2,965	3,000	2,500
Interest	-	-	-	-
Advertising - Matts Media	150	300	500	100
Parish Events	6,715	6,393	9,525	7,350
Miscellaneous	521	2,850	1,000	350
Building Fund	-	-	-	-
Debt Reduction Contributions	-	250	-	-
Jubilee Grants	-	31,903	-	-
Government Grants	11,568	13,774	5,000	-
Income	294,997	323,460	297,725	290,762
Staff/Clergy Salary and Benefits	153,058	155,681	153,917	157,235
Rectory Expenses	12,053	15,563	12,006	12,535
Church Expenses	51,961	61,177	58,408	60,837
Office Expenses	13,746	14,858	15,296	14,233
Audit	3,955	4,301	3,675	3,675
Worship and Ministry	6,520	4,690	7,150	5,989
Parish Events	1,116	2,438	4,067	1,000
Insurance	10,198	8,901	6,526	8,106
Misc.	104	5,523	-	-
Major Reno Church	-	-	-	-
Synod	41,760	45,976	41,761	38,301
Prior Year Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Expenses	294,471	319,108	302,806	301,911
Net Operations	525	4,352	(5,081)	(11,149)

Administrative Reports

Envelopes Report

Submitted by Noel Martin and Mary Gleeson

For the year 2022, we have assigned 37 envelope sets to parishioners, and there are 53 Pre-Authorized Givings users. In addition, there is a group of about 30 members or occasional visitors who contribute sporadically throughout the year but do not wish to use envelopes. Since COVID-19 hamstrung all our endeavours, many have found that online giving, or e-transfer, has simplified getting their offerings to the church door. Your generous Initial offerings offset the cost of the envelopes.

If you have not yet received your new envelopes, you can use last year's (the numbers have not changed from 2021).

Annual tax receipts will be ready in mid-February. They will be available in the Narthex for two weeks, and then any not picked up will be mailed. In the event of an error or omission, please let us know as soon as possible so it can be corrected.

Many thanks to Lisa for her tireless, cheerful help in preparing various reports needed to ensure all offerings are recorded accurately.

Property Report

Submitted by Stuart Watt

2021 was a quiet year for property. Sometimes that can be good as no capital projects were required to fix the infrastructure of the Church. There were the usual electrical and plumbing issues during the year. Work was done to maintain the smooth functioning of the elevator. Thank you to Tom for maintaining the Church on a daily basis.

Some of the tenants met when they were allowed to during 2021. COVID restrictions have limited meetings and gatherings at certain times throughout the year. The most affected was Kingsley School. They have followed provincial guidelines of the Ministry of Education. The school completed their playground in the north end of the parking lot. AA groups met whenever possible. Swansea Dogs were not able to meet due to COVID.

In 2021 we put an emphasis on the gardens surrounding the Church. We will continue to do so in 2022.

Thank you for your comments and feedback regarding the state of our Church property.

Website

Submitted by Christine Ivy

My background in graphic design and communications helped us rework much of our current website, including updates to the organizational structure and page designs to make it easier to navigate. Most notably, our website was used for a Christmas Silent Auction, which allowed us to reach a broader audience that otherwise may not have been able to come in person. The auction was considered a great success.

All the work on our website this year made it clear that it was time for an easier-to-use website host. We have begun the process and will soon launch a new website with TheChurchCo. This company was started to create websites for churches of all sizes, but especially smaller churches that do not necessarily have people on staff with web or design backgrounds. It is easy to use, included a free site transfer of all our pages, and I am working now for it to be ready to launch sometime late February. I am excited that we are going to be using something that can be maintained by anyone and was designed specifically with churches in mind.

Reports Submitted by Parish Ministries

Discipleship (Believing)

"...Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well."

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Discipleship (Believing)

Submitted by Christine Ivy

In the area of discipleship, we had a How to Read the Bible course last February, and a four-week GIFT Group study during Lent. During the summer I did a Noon Renewal while Jeff was away, as well as produced six videos for our YouTube Prayer Exercises playlist (you can find the playlist on our YouTube channel). The videos included, "Tips on Prayer Journaling," "How to Use a Prayer App - Lectio 365," "How to Use the BCP for Daily Prayer," "Living in Spiritual Freedom, An Examen," and two videos on meditative painting, "Painting Scripture & Autobiography Listening," and "Your Emotions Matter to

God – How a Feelings Wheel Can Help You Pray.” The videos in the series got on average 40 views, except for the “How to Use a Prayer App” video, which currently has over 500.

GIFT Groups (Believing)

Submitted by Dawn Mercer

The ongoing GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) group which meets on Tuesday has continued on Zoom. GIFT groups follow up with the Bible texts and Sermon from the previous Sunday. New attendees are welcome.

Family and Youth and Children's Ministry (Believing)

Another year of COVID isolation has left us all longing for more community but concerned for our own health and the health of loved ones. We have looked for ways to be together, to support each other and to celebrate God and to learn more about how God loves and cares for us. Our experiences together have brightened up dark places and reminded us of the ways God sustains us even in a pandemic.

Youth

Submitted by Christine Ivy

Our youth group was online at the beginning of last year, but despite some interest in joint youth events it became clear that Zoom youth group was more taxing than life-giving for our youth as they were still in lockdown and doing school online. We decided to stop youth group, and instead moved to one-on-one meetings with the youth either for walks or Zoom calls where they could get personal attention and I could develop relationships. While we've faced some technical challenges, our online dungeons and dragons games have continued uninterrupted for the most part, and I have been able to connect to youth and see them support each other online on Discord, our group chat forum. I faced some health issues this summer which meant Rev. Philip had to plan youth events for the fall, but he and I successfully co-hosted a Games Night at the end of September. At the end of October, two youth and I attended an All Saints Kingsway youth event that was a lot of fun. November's Games Night was cancelled as no youth were available to attend.

For our youth on Instagram, I created two “series” of daily posts. In the fall we had “How to Pray,” which encouraged youth to download the Bible app (YouVersion) and read along with the Bible reading plan based on the book “How to Pray,” by Pete Greig. For the 21-day devotional I posted a word, quote, or Bible verse and used the caption to

convey the gist of the day's message, written for a teen audience, and encouraged participation in the reading plan. The second series was something I've done for a few years now called "AdventWord," a ministry of Forward Movement (a ministry of The Episcopal Church), where each day in Advent there is a different word to reflect on. Some people write poems, some share art or quotes, and I used this opportunity to reflect on each word – sometimes with more to say or less – and encouraged our youth to join in. These two artistic series remain on our Instagram for youth (and others!) to scroll through as a great resource reflecting on prayer and our faith and has made our Instagram presence more robust. Instagram has also been where I've been able to create "Stories" with photos from youth events we've had, and link to other great Christian Instagram accounts, such as Youth Alpha, Hillsong United, etc.

It became apparent in September that meeting in our youth room was not ideal. The space has become a bit worse for wear as the sun has caused paint to peel on the walls and removed built-in cabinetry has left holes in the wall. I began asking on Sundays for help revamping the room so that it could be more welcoming and hospitable for our youth. The requests prompted a connection to a friend of a parishioner who I have been working with for the past couple of months to get a quote for a renovation of our youth room. It is still in the works, but I hope that our youth room can come to visually and physically communicate to youth and their families that they are wanted and welcome here. When plans are more finalized, I intend to bring the youth into the process with update videos and discuss ideas for painting a mural and get them excited to look forward to being together once again.

One of the areas that has been a challenge for me has been recruiting volunteers. With everyone feeling to varying degrees burnt out and disconnected after two long years of COVID, I have begun a short series on the parish blog called Ministry Memos (saintmatts.ca/blog). The weekly posts are about what it means to be present with God, ourselves, and our kids (by "our kids," I mean the youth in our congregation). I hope to cast vision for an emotionally healthy youth ministry, and to recruit folks who aren't perfect and don't have all the answers but emphasize instead having a relationship with Jesus as the primary qualifier. I hope that we can build something on friendship with God and each other and that whatever we do is life-giving, and not a burden for our volunteers or youth. The teens I have made connections with throughout COVID through one-on-one Zoom calls or walks are facing the difficulties of high school with the added challenges of COVID restrictions. Nevertheless, there is interest in youth group, but I can't host a youth group if we don't have volunteers. I encourage you to not decide on your own whether youth ministry is for you but instead to lift it up to God

in prayer. Our conceptions of teens today, or what is required to build a youth ministry from the ground up during/post COVID is truly unknowable – any decisions we make must be done in faith, in partnership with and in response to God. I ask that you seriously pray about whether Jesus is moving you into this wild unknown.

Club Matt

Submitted by Dawn Mercer

Opportunities for children to worship and learn have taken various forms as COVID restrictions have varied over the year. Club Matt began the year as an online 9:30 service with music, stories, and activity packages delivered to families each week (or provided as email attachments). In the Fall, the lifting of some diocesan restrictions encouraged us to try out an “in-person” 9:30 service that picked up the pattern of worship and learning before COVID began. Children were allowed to be in age-appropriate class groups. However, concern about children’s health with the spread of disease in the schools resulted in many families choosing to be at home.

As a way to engage children in retelling the events of Easter we added an Easter Sunday pageant on Zoom with many Club Matt and Messy Church children. Acting as one of the characters was a great way to learn about what Jesus did for us. Some children came later with their parents for drive-through communion and to visit to the empty tomb which was set up in the church parking lot.

In December we continued our tradition of putting on a children’s pageant. Because there were numerous comfort levels, we had children participating online and in person. We were very happy to see 14 families engaging in the Christmas story through both. Our 4pm Christmas Eve family service was another opportunity for families to engage in the Christmas season; the growing COVID numbers due to the Omicron variant meant that the majority of families joined us online for that service, though this was not the only draw as we did see families through all three of our Christmas Eve services.

Two summer gatherings were highlights of the year. A Pizza-in-the-Parking lot event allowed children and families to see each other while following all the health requirements. For many it was their first time seeing Rev. Philip in-person and they really liked that, especially when they were introduced to the new rectory puppy. Another in-person gathering at the Hurn’s pool was a time of great fun and enjoyment in being together.

A recent consultation with parents has led us to understand that, for this time, we need to have Club Matt online with kids engaged in a variety of activities that will include readings, prayers, and speaking about their lives.

When pandemic conditions improve, we will schedule further family consultations. We look forward to regathering celebrations in-person.

Messy Church

Submitted by Dawn Mercer

Wherever Messy Church is found around the world, one of the primary goals is community outreach. It is a way to introduce families to church in this post Christian time. By providing an experience of learning about Jesus and worshiping (or “celebrating” in Messy Church talk) in ways that are relevant and engaging to children and families, many people who do not attend church become interested in learning more. This has been very challenging during COVID.

During Winter and Spring, Messy Church was offered online with materials delivered to families who had preregistered. Interesting and engaging topics successfully attracted children to Zoom but by summer kids were really “Zoomed out.” Some loosening of restrictions by Fall prompted a move to COVID-safe, distanced, in-person events. In spite of very careful planning, the September event, which was focused on making shirts for Orange shirt day, was rained out and we were “driven” into the gym. What a gift the gym has been for Messy Church this Fall. It provides a large area to keep families separate and opening the outside doors offers the ventilation needed to reduce the transmission of COVID.

In October, the emphasis on outreach motivated us to offer an animal-centred Messy Church with a professional animal “petting zoo.” It was our biggest Messy Church ever. Neighbourhood families joined and continue to participate in family-centred activities at St. Matthew’s, including the Christmas pageant.

We are challenged to provide opportunities for fun and engaging events for children and families to be introduced to God’s love for each of them and our world. Hopefully there will be increasing in-person events coming up. Kids are “done with Zoom.”

Regardless of the specific venue, we are committed to providing easy-to-participate Messy Church events that attract our community to learn more about Christ’s love for them.

Family Ministry

Submitted by Dawn Mercer

The ministry team has been intensely aware of the burden that COVID has placed on families trying to be parents, teachers, activity directors, health-care managers, and more 24/7. We have been concerned about the need for support but very concerned for health issues. Prayer, the occasional meal, or walks together are small efforts in the face of such demands.

In addition to the activities described above for Club Matt and Messy Church, a number of support materials have been provided for use at home to facilitate families talking about Jesus together. Resources were provided for Lent and Advent. Over Lent we created a weekly devotional for families that used household objects as mediums for prayer and reflection. During Advent physical and digital copies of a family devotional activities book from Illustrated Ministries called "God with us" were made available.

During COVID we began a junior youth group of "Tween" kids that have "fallen through the cracks" a bit in the past. So far this has consisted of online gatherings with prayer and games. We welcome suggestions for future activities for this group.

Working Group on Inclusion (Believing)

Submitted by Rev. Philip Stonhouse

At last year's vestry, we voted as a parish to make anti-racism work a priority in this church. A working group was formed from a diverse group within the parish and the group's first task was to clarify our immediate goals and priorities, knowing that we couldn't do everything at once. We began this looking-forward process with a number of conversations at a parish level (following Sunday services). In many ways, these were difficult and uncomfortable conversations as we confronted our weaknesses, lack of knowledge on the topic, and our need to do this work together. We recognized that there are always places for us to grow.

Many of the working group's initial priorities revolved around the need for education, self-reflection, and consideration of our particular role as Christians. As such, we began creating and offering opportunities to support these priorities.

Some of the events and work this year included:

- A talking circle where we shared instances of racism seen or experienced
- An informative discussion with a Diocesan leader in Anti-Racism work
- An Indigenous-focused Messy Church

- An engaging and eye-opening presentation and discussion around a video called "Racism in America": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGUwcs9qJXY>
- A Sermon Series on Christian Unity in Difference
- Publishing a list of initial resources for the parish to access

Thank you to all those who prayerfully and meaningfully led and participated in these sessions.

What's next?

We recognize that this is not the work of one year, but that it is something we need to layer into the very life of the church. This year we plan to focus on the theme of reconciliation as it relates to anti-racism and inclusion. As such, we have four events currently being planned for 2022:

1. A Book Discussion on Wab Kinew's book, *The Reason You Walk* (This took place Feb 24th).
2. A Time of reflection (May 29th at noon) as the anniversaries of some significant racially driven events approach. We will discuss what we (individually and as part of the larger community) have experienced in the past year, how that has opened our eyes, and how we have moved forward since then.
3. A Session on Reconciliation (Sept 29th at 7:30 pm), where we look at why reconciliation is an important way forward and how we might practically and faithfully restore trust and relationship.
4. A Question-and-Answer session (Nov 13th at noon), where we invite questions and take polls in advance (anonymously) in order to inform an honest and helpful discussion with the whole St. Matthew's family.

We hope you will join us in these future events and in the continual personal and community work.

Fellowship & Worship (Belonging)

Music Ministry (Belonging)

Submitted by Tyler Versluis

Dear friends in Christ,

Much of 2021 was spent managing and navigating our way through various protocols that placed restrictions on live music and singing. Despite these hardships, our 2021 Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas seasons were full of beautiful and meaningful worship services and music events, thanks to the organization and work of volunteers, the wardens, clergy, and choir.

We spent Easter and Lent 2021 locked down, however the music ministry was kept busy with a handful of projects. We professionally pre-recorded our Easter and Lent anthems, as well as a service of organ music and reflection, "Via Crucis: The Way of The Cross," which was streamed on Zoom and YouTube on Holy Saturday. In addition to this recording, I finally made my first efforts at a virtual choir, using the program Shotcut to piece together video recordings of choir members singing. The choir was able to record two hymns for Easter Sunday virtually, as well as a Pentecost anthem, "Come Holy Ghost."

On June 20th we were able to return to in-person worship, but were still restricted with congregational and choral singing, which limited our activities. In September we welcomed Ruth and Nick Cooper, violinist and oboist/guitarist, who helped us re-launch our contemporary worship band at St. Matthew's. We plan to regroup this band at future Unity Services. The restriction on choral singing was lifted in October, and congregational singing was able to resume for the first week of Advent. In early October I visited Kraków, Poland to attend the Art Forum Festival as a guest composer. During that time, David Simon, organist and musician, filled in for my duties which was gratefully appreciated. On October 20th, Philip and I led a discussion on Jesus Christ Superstar, which discussed the theology inherent in this popular rock opera.

On November 2nd in the evening, we held our first annual All Souls Taizé service, which featured violin and oboe descants by Nick and Ruth Cooper, and singing by the choir. At this point we were still not permitted to sing congregationally, but the service was a time to listen, reflect, and light candles as we remembered the dead and those who had passed from COVID.

With choral activities resuming in October, the choir was able to prepare for our Advent and Christmas services, which included the popular Lessons and Carols service, as well

as our three Christmas Eve services. We also successfully executed our Carols and Crumpets concert fundraiser which raised money for the church and featured guest musicians Emilie Gelinas-Noble (violin) and Leanne Vida (soprano). This concert raised over \$1200 for the church. In development is a future concert fundraiser series at Saint Matthew's, which will happen on March 6th and will feature virtuosic music for piano and organ.

Finally, as we move ahead to Lent and Easter, we look forward to gathering in person for these seasons for the first time in two years. One event worth mentioning is our Tenebrae service, which will happen in the evening of April 12th (Palm Sunday). This service will feature the world premiere of my hymn "Stabat Mater" which I have composed specifically for Saint Matthew's Lenten season.

To support and promote our music events at Saint Matthew's, a website page is being developed, which will eventually showcase recordings and events of the music ministry, and our future concert fundraiser series.

As COVID continues to restrict musical activities and the fine arts in general, I ask that you keep church musicians in your prayers, as well as those involved in the fine arts industry, as the COVID pandemic has been particularly devastating for this sector.

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." J.S. Bach

To God be the glory!

Choir (Belonging)

Submitted by Bruce Gleeson

Music Director Tyler Versluis provides a varied selection of uplifting worship music for our Sunday online services. During Lent this year, Tyler provided several video sequences each week of Lenten music ranging from traditional and devotional to contemporary and idiosyncratic. In April he presented a Lenten Recital of Organ Music, Prayer and Reflection. Since COVID restrictions prevented any choir practice, Tyler provided choir members with tapes of the individual parts of "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today", recorded each choir member's part and then combined these to provide an Easter anthem for our Easter services.

As virus restrictions eased in the Autumn, Tyler was able to recall the choir for practices and was able to organize several services with choir members in church and also prepare for special Advent and Christmas services. The first of these was the November

2nd All Souls Taizé service with guest soloists, oboist, violinist, organist, and choir providing "a beautiful and exquisitely soul-filling evening of music and prayer." On December 12th Tyler moved the choir to the nave for a traditional Lessons and Carols Service with his wife, Erika Sitko, as soloist (Adam Lay Ybounden) and duets by Erika and Tyler, and Philip and Tyler. Our annual Blue Christmas Service was held on December 15th for which Tyler played music to support and encourage those dealing with loss or disappointment at Christmas. On December 19th, with soloist Leanne Vida and violinist Emilie Gelinas-Noble, Tyler presented an afternoon concert of French Baroque Christmas music. In the midst of Christmas preparations and the stresses of the pandemic, this concert provided a much-needed respite in which to absorb the beauty of the music.

Our two early Christmas Eve services offered music for all ages and a more traditional selection of carols. Our final 10:00 p.m. service was a completely candlelit service with all music sung a capella by our four-member choir joined and conducted by Tyler. Being able to hear the blending of the beautiful harmonies of each carol was a uniquely moving experience for singers and listeners alike. In addition to increasing our appreciation, enjoyment, and awareness of how music can enhance our worship, Tyler regularly contributes articles to Matt's Media sharing his thoughts on the challenges and rewards our Christian faith provides.

We are very fortunate to have Tyler practising his music ministry at St. Matthew's.

Chancel Guild (Belonging)

Submitted by Mary Gleeson and Sandra Wilson

This was another year of different routine for our group. We began in shutdown mode, which lasted until the late spring. Other than doing colour changes for the liturgical calendar, refilling the candle cylinders with oil, and occasionally preparing for drive-through communion and flower donations, there was very little activity, and sadly minimal chance to see or meet with our faithful group members.

Although closed for in-person worship on Palm Sunday, palms were distributed from the office door in the form of crosses or as fronds for those who wished to make their own. For Easter, there was a small display of lilies and hydrangeas in the church. Finally, in late spring, on Indigenous Sunday, we were open to worship together once again. We returned to setting up for communion, but with restrictions about numbers in the sacristy. Over the summer, there were a few donations of flowers, and we are grateful to Carlisle Kemp-Jackson for sharing flowers from his garden for the church. Over the summer as well, Richard Farrar donated some fabric which his wife Bridget had stored,

and our talented sewers, Pat Currie and Sandra Wilson, used this to make and to replenish our purificators.

September continued with in-person worship and setting up each week. We were most thankful for the generous donations of produce decorating the church at Thanksgiving, the bulk of which was later donated to the Daily Bread Food Bank. In early November, we placed candles along the window ledges for a special service marking the loss of loved ones so that people could light them in memory of those who had passed. This year we were open for our Advent and Christmas services. Special thanks to all those who donated poinsettias, and to those who assisted, in limited numbers of course, with putting up and taking down all the Christmas decorations. We look forward to being able to work as a group once again in this very special ministry sometime soon.

Lay Anointing (Belonging)

Submitted by Marilyn Friedmann, Bob Holloway, Deborah Hurn, Nancy Hurn, Rev. Gail Marshall, Ann Sim, Dorothy Sproule

Anointing is an ancient practice of Christian worship, and the Ministry of Anointing has been available at St. Matthew's since February 10, 2014. Due to the restrictions required to avoid exposure and minimize personal contact, the Ministry is presently inactive.

The Lay Anointers, along with our clergy and all of our faith family eagerly look forward to resumption of the Eucharist with all of the elements and return to anointing and prayer with our worshipers.

Lectors (Belonging)

Submitted by Bruce Gleeson

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers whose expressive readings of scripture in person or online enhances our worship. Their willingness to adapt to the limiting demands of the pandemic is greatly appreciated as are the efforts of our technical team who make this participation possible.

Partners in Prayer (Belonging)

Submitted by Bob Holloway

The Partners in Prayer Ministry has continued to support the members of the Faith Family of St. Matthew's, their families, friends, neighbours, and others known to us, who may be in need of comfort and to know they are not alone throughout the pandemic.

The Partners believe strongly in the power of prayer. We are closely tied together by belief and purpose but loosely knit by physical distance. We are present, and some former, parishioners and one former employee. Some are close by while others a long way west or a very long way east in another continent. Each and every one receives the request almost simultaneously.

A person for whom we are asked to pray sometimes may desire not to reveal personal information and the request will provide only first names, initials, pseudonyms etc. Requests are confidential and shared only with the Partners, but names only may be included in the Prayers of the People during worship services, in person or online.

This is not a closed group, and we are always happy to welcome anyone who wishes to pray with us. The only requirement is that communication and participation can be maintained electronically. To be added to our distribution list or to get answers to any questions you might have, I can be reached at 416 253 4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca.

Hospitality (Belonging)

Submitted by Jean Tovey and Jeff Wright

Hospitality is an important part of our St. Matthew's community. Traditionally we help at special events such as St. Matthew's day and Vestry and provide coffee and refreshments throughout the year after Wednesday and Sunday services. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this ministry was inactive throughout 2021.

Matt's Media (Belonging)

Submitted by Kathie Oakden

Matt's Media is the parish newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington. In 2021 our customary four issues were published: Lent/Easter (February 14), Pentecost (May 23), Thanksgiving (October 10) and Advent/Christmas (November 28). Matt's Media reports on Parish activities and upcoming Worship Services and Events.

Electronic copies (PDF file) were distributed by email to all parishioners whose email address is on file at the church office. (Please update your email address when it changes.) Paper copies (a full-colour booklet, 8.5x11") were available in the Narthex when the church was open for worship, and by arrangement with the office when the church was closed due to COVID-19 regulations. Paper copies were mailed or delivered to parishioners who are supported by Friends for Friends. Anyone can request a paper copy by phoning the office.

We continue to be grateful for the creativity, dedication and skills of Lisa Tait, our Parish Administrator, who typesets and produces Matt's Media using Microsoft Publisher. Thank you.

Stewardship (Belonging)

Submitted by Karen Lee

Despite the ups and downs of 2021 in dealing with COVID-19, its restrictions and maintaining protocols, St. Matthew's Ministries have continued to thrive. We are grateful to the many volunteers who have contributed their time and talent in so many ways. Thank you.

In March 2021, the annual Stewardship package was forwarded to the Parish. The Preauthorized Remittance program (also known as PAG) continues to assist greatly in helping with the management of our cash flow and keeping our accounts current.

Once again in 2021, due to COVID-19, we were unable to host the Ministry Fair, as has been done in past years.

As outlined in our Strategic Plan, the Stewardship team continued to support the work of the Welcome Team.

Outreach (Behaving)

Community Outreach (Behaving)

Submitted by Nancy Hurn

Members of St Matthew's involved in outreach work were involved in a number of valuable projects over the past year despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic. This difficult time led to an increase in need from the homeless community for warm clothing and warm food as many of the shelters were closed and many of the food sources became unavailable with the lockdowns. The Soup's On Program offered by St. Matthew's ran for more than a year, culminating in May 2021. The Unity Kitchen Toronto at Holy Trinity Church near the Eaton Centre received financial support which meant they could hire summer staff to assist with the hot meals offered each day. The need for the St. Matthew's program was reduced from one day a week and appreciation was extended by the coordinators through a Zoom visit and discussion of future potential initiatives where we could be involved. We offered a number of opportunities to donate clothing, tents, tarps, and coats contributed by our St. Matthew's members

and friends. We also purchased 20 new sleeping bags during a cold spell earlier in the year.

During the early period of COVID, Pat Currie made numerous cloth face masks for adults and children. Nesta Burgess, Lois Armstrong, and Mary Wallace knitted baby toques for the Indigenous community at Whitedog, Ontario. Bea Wright donated many handmade baby blankets which were also sent north.

During the fall of 2021, two requests were received from the Unity Kitchen Toronto and the Toronto Urban Native Ministry to assist with their Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts. The request was well responded to by the lovely bakers of St. Matthew's and many dozens of homemade cookies were provided for both feasts and gratefully received. As has been our practice for the past three to four years, we delivered 150 Christmas packages for the attendees of the Christmas lunch on Dec 17, 2021 at Holy Trinity. The parcels consisted of gingerbread men decorated by the Messy Church Children, Tim Horton gift cards, gloves, socks, combs, toothpaste, toothbrush, Kleenex, and chocolate. Through Ted Hampton, the Out of the Cold program provided part of these items as well as donations from parishioners.

We are very grateful to the many people who helped prepare the food, donated and assisted with the clothing drives, baked, shopped, and knitted, and also thought and prayed about the many people on the streets of Toronto needing the support of St. Matthew's.

Out of the Cold (Behaving)

Submitted by William Hampton

In light of current events, we once again did not have the opportunity to host our guests at the church as we have in previous years. The City of Toronto strongly recommended that we not open for overnight or sit-down meal service due to difficulties in maintaining rigorous public health standards. Additionally, all funding to the Out of the Cold program at all locations has been cut and redirected to city shelters that are staffed by unionized employees and can conform to safety standards. We pray that this too shall pass, however in the meantime we have restructured and found new ways to serve our guests.

We have partnered with pre-existing programs or new programs that are able to provide the comforts our guests enjoyed at St Matthew's. We aim to bolster these programs, some overnight and some drop in, with supplies, food, and volunteers. The programs we are supporting are the St. Felix Center and Holy Trinity/TUNM ministries,

all downtown. We are delivering new and used clothing as well as food and supplies as requested. Please continue your generous donations and we will make sure that they get into the hands of those that need them during these unprecedented times.

We also worked with members of the parish to provide Christmas packages from our stores. These were delivered directly to the front lines. If anyone has clothing items or funds they would like to contribute, please call Ted to arrange for a drop off time.

We thank you for the continued use of the facility and hope to reboot next year.

Food Cupboard (Behaving)

Submitted by Sally and Noel Martin

Thanks to the generosity of several parishioners, we were able to fill a dozen or more bags of provisions. Prior to the pandemic, Lisa, our church secretary, distributed these bags at the side door on Wednesday afternoons. It was found that in the last several years, this offering was rarely used. During the pandemic, Lisa donated 'soon to expire' foods to the local firehall for distribution to food banks. When churches reopen on a regular basis, we hope to coordinate our efforts with other churches in the area, possibly Christ the King on Rathburn, St. James on Burnhamthorpe, or Humber Bay food bank, to help meet the needs of the community. We hope to resume offering food bags at our Church door on Wednesdays as before, perhaps with a notice on our sign. However, we will look to coordinate our food cupboard with other food banks.

Thank you to volunteers Lianne, Dorothy, and Pat who have kindly offered to help in this distribution.

Pastoral Care (Behaving)

Submitted by Mary Gleeson

As in 2020, 2021 presented challenges and limitations on the customary Pastoral Care carried out by the clergy and lay visitors. While there were a few communion visits, the phone calls to those at home alone, in nursing homes, or seniors' residences were the mainstay of our communication process. Our card coordinator continued to send out the usual Christmas, Easter, Thinking of You, and Get-Well cards. Each week, Cycle of Prayer cards were sent to those prayed for during the regular church services. In the fall, a generous donor dropped off vases of flowers which we were able to drop off to some parishioners who are unable to make it to church. The prayer shawls continue to be knitted and distributed to those going through trying periods in their lives. While we were still unable to do personal visits at Christmas, another generous donor put

together 25 gift bags, along with cookies baked by parishioners, which were dropped off by several willing volunteers who generously gave their time to contribute to this important ministry. We are grateful for our clergy, and to all who assist in any way to maintain contact and to reach out to those in need.

Welcoming Team (Behaving)

Submitted by Deborah Hurn

The work of this team is to provide a Welcoming Ministry to new parishioners and visitors, and Pastoral Care to our current community. In many ways, the two overlap. The committee work that has been accomplished is of value to many.

This team meets every other month to review how parishioners, or 'friends of St. Matthew's' are coping via a phone call. They may be experiencing illness, death of a loved one, isolation due to COVID, or hospitalization. Our goal is to see if they have any needs that we could help with, remind them of the caring of the St. Matthew's community, and to pray with them or for them to know that God will always be with them. At this time our visits are limited to the telephone until the Diocese lifts the restriction on home visits. When the restriction is lifted, along with Rev. Philip, we will take the opportunity to review the practice of home visits, home Communion, and pastoral support for our parish.

This team has been responsible for welcoming everyone as they arrive for Service when we meet in person. The tracking record is completed as required and contact information is gathered on new members and visitors. This has been a great opportunity to connect with everyone each week. Visitors are given the Newcomers Package as a concrete way to find out more about who we are and what we do. The team has been involved in cookie making for Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM) for their Fall and Winter Feasts, phone calls to many, making soup for the Christmas Market, and distributing a Dairy Queen gift card last June to all students encouraging them to hang in there for a few more weeks until summer vacation.

Our future plans include a new program called Beyond Soup...watch for details. We would like to ensure we have representation from all Services. We are hoping that one day, we will have the people on our Team to support and contact everyone in the Parish on a regular basis as we live out Sharing Jesus' Love!

The team members are Barb Landry, Ann Sim, Kathie Oakden, Lianne Thompson, Sally Martin, Mary Gleeson, Florence Thompson, Pat Currie, Karen Lee, Dawn Mercer, Rev. Merv Mercer, Rev. Philip Stonhouse, and Deborah Hurn.

Nominations

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"*. Matthew 9:37-38

Below please find the list of names for those in the parish that have so generously committed to share their gifts over the coming year.

Parish-elected Nominees:

People's Warden:	Stuart Watt
Deputy People's Warden:	Marguerite Locke
Lay Delegates to Synod:	David Oakden; Nancy Hurn
Alternate Lay Delegate to Synod:	Deborah Hurn
Stewardship:	Karen Lee
Envelope Secretary	Noel Martin
Assistant Envelope Secretary:	Mary Gleeson
Nominating Committee Chair:	Barb Landry
Scrutineers / Parish Tribunal:	Nancy Hurn; Barb Landry

Rector's Appointments:

If anyone is interested in helping with any position please let Rev. Philip know

Rector's Warden:	Karen Lee
Deputy Rector's Warden:	Sharon Shao
Club Matt Representatives:	TBD
Messy Church Representative:	TBD
Sidespersons:	Ron Landry
Hospitality Chairs:	Jean Tovey; Jeff Wright
Pastoral Care Representative:	Deborah Hurn
Communications:	TBD

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

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Service Times

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Book of Common Prayer (2nd Sunday of each month)

Sunday 9:30 a.m. "All Ages"

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Book of Alternative Services

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. Book of Common Prayer

Messy Church 4:00 p.m. last Saturday of the month

