

THANKSGIVING 2022

# Matt's Media



The Newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

Published October 14, 2022

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## Life May Seem Easier Without, but is Far Greater for Having Relationship

*Rev. Philip Stonhouse*

Mary Anne and I recently went through a scary experience with our little dog, Layla. This started after discovering that she had found, opened, and consumed an unknown number of iron pills. We were immediately alarmed as iron can be quite poisonous and potentially fatal for dogs. We caught her soon after consumption and made her throw up within the hour, spoke with numerous veterinarians, consulted poison control, waited on tests and faced numerous decisions, but I will save you from the nitty-gritty details.

For a period of time, Layla was under 24-hour observation at an animal hospital. After a stressful and harrowing night waiting on information from the emergency veterinarians in the waiting area, I remember coming home sometime around midnight exhausted and trying to process everything in my mind. In my exhaustion, I suddenly had this realization: "Well at least you don't have to take Layla out for a walk tonight." I understand in hindsight that this thought sounds quite cruel, but to my tired self, I thought this would be a welcome relief. The interesting reality is that it was not a relief. As much as I knew this could mean going to sleep 15-30 minutes earlier and not needing to wake up early for a morning walk, my heart, mind, and tired body did not care. I understood that life would be easier without Layla, but I did not want life to be easier if it meant being without her, even for just one night or two.

I began to realize that this is the exact same feeling we should have for one another and ultimately for everyone in this world. Layla is completely fine now, but it is sad that it often takes sickness or death to remind us of the value and joy that we bring to one another, despite potential inconveniences or difficulties that relationships may bring. A dog does add to our lives in some special ways, but as humans we are called to build each other up to an even greater extent.

Relationships are not always easy. They demand something of us. Sometimes it is something that we already want, but if we are really close to one another a relationship will place demands on our time, energy, money, and lives, even when we aren't willing to give it or when we don't seem to have anything to spare. Yet, as much as this is true, relationships also add to our lives, and, the more intimate and self-giving the better.

*...From the Pastor continued*

## From the Pastor *(continued)*

If we really think about it, this is the only way we have ever come to be. How would a newborn baby ever survive without someone willing to give of themselves in an intimate and sacrificial way? Giving and self-sacrifice is the DNA that is built into our very creation, and it is these types of mutually self-sacrificial relationships that make our lives richer.

The same concept is reflected in the Gospel. Therein we see many people who think it is a lot easier to live without God, especially without Him as their Lord, because they don't want Him dictating how they should live. We read about others who think it is easier to reject God as their Saviour, because accepting Him would require admitting they were wrong, and that they need someone else. Yet God knows that we need a relationship with Him. God knows that it is through an intimate relationship with Him that our lives can become worthwhile, meaningful, and great. Sometimes external things or even ourselves alone convince us that it is easier to live without God, but in reality, this isn't true. Even if that were the case, we shouldn't want life to be easier because our lives are far greater for having God with us and for being part of this church where we can build each other up.

This year we have an abundance of ways for you to grow in your relationship with God and one another, and I believe there is something for everyone. There are two things in particular that I want you to think strongly about joining:

1. **The Advent Bible Study:** We will be watching and discussing the first five episodes from the TV show, *The Chosen*. This starts on **November 8** with a panel discussion on the first episode. For the four weeks following we will have a series of Bible studies centered around episodes of *The Chosen*.
2. **Questions of Faith:** This Christian Foundations course begins **January 15** and runs for a series of sessions. Stay tuned for further announcements and updates on our website for more details.

My hope is that we can all grow together as a community of faith while continuing to strengthen our relationships with each other and with God.

God bless you all.

Your brother in Christ,  
Rev. Philip Stonhouse



## Wardens' Report

*Karen Lee, Stuart Watt, Marguerite Locke, and Sharon Shao*

Welcome Fall! As we write this Thanksgiving message, our hearts are full of thanks to God for our St. Matthew's family, and our many blessings. We especially want to welcome our newcomers and our parishioners who have returned post pandemic.

September has been a busy time in the parish. Our Club Matt, Messy Church, and Youth Group teams have spent many hours preparing the meeting rooms and programs in anticipation of our returning young folk. Thank you so much!

On September 11th, our Music Director and Pianist, Tyler Versluis, along with Damien Macedo, Organist, delighted us with a recital of Handel's "Fireworks" music followed by a reception. Our heartfelt thanks go to Tyler and Damien for a great performance and to the volunteers who hosted the reception.

On September 18th, following our St. Matthew's Day worship service, we enjoyed a barbeque lunch thanks to our barbeque chef, Jim Currie, and a team of helpers.

Rev. Philip led a conversation on 'The Power of Invitation' on the evening of September 21st. If you missed it, it can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).

We are very pleased to report that the goal of \$25,000 for the Audio/Visual system upgrade has been reached. To date we have upgraded the sound board and microphones. More upgrades will be done. Stay tuned for progress reports. Many thanks for all the financial contributions and to the Tech team for their time and talent in this important ministry.

In person Coffee Hours have resumed following the Sunday 9:30 and 11:00 am services. All are welcome. If you would like to host any coffee hour, please contact our Parish Administrator, Lisa Tait, either by the church office phone number or email. Volunteers are most welcome!

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of September 30, 2022.

Comparative Income Statement (Operating Fund)			
	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Income	\$195,138	193,028	218,017
Expenses	\$217,854	208,429	226,433
Net Income	\$ (22,716)	(15,401)	(8,362)

The Thanksgiving Offering this year will be directed toward offsetting the current deficit. Thank you for your continued financial support.

As always, we give thanks to God for God's continued provision and care for St. Matthew's. Blessings to you all.

## Honouring Queen Elizabeth II

On September 19 at 9:00 a.m., Rev. Philip rang St. Matthew's church bell 70 times to honour Queen Elizabeth, in keeping with the Anglican Church tradition of ringing bells on the occasion of a funeral. Thank you, Rev. Philip, for doing this.

## St. Matthew's Ministry in Etobicoke is 75 years old in 2023

*Such a significant anniversary calls for a party, I am sure you agree.  
So, how would YOU suggest we honour St. Matthew's Birthday?*

The Warden Team is seeking volunteers to brainstorm for ideas about a few special events that could mark this anniversary.

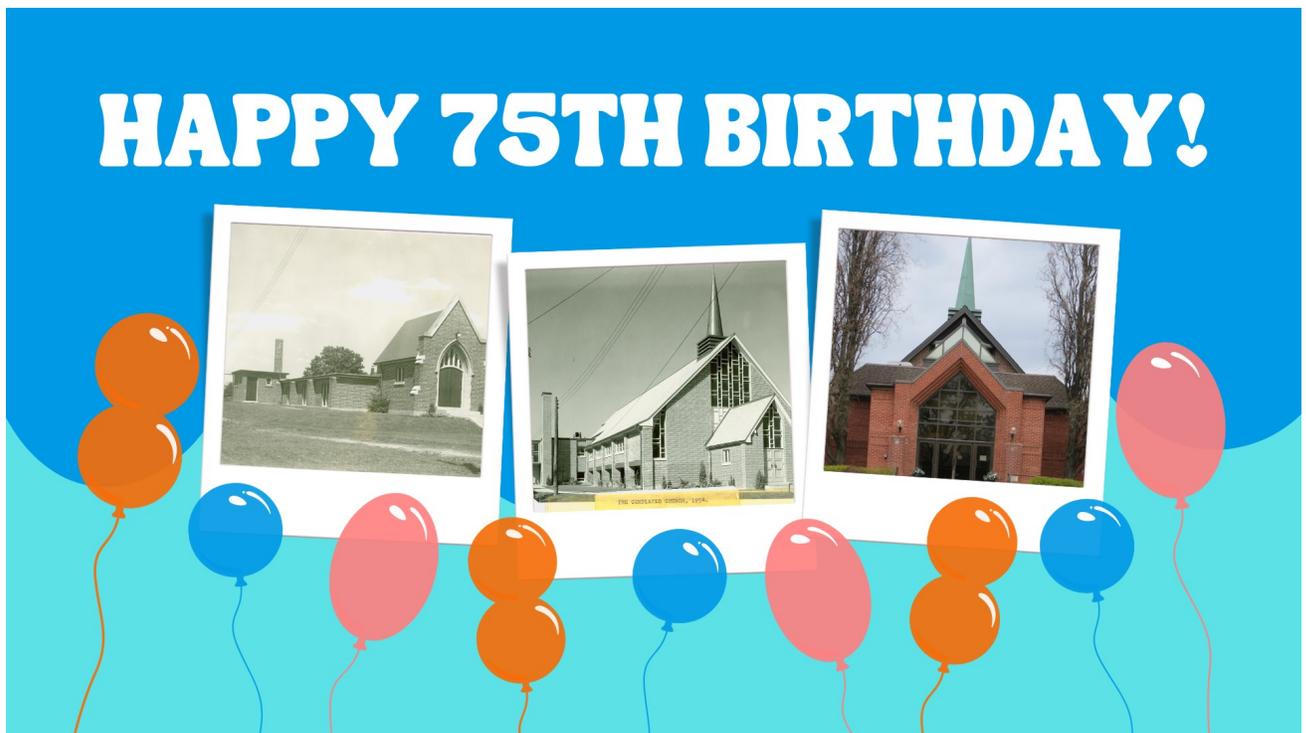
We invite all members of ALL AGES, (newcomers are particularly encouraged to participate) to contribute ideas and we will form a committee to make some plans.

This "shout out" is not intended to place an onerous workload on any volunteer. But rather to gather a team to consider ideas, then implement them over the course of the year as deemed appropriate.

Some suggestions include: Bishop's visit, concerts, special testimonials, a film night, a chili cook-off, a talent auction, a 30-hour famine (prior to Palm Sunday), a fun fair for the community and ...???

Please consider helping on this special team. Contact Marguerite Locke at [mdlocke@hotmail.com](mailto:mdlocke@hotmail.com) or call the church office and leave a message that you would like to participate.

Our hope is to facilitate a brainstorming session during the week of **October 24**.



## Bloggers Wanted

We're always looking for contributors to our parish blog. Not sure what to write? Take inspiration from existing [blog posts](#), share your faith journey, review a Christian book or film... the possibilities are endless. If you have ideas but don't love to write, we're happy to help. Bring your ideas to Rev. Philip or email the office.

## What's Happening

### Weekly Worship and Hospitality

Wednesday BCP service in person at 10:30 a.m. (and posted to [St. Matthew's YouTube channel](#)).

Sunday Services in person & online at 9:30 a.m. (all ages) and 11:00 a.m. (BAS or BCP) except for Unity services as mentioned below.

Coffee Hour in person and online following the 11:00 a.m. service. Sign up in the Narthex to provide light refreshments. Thanks to Jean and Jeff Wright, who make the coffee.

### Photo Booth

If you still need your photo taken for our 75th anniversary book, please see Blessington before or after worship.

**Choir** has resumed: rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., singing on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and special services. All are welcome to join.

**Blessing of the Animals** October 16 at 2:00 p.m.

In the parking lot weather permitting, otherwise in the gym.

**Alpha Marriage Course** begins October 17

Five-week course at the Hurn residence. Contact Rev. Philip to participate.

**Stratford Trip to 1939** October 19. Contact Deborah Hurn or the office.

**Anti-racism event—reconciliation** October 23 at 12:30 p.m.

**Messy Church** October 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Our theme is Grateful Hearts. See page 12 for more dates.

**All Souls Service** November 2 at 7:00 p.m.

In person and online. Please see page 15 for details.

***The Chosen*** November 8 at 7:00 p.m.

A viewing of episode one of the TV series, *The Chosen*. Other episodes will be part of our Advent Bible Study, beginning November 15.

**Men's Breakfast** November 5

Location to be determined. Contact Dave Oakden ([dave.oakden@gmail.com](mailto:dave.oakden@gmail.com)) for details.

**Ministry Sunday and Unity Service** November 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Explore St. Matthew's many ministries and join us for a meal. See page 10.

**Advent Bible Study** November 15 to December 6

Join us as we explore *The Chosen*.

**Messy Church (Advent)** November 26 at 4:00 p.m.

**Testimonials** November 27

Join us for the first Sunday in Advent as we begin to hear testimonials from our St. Matthew's family.

## Fireworks Music Concert

*Musical Moments at St. Matthew's* presented this concert featuring Damien Macedo on organ and Tyler Versluis on piano on Sunday afternoon, September 11, followed by a reception.

*Overture and "La Réjouissance"* from Music For The Royal Fireworks, G. F. Handel

*Variation IX "Nimrod"* from Enigma Variations, Richard Elgar

*Two Melodies*, Tyler Versluis

*Bourrée and Minuet* from Music For The Royal Fireworks, G. F. Handel

*Improvisation on JERUSALEM (Parry)* by Damien Macedo

*Improvisation on VENI, VENI EMMANUEL* by Tyler Versluis

*Duet Suite* by Denis Bédard

**Damien Macedo** is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and an accomplished countertenor. He is the recipient of three national organ scholarships—the Lillian Forsyth scholarship (2017), the Walter MacNutt scholarship (2019) and the John Goss Memorial Scholarship (2022)—and has been awarded the RCCO's Willan Prize, Heather Spry Prize, Doreen Porter Prize, and Wayne C. Vance Prize for his exceptional results in 2022 college examinations. Damien has held numerous church music positions as both an organist and singer in Canada and internationally, including at St. John the Baptist, Norway Anglican (Toronto), Dormition Abbey (Jerusalem), and Wells Cathedral (UK).

In addition to his accomplishments in music, Damien is a scholar of international tax law and recently earned his Master of Laws from the University of Toronto. He will begin his PhD in Law at the University of Cambridge this fall, exploring the taxation of private space launches and orbital commerce. During this time, Damien will sing as a choral scholar in the award-winning Trinity College Chapel Choir under the direction of Stephen Layton, and study organ with Nigel Kerry at Our Lady & English Martyrs Catholic Church, Cambridge.

**Tyler Versluis** is an Ontario-based composer, performer and conductor. His music has been commissioned and performed by a growing list of Canadian ensembles and organizations. His music is also performed internationally, with premières and repeat performances in the USA, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Czechia, Slovakia and Lithuania.

Tyler is an alumnus of a number of prestigious workshops and festivals in Canada, the United States, and Lithuania. In 2021 he was the guest composer at the Arts Forum Festival in Kraków. His chamber composition "Quintet" will be released on the album "Accosphere" by Polish record label DUX in 2022.

In addition to his composition and performance career, Tyler has worked as a liturgical musician since 2008, and works as a mentor specializing in music creation and theory. In 2021 he co-founded the VIVA! Singers Creation Workshop with Laura Menard, which introduces young people to the world of composition, music programming and songwriting. Since 2020, he is the Programming Director of the Canadian Composers Orchestra, which currently produces high-quality digital content of Canadian classical compositions, including video performances, score-videos and educational content.

Tyler holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto. Originally from St. Catharines, he now lives and works in Toronto.

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington presents

# Musical Moments at St. Matthew's Concert Series

Tyler Versluis, artistic director

## **FIREWORKS MUSIC**

**Sunday, September 11, 2022, 2 PM**

Scintillating works for piano and organ.

Damien Macedo, organ and Tyler Versluis, piano.

## **SONGS FOR OUR LORD AND LADY**

**Sunday, January 22, 2023, 2 PM**

Devotional songs from the musical ages by Grandi, Chaminade, Scelsi, Holst and Gorecki.

Leanne Vida and Cynthia Smithers, guest singers.

## **ASHES: A LENTEN RECITAL**

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, 2 PM**

A recital of instrumental music revolving around

T.S. Eliot's emblematic conversion poem, Ash Wednesday.

## **FROM THE SOUTHERN HARMONY SONGBOOK**

**Sunday, June 4, 2023, 2 PM**

Folk spirituals in an atmospheric coffeehouse setting.

Ticket entry includes drinks and snacks.

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All concerts Pay What You Can (\$20 suggested)

3962 Bloor Street West

saintmatts.ca office@saintmatts.ca 416.231.4014

*Series presented in loving memory of Sally Martin*

## Your Guide to the *Book of Common Prayer*

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

One Sunday each month, St. Matthew's 11:00 a.m. worship will use the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP, "the Prayer Book") rather than the *Book of Alternative Services* (BAS). For those who are less familiar with its service, we have created a brief guide to the BCP.

### Why the BCP?

You may not be familiar with the *Book of Common Prayer* or its language, but it takes only a few moments to realize that the language is beautiful in its rhythm and poetry. It uses this poetry to teach us immense and beautiful truths. The rhythmic prayers of the BCP, like many songs, take root in your heart.

The BCP is a form of worship that is almost completely prayer and scripture, and so it has a way of inviting us into a whole new world and reality – one in which we are meant to live. It can and has been very formative for many people in their relationship with God.

### Following Along (for easy reference: the differences between the BCP and BAS are in bold)

Like the *Book of Alternative Services*, the BCP includes the essentials of our faith and is defined by three parts: the liturgy of the Word, the liturgy of Prayer, and the liturgy of Communion.

I invite you to write the opening Collect on your hearts, for it is deeply meaningful and can bring profound peace. It is found on page 67 of the prayer book.

*Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.*

1. The liturgy of the Word begins with the Opening Prayer (page 67), then moves on to the **Statement of the Law**, followed by three Scripture Readings, the Sermon, and the Creed. The statement of the law (which does not appear in the BAS) becomes an important reminder that we live under the law of God.
2. The liturgy of Prayer comprises the Prayer, the Confession, and the Offertory.
3. Finally, the liturgy of Communion includes **Words of Comfort**, the Eucharistic Prayer, The Peace, the **Prayer of Humble Access**, Communion Administration, the Lord's Prayer, the **Prayer after Communion**, and the Blessing. This section has the greatest difference from the BAS service and is couched with humility and a need for God. In its words and actions, Communion tells a story, affecting us in a physical way with the very truth of the gospel.

### A Brief History

The *Book of Common Prayer* has an interesting origin. It may have come to light during the Reformation, but it was in the process of creation long before England departed from the Roman Catholic Church and came from a desire to make the liturgy accessible in the language of the people while also being grounded in Scripture, prayer, early forms of worship, and as a tool to form in people faith and devotion. Both Henry VIII and Archbishop Cranmer (its major contributor) had a strong desire to remain close to both the Roman Catholic Church and the churches of the Reformation.

...continued

## Your Guide to the *Book of Common Prayer* (continued)

Thus, the *Book of Common Prayer* walks a fine line in trying to balance a diversity of perspectives while maintaining an orthodox and sacramental understanding of the church and its practices. You can see within it the ‘Anglican three-legged stool: that our faith is founded and rests on three legs’- Scripture, tradition, and experience (or wisdom). The Worldwide Anglican Church, as a whole, has never really had a collection of theological statements of what we believe because, ultimately for many, our theology was portrayed in the *Book of Common Prayer* and in its living out.

“Along with *the King James Bible* and the greatest works of English literature, the Prayer Book has been central in shaping the culture and thought of the English-speaking world.” (<https://prayerbook.ca/home/about-the-prayer-book/>)

As a text that was written and compiled over multiple periods, kings, queens, archbishops, and generations, the BCP also has a profound theology and way of gathering and uniting people across numerous countries and times and is still the predominant form of worship for Anglicans across the world. It wasn’t until 1985 that the Canadian Anglican church had another form of worship as they developed the *Book of Alternative Services*, which tried to bring some unity of practice with the United Church. Interesting fact: when the Catholic Church went through its liturgical revival, the result was that its worship shifted closer to the *Book of Common Prayer*.

## St. Matthew’s Day Unity Worship Service & BBQ

On September 18, St. Matthew’s worshipped together at 10:30 a.m., sang with our worship band, and gathered later in the gym for delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and desserts. Thanks to our Barbecue Chef, Jim Currie, and many helpers who provided us with a perfect opportunity to get acquainted and re-acquainted with new parishioners, and familiar parishioners, long separated by COVID isolation.

At our Photo Booth in the lounge (alias the parlour), Blessington Velagapalli took individual and family portraits for the upcoming 75th Anniversary Photo Directory. Missed it? Blessington will be happy to take your photo most Sundays, whenever he is at the service. See page 5.



## The Food Cupboard

Noel Martin

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our food cupboard was either closed or operating in a very limited way. During 2022, there have been very few clients and only two repeat families.

Your generous donations are appreciated, but we feel they have not been put to best use recently. To remedy this, we have offered to join forces with St. James United Church on Burnhamthorpe Road, which operates a large “Food Basket” program that helps needy individuals and families in the Central Etobicoke area. It is already in partnership with several local churches.

We propose to continue to collect your donations and transfer them to St. James as needed, making sure they are put to best use. We trust that this change will be amenable to everyone and that you will continue to help provide for those struggling with food insecurity in our area.

The shelves are currently showing some bare spots and we would like to restock some tuna, peanut butter, hearty soups/stews, vegetables, corned beef and pasta sauce. We would appreciate any help you could give in keeping a small stock of necessities on hand.

## Ministry Fair: Save the Date!

On Sunday, November 20 following our Unity Worship service we will be hosting our Ministry Fair where you will have an opportunity to meet the folks who lead our various ministries and learn more about them. A light lunch will be provided. We hope to see you there.



### WHAT MINISTRY IS CALLING YOU?

*Share your talents, find new interests, and serve your St. Matthew's community*

**Learn more at St. Matthew's Ministry Fair  
November 20**



*Q. The ark was built in 3 stories, and the top story had a window to let light in, but how did they get light to the bottom 2 stories?*

*A. They used floodlights.*

## Even Blood is What it is: Hermann Nitsch and Sacrifice *Tyler Versluis*

This year the Austrian visual artist Hermann Nitsch died, aged 83. He rose to prominence amongst a movement in Viennese art that promoted experimentalism, multidisciplinary collaboration and controversial displays in the conservative cultural landscape of post-war Austria. Nitsch's approach to art was provocative: it involved massive white canvases, blood and entrails (mainly from farm animals), and cloth bandages. Religion was a prominent focus in Nitsch's work, as his creations drew on the vast history of Christian art, spectacle and ritual. In the 1960s Nitsch's work became multidisciplinary, involving participants who danced, slaughtered animals, smeared blood, and made music together, often at a castle that Nitsch purchased specifically for the activities. These multimedia events sometimes lasted days, and participants would commune together over sumptuous feasts prepared by Nitsch.

When I first encountered Nitsch's work I dismissed it, lumping it in with a vast swath of pretentious performance art practices that flourished in the 60s and 70s in Europe and North America. However, I recently returned to Nitsch's work when I realized how steeped in religiosity Nitsch's work can be. He teased with the concepts of sacrifice, ritual, and the body, often to shocking proportions. But Nitsch was adamant that his goal was not to shock—rather, it was to get people to feel intensely, to embrace the mystical, carnal, and eternal.

Are we aware of those who have sacrificed for us? Not only Jesus Christ, but the previous generations who fought, lived and died in order to secure a better living for the next generation. Animals don't willingly "sacrifice" themselves for us, but imagine the intensity of that reality if we had to witness the slaughter of every animal before we ate it.

The sacrifice of the body does not end there. A woman sacrifices her body in some sense to give birth to a child, to nurse and care for it until the child is strong enough to depart from the woman's nurturing. Traditionally, men sacrificed their bodies through heavy and dangerous labour in order to provide for their families.

As modern, progressive societies yield more conveniences, our witness to sacrifice declines. As the last veterans of World War II pass away, we grow ignorant of their commitments to freedom and virtue. As people increasingly shun the roles of marriage and child-rearing, they lose the gift of sacrifice of being a parent. And finally, as Christianity continues to wane in the West, we lose the appreciation of that ultimate Sacrifice, as the Son of God gave up His own body to provide an undeserving race with eternal spiritual sustenance. We also lose the witness of sacrifice of those who dedicate themselves to God's work: priests, artists, monastics, theologians and teachers.

Sacrifice is always at the centre of religion, and is ultimately at the centre of goodness. This is why goodness cannot be manufactured or enforced, as governments and secular authorities attempt to do with little success. This is because the government cannot love radically, in a way that a parent loves their child, or a shepherd loves their sheep.

"Good is a product of the ethical and spiritual artistry of individuals; it cannot be mass-produced."  
*Aldous Huxley, Grey Eminence: A Study in Religion and Politics (1941)*

So how do we step out of this numb reality, and intensely feel the love that springs only from sacrifice? We have to witness it again. Whether it is in front of the altar, in the role of parenthood or out of radical love for another human being or vocation. The alternative is a life of boredom where we take no risks and live for ourselves only.

So what was Nitsch doing when he smeared blood on a white canvas for the first time? Gently reminding us of all that is bound by sacrifice and redemption, and how we must imitate it to proliferate goodness in the world.

## Messy Church

*Linda Dickson*

Messy Church is BACK with the FULL PROGRAM and looking forward to seeing you for dinner, too. Since COVID-19 began we have successfully held Messy Church events online, outdoors, and indoors without food being served. Some events included planting the garden beside the gym doors, and a bush along the driveway in memory of Sally Martin who volunteered at Messy Church. We also joined with the Youth and Club Matt for a pizza party in the parking lot and a pool party hosted by Deborah & Nancy Hurn.

Now, we are very happy to present a full Messy Church program complete with indoor and outdoor activities and a meal. September 24 was our kick off Messy Church. Its theme was: Indigenous – Every Child Matters.



Please join us for fun, fellowship, crafts and a meal. Feel free to come as a participant or as a helper.

Our next Messy Church is on October 29, 2022, 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the gym. Bring your friends, neighbours, and family.

Our team is busy planning 2022 - 2023 events. We are looking for additional people. Come on board either to join our planning team or be available to assist at the event. Please contact Linda Dickson, Rev. Philip, or the office if you'd like to join the team.



**Messy Church**

**Saturdays at 4:00**

<b>September 24</b>	<b>February 25</b>
<b>October 29</b>	<b>March 25</b>
<b>November 26</b>	<b>April 29</b>
<b>January 28</b>	<b>May 29</b>

**FUN \* ACTIVITIES \* FOOD \* FAITH**

**Program free of charge**

## Children and Youth Programs

*Lianne Thompson & Rev. Philip Stonhouse*

The Summer season had us looking for moments and opportunities to welcome our children, youth and families back together, resulting in real moments of joy. Our *Pizza in the Parking Lot* event was just the ticket – 65 people attended, including 35 children and youth. Time together to play in water and sunshine, listen to music, throw a basketball with Rev. Philip, and eat as a community was wonderful. The summer wrapped up with a fun pool party and BBQ at the Hurn household and then we turned our eyes toward the Fall.



## Renovating our spaces

Having been absent from our physical spaces in the church for more than two years, there was not only a lot of organizing and purging of materials to do, but also the need to actually clean, renovate and improve the rooms for Youth, the Club Matt Junior and Senior groups, and the Nursery.

We updated the Youth room during the Winter, and in August, completed the remaining work on the other rooms. Cleaning, paint, kid-friendly wall murals and art, plus easy access to materials has made all the rooms welcoming and comfortable. Many thanks to the Wardens for their support, and to Dawn, Linda, Emily, and Tom for dedicating their talents to this big project!

Check out some of the ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos.



## Children and Youth Programs (continued)

### Club Matt

This summer, the nine-week *Fruit of the Spirit* program welcomed 8 – 10 children every week. Online packages of lessons, crafts, and activities tied to the weekly “FRUIT” allowed families at home or away on vacation to keep up with the lessons about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

In preparation for Fall 2022, Dawn Mercer and Jenna Wukasch worked with Rev. Philip on a three-year plan for the Club Matt program. It’s an exciting approach that follows the biblical story in the Old and New Testaments through a series of short modules with different themes, and with the flexibility to add special events and topics tailored to St. Matthew’s needs. We launched the first module, *Creation*, on September 18 and will follow that with *Old Testament Heroes*.



### St. Matt’s Youth

With the departure of Christine Ivy, the church has been in the process of hiring a new staff person who will also serve as Youth Coordinator. We hope this will occur in early Fall, but until then, we have some great people from St. Matthew’s who are helping out.

The in-person Sunday youth program resumed on September 11 at the All-Ages 9:30 service during which Blessington Velagapalli and Emily Crump led a brainstorming session with the teens. Based on initial discussions, tentative ideas for the year include:

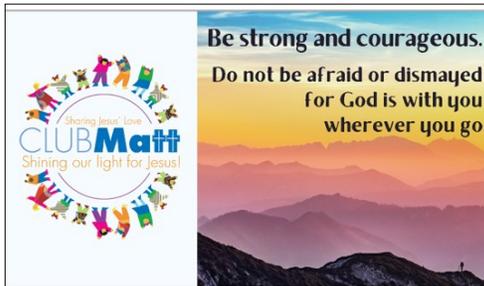


- Fun events like laser tag, go-karting, rock climbing, and more.
- Sunday Youth time at every 9:30 service; on occasion the youth may help out with other programs or stay up for the sermon discussion.
- A bi-weekly youth group on Friday night with games and discussion.

There is also a group of youth and leaders who attended the annual ReCharge Youth Retreat on Sept. 23-25 at Muskoka Woods Camp on Lake Muskoka. Please see page 16.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

St. Matthew's annual Blessing of the Backpacks took place September 11 at the All Ages service. Children were invited to have their backpack blessed by Rev. Philip, and were given a backpack tag with our Club Matt logo and an inspirational quote.



## All Soul's Day Service, November 2

*Tyler Versluis*

On November 2 at 7:00 p.m. we will gather for our All Souls's Day service to remember our loved ones and those who have died from COVID as well as in recent conflicts (we remember especially the Ukrainian people). We will reflect, sing Taizé hymns, light candles, and commemorate our loved ones.

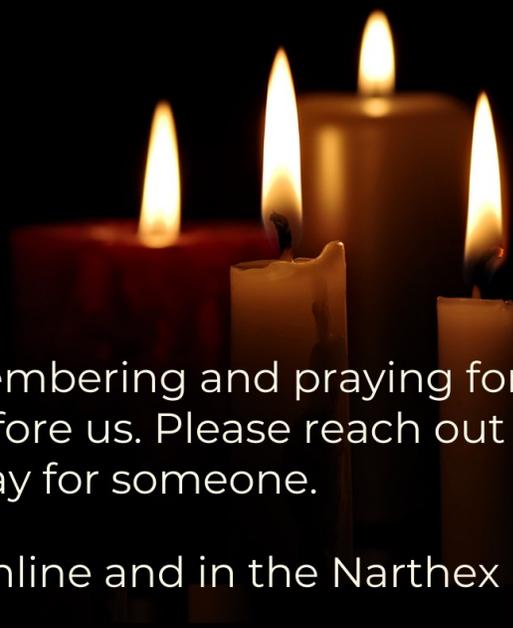
If you would like to add a name to our commemoration list, a form will be available in the Narthex as well as in the Friday e-mails, beginning October 21st.

A quote from a parishioner who attended our All Souls' Day service last year: *"A beautiful and exquisitely soul-filling evening of music and prayer. I can't begin to describe how deeply this service affected me."*

**All Souls**  
**November 2**  
**7:00 pm**

We join together in remembering and praying for those who have gone before us. Please reach out if you would like us to pray for someone.

Forms will be available online and in the Narthex or email the office.



## Recharge Youth Retreat

The Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee ran a retreat (the first since 2019) for the youth of the Diocese (Grade 6-12) at Muskoka Woods. The theme, "Redemption: The Story of us All" took them through the Old Testament, then through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, moving into how this redemption story truly includes us and our youth today.

Rev. Philip took a group from St. Matthew's: Ethan Forbes, Brayden Bullock (Ethan's friend), Will Pupulin, Emily Crump, and Blessington Velagapalli. Blessington took numerous, superb photos, some of which are shown here.



## Club Matt Youth & Kids at TIFF *Black Ice*

St. Matts' kids Enzo and Owen Addah were honoured to walk the red carpet at the Toronto International Film Festival with outstanding black hockey players including Sarah Nurse, Akim Aliu, Saroya Tinker, PK Subban, Anthony Duclair and Nazem Kadri, for the People's Choice Documentary award winner, *Black Ice* (Hubert Davis).

According to the TIFF website (<https://tiff.net/events/black-ice>), the film is a sobering survey of systemic marginalization in hockey. It describes it as an “incisive, urgent documentary (that) examines the history of anti-Black racism in hockey, from the segregated leagues of the 19th century to professional leagues today, where Black athletes continue to struggle against bigotry.”

In telling this story, the director, Hubert Davis, chose to include young BIPOC players from the GTA Hockey Association, *Seaside Hockey League*. *Seaside* provides opportunities for young, racialized hockey kids to get into the game with other kids “who look like them.” The league has a high degree of sponsorship that provides all beginning kids with free equipment. *Seaside* staff have the expertise to build kids' confidence and their ability in hockey while avoiding the discrimination that plagues so many young, developing hockey kids.

That is where the connection with Club Matt comes in; Owen and Enzo Addah and Meva Forbes are players in the *Seaside Hockey League*. Their commitment to the league means they must be available Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. all season, so they can't always attend Club Matt or Messy Church during the season, but we love it when their schedule allows them to participate.

Sandrine Ndahibeshe (Enzo and Owen's mom) has spoken to the distributors and when the film is released we plan to arrange a showing at St. Matthew's. This will give our whole community an opportunity to engage in the issues and talk to fellow parishioners who are involved, including Enzo, Owen, and Meva and their parents.



## Out of the Cold Closing

Marguerite Locke

One of the enduring ministries provided by St. Matthew's for almost 25 years has been *Out of the Cold*. Begun in January 1999 as a six-week trial, our operation was a partnership between our neighbour, Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church, and St. Matthew's. In addition, many service organizations and churches in the community supported this needed ministry. Due to the pandemic many churches, including ours, were unable to host the many guests who previously had relied on us Sunday evenings during fall and winter months for refuge and a warm meal. As the past two years have unfolded and COVID concerns remain, it was decided by the OOTC organization that the program would no longer continue at our church, nor at many other churches in the city.

Our church had a huge number of volunteers (too many to name) over the years who worked on OOTC from food preparation, set up and clean up, overnight hosting, laundry, haircuts, clothing and supplies, donations or procurement, and many other functions. Teens to seniors, and lots of volunteers in between, listened and learned of the journeys that many of the guests had experienced or simply offered a smiling face on arrival or during the long nights. Circumstances that led people to the doors of St. Matthew's and other shelters were diverse and heartbreaking. We realized that in many cases, "there but for the grace of God, go I."

The OOTC committee generously donated to our church a large freezer that will be useful for various events. Other supplies, clothing, and items that had been donated and stored in our church have been moved to their new operation at St. Felix House by Ted Hampton, Dave Hampton, Chris Orzel, and Tom Travaglini.

The Wardens and Clergy wish to express sincere thanks to all the individuals who assisted in any fashion in the OOTC ministry. It is our sincere hope that those individuals needing shelter, food, and a friendly face may find refuge elsewhere in our city and receive the much-needed help and care they deserve.

## Church Records

### Deaths

Sylvia Ingram  
August 14, 2022

Peggy Dunbar  
September 29, 2022

*Grant to them Eternal Rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on them!  
May they Rest in Peace, & Rise in Glory*

## Ladies Luncheon in the Gleeson Garden

St. Matthew's women enjoyed an idyllic lunch outdoors in the lush beauty of Mary and Bruce Gleeson's garden. A great throng attended, so pleased to be together after the confines of COVID isolation.

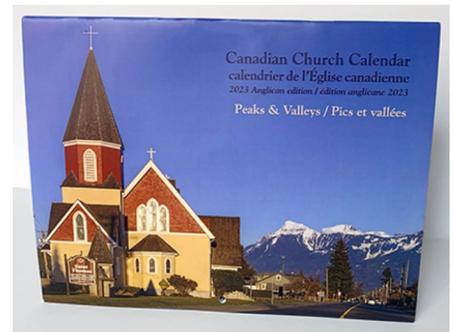
Thank you, Sandra Wilson, for creating this event with assistance from many others.



## Order Your 2023 Anglican Church Calendar Today

Complete with beautiful pictures and important liturgical dates, the calendar is \$9. Cash or cheques can be put in the offering box on Sunday, dropped through the church mail slot, or payment can be made by e-transfer. Place your order with the office by phone or email by **October 31**. 416-231-4014 / [office@saintmatts.ca](mailto:office@saintmatts.ca)

**Calendars must be pre-ordered.**



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We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Anishnabe peoples, on whose land and by whose waters we gather to talk, listen, learn, worship, share and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

**Pastoral Care:** Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. If you would like to arrange for home communion, please contact Rev. Philip or the office at 416-231-4014 or [office@saintmatts.ca](mailto:office@saintmatts.ca).

**Partners in Prayer:** Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to Bob Holloway at 416-253-4909 or [rholloway@sympatico.ca](mailto:rholloway@sympatico.ca). If necessary, the request can be transmitted through the church office.

**Cycle of Prayer:** “Beloved, pray for us.” This is Paul’s way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we will be praying for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names will be mentioned in our prayers and we will have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our “Cycle of Prayer” please let the office know and we will be sure to keep your name off the list.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew’s. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or [office@saintmatts.ca](mailto:office@saintmatts.ca). If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

### Join Us

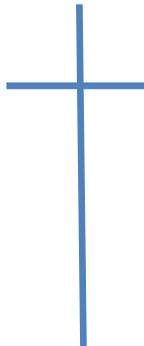
**Wednesday**  
10:30 a.m. BCP Service  
(Posted on YouTube afterward)

**Messy Church**  
Last Saturday of the month  
Next Messy Church is October 29  
4 p.m.

**GIFT Groups**  
Contact the office for information

### Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Casual (in person & online)  
11:00 a.m. Classic (in person & online)  
12:10 p.m. *Coffee Hour* ((in person & online)



### Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:30 - 3:30

The office is operating remotely.  
Telephone and email messages will  
be checked and returned during  
office hours.

**The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent**  
416-231-3060 / [philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca](mailto:philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca)

*The Rev. Gail Marshall, Deacon*  
*The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant*  
*Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist*  
*Tom Travaglini, Sexton/Verger*  
*Lisa Tait, Parish Administrator*

3962 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 1M3

Email: [office@saintmatts.ca](mailto:office@saintmatts.ca) ♦ Tel: 416-231-4014 ♦ Website: [www.saintmatts.ca](http://www.saintmatts.ca)



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