

# St Matthew's

ANGLICAN CHURCH, ISLINGTON



2022 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

*Sharon Shao*

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Deputy People's Churchwarden

*Marguerite Locke*

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# 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda

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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 74th 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 2023 Parish Budget
12. Appointment of Auditor
13. Reception of Reports
14. Rector's Appointments
15. Nominating Committee Report & Parish Elections
  - People's Warden
  - Deputy People's Warden
  - 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, 2023

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To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto:

Dear friends,

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 1:2)*

As we come to our Annual Vestry Meetings, it is a good time for us to reflect with thanksgiving on the past and look with a sense of hopefulness to the year ahead.

The past year was significant in many ways in the life of our Diocese. First, we have been returning to some sense of normalcy after two years of Covid lockdowns and restrictions. While we continue to urge parishes to exercise caution, many of our communities have returned to something that resembles our pre-pandemic life together. We thank God that the worst of the pandemic now seems behind us.

Of course, parishes are continuing to grapple with the effects of Covid. Many of our churches continue to experience a decrease in Sunday attendance, fewer volunteers to fill key parish roles, and a diminished number of regular financial givers. Clergy and lay leaders also continue to experience a deep sense of fatigue and anxiety about the future. In that light, we continue to encourage a gentleness with one another and a renewed commitment to self-care as we navigate post-pandemic realities. Over the past year, we have been pleased to offer a mini-Sabbatical opportunity for clergy. These ten days – taken together or broken up – are intended for rest and renewal. We have been delighted to hear that many clergy have already taken a mini-Sabbatical or have made plans to do so in 2023.

The past year also saw the launch of “Cast the Net”, a strategic visioning process for our Diocese. Ably led by the Very Reverend Peter Elliott, Canon Ian Alexander and Dr Anita Gittens, ODT, the Cast the Net team has surveyed the clergy in the Diocese in various consultations, and is now engaging lay people from every parish across the Diocese. Based on John 21, this Biblically-grounded initiative is seeking to help us chart of path

forward as a Diocese. We eagerly anticipate a full report from the Cast the Net team at our Synod next November.

Our restructuring of episcopal leadership also continued through 2022. The Episcopal Leadership Implementation Team followed up the good work of the Episcopal Leadership Working Group and brought forward a model for raising up and deploying territorial archdeacons and canon administrators to assist the bishops in their work. Interviews took place in November, leading to the appointment of four new archdeacons and one new canon administrator. Many of you were present at the Cathedral on January 15 as Archdeacon John Anderson, Archdeacon Theadore Hunt, Archdeacon Steven Mackison and Archdeacon Cheryl Palmer and Canon Laura Walton were collated. They have now begun their work and are already helping to share ministry with the College of Bishops.

After twenty years of service, Canon Clare Burns also retired as our Chancellor and is now Chancellor Emeritus. We are grateful for Clare's ministry and are also delighted to welcome Marg Creal our new Chancellor. Those of you who were present at the New Year's Levee on January 1 will remember the joy of Chancellor Creal's installation.

Our work in the area of anti-bias and anti-racism (ABAR) also continued in 2022. The workshops for clergy concluded last year and we began to roll out the parish-based program. Clergy and lay facilitators are now trained to visit parishes and lead this important work. The ABAR Pod has also been formed to lead the ongoing work of dismantling bias and racism in our structures. May God continue to bless our efforts and encourage us in this vital work.

As we look ahead to a new year, we do so with a sense of great hope. Our beloved Church has changed dramatically over the past few years and will continue to change. But God is present and faithful, and our proclamation and sharing in the redemptive love of God in Christ continues to be the mission to which we are called.

Be assured of our prayers for each of you as you meet for your Annual Vestry Meeting. We want to express our profound thanks to all who exercise leadership in the Diocese of Toronto. Whether you are stepping down from a particular ministry, or continuing on, or taking up a new role this year, thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. You are a blessing to the Church in our Diocese.

We write this letter on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. As the Church celebrates the beginning of Paul's evangelistic ministry to the Gentiles, please join us in praying

and working for the extension of the Gospel in every place, and for the renewal of the Church in our midst.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil  
Bishop of Toronto

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw  
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson  
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

# Rector's Report

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*Submitted by the Rev. Philip Stonhouse*

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever  
*John 14:16*

This year has been the first year in my time at St. Matthew's that we have returned to some level of normalcy. Even though we were open the year prior, worries about the pandemic continued to such a degree that all planning was tentative. You might remember that the 2021 Advent and Christmas season was plagued with a new wave and a spike of cases.

This year, as we become more present to one another, we are experiencing some spectacular things. We are seeing renewed interest in both the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services; this is both through new faces and the return of familiar ones. The choir is discovering new vigor and interest. The worship band has been given new energy. Club Matt is growing with its new locations, leaders, syllabus, and students. The youth group is growing as they have fun, build relationships, and explore their faith. A lot of this growth is due to the Holy Spirit as people, families, and gifts have found themselves led to this community. And it is also due to many of you. Through the volunteers who create great programming and opportunities to participate and grow in faith, and through the continual welcoming that all of you do every day, you are actively and intentionally continuing the work the Holy Spirit has done in leading people here.

This growth creates even more opportunities to expand our minds, our hearts, our faith, and our work. So let's keep seeking to grow in how we invite and welcome people into this family and how we create opportunities for people to dig in and build a relationship with God.

This really is the ministry of a community, and I am so happy to be in this family of Christ with all of you. So often I get the opportunity just to empower the ministries that you are passionate about and the ways you can share Christ's love.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported Mary Anne, Matteo, Layla, and me through one of the most joyous times in our life, which also comes with some struggles. The love and care have often been overwhelming and unexpected. Thank you for all the ways that you have empowered me to do this work as well. One of my greatest joys is to help people grow in faith. Thanks to your work in so many areas, I can spend more time on discipleship through Sunday and weekday teaching, along with personal meetings with new parishioners and anyone exploring their next steps. I love to see all of you



grabbing hold of your faith and discerning the big questions for this church and for your lives. This is the Holy Spirit's work in you as well.

With everything returning, we as a church are trying to keep a balance. We are trying to be open to what new people bring – their interests, passion, and history – while also holding on to what has been an important part of our life for a long time. It is not always an easy balance, but I thank you so much for your patience, feedback, and willingness to try new things. Some obvious changes are a return to a monthly unity service and worship band, the addition of a monthly 11:00 a.m. Book of Common Prayer service as we said goodbye to the much loved 8:00 a.m. service, a new Club Matt curriculum as we see a changing and expanding group participating in Children and Youth Ministry, saying goodbye to the Out of the Cold Program, a growing Tuesday night gift group, and regular special programming throughout the year.

This past summer we started a tradition where we tentatively plan the entire year's worth of events and services. This is to help us communicate with you better, but also so that all of us can plan ahead to make sure that we are not overburdening our staff, volunteers, or those attending. We have already learned a lot this year.

Lastly, one of the ways I have tried to help you grow in faith is through sermon series'. I cannot go through all of them, but I hope that these opportunities to dig into books and ideas more fully have been meaningful for your faith. We looked at *Luke* and saw that social work must ultimately come from faith in God; in the *Acts of the Apostles* we saw the ideal kind of community we can become. This year we are focusing on the Gospel of Matthew and the Old Testament to see how the work of the gospel has always been God's plan and how we as a community of faith can live it out in more fulsome ways.

I am looking forward to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us in the years to come. Let us prayerfully and courageously watch and respond together with open hearts.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."  
*Philippians 1:3-5*

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

# Warden's Report

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

As we reflect on 2022, we thank God for bringing St. Matthew's safely through another year and for the many signs of growth we have experienced. We were privileged to welcome many newcomers and our ministries have continued to flourish!

We are grateful for Rev. Philip Stonhouse and were delighted to receive him as our Incumbent. We thank him for his leadership and his abilities in keeping our 'ship' on course. We are also grateful for Rev. Merv Mercer, the staff, and the volunteers whose significant contributions have supported our ministries. We are most fortunate to have an amazing and dedicated Tech Team that allows worship, special events, and meetings to continue online. As a result of Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook, the message of the Good News has been able to reach many who would not have been able to participate without this technology. Due to the financial generosity of our parish family and friends, we were able to upgrade our audio-visual equipment resulting in improved sound, both in the nave and online.

We wish to acknowledge the continued contributions of our Organist and Music Director, Tyler Versluis. We thank him and the members of the choir and our praise band for our worship services music, and also for the many musical events which took place under his leadership during the year.

In the summer of 2022, the Club Matt rooms were renovated and prepared for the September reopening of Club Matt. Our thanks go to Lianne Thompson, Linda Dickson, and Dawn Mercer as well as all the volunteers who contribute to the Club Matt programs.

We thank all those who contributed to our Ministry Fair in November which allowed us all to learn more of our many ministries and the opportunities for participation.

In late July we bade farewell to Christine Ivy, our youth minister. We thank her for all that she brought to this ministry and wish her well in her future endeavours.

During the year, aside from our worship services, many activities and events continued.

We acknowledge the Beyond Soup team lead by Deborah and Nancy Hurn and assisted by many volunteers who prepare soup and entrees for folks who might need support during stressful and trying times.

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.

During 2022, plans for celebrating St. Matthew's 75th anniversary of ministry in Central Etobicoke were begun. The plans include a special edition of Matt's Media, production of a parish photo directory, Coffee House Concert, and an Anniversary Service of Song and Thanksgiving led by Bishop Andrew Asbil and the VIVA Choir. Our thanks go to all the volunteers and staff working on these very special events.

We wish to acknowledge the dedication of our Envelope Secretary, Noel Martin, and Assistant Envelope Secretary, Mary Gleeson. Together they ensure that all financial gifts are recorded and the annual tax receipts are prepared and distributed. Thank you.

As a result of our need to provide online services, we established an Audio-Visual fund (A/V) the purpose of which is to fund upgrades to our A/V system. We thank the parish and friends for the generous contributions, which will allow us to do upgrades as required. We have already made substantial improvements.

We report a deficit for the year 2022. Full details can be found in the Financial Statements appended to this Vestry Report. We extend thanks to David Oakden, Treasurer, Richard Farrar, and Anita Wakeman, Accounts Administrator, for the preparation of these reports.

The Wardens wish to thank our Clergy, our staff and our St. Matthew's family and friends for the continued time, energy, prayers, commitment, and financial support in 2022! Thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve God and our St. Matthew's community.

And once again, with God's Help and Guidance, together we can do more than we can ask or imagine!

# Raise the Rates

## 2023 Social Justice Vestry Motion

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**We, the parish of St. Matthew, Islington, call on the Province of Ontario to double social assistance rates for both Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, and thereafter to index these rates to inflation, so as to provide a safety net that enables people to meet their most basic needs.**

Since 1995, when the provincial government of the day cut social assistance rates by 21.6% for recipients considered employable (a program now called Ontario Works or OW), to live on social assistance in this province has been to live in increasingly deep poverty. The modest rate increases applied to both Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program between 2003 and 2018 did not even keep pace with inflation over that period, and after a 1.5% increase in fall of 2018, rates for both OW and ODSP were frozen for the next four years. Thus, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, single people receiving ODSP were 40% below the poverty line, while those receiving OW were more than 60% below the poverty line. Both rates fall well within what is considered “deep poverty”, or an income 75% of (25% below) the official poverty line.

As inflation has climbed, the poverty gap has only widened. In September 2022, the current provincial government followed through with its campaign promise to raise ODSP rates by 5%. While this is a welcome step after a four-year rate freeze, it is still far from adequate. The increase will only give single ODSP recipients \$59 more per month, nowhere near enough to lift them out of deep poverty.

Meanwhile, those on Ontario Works receive no increase at all. While people receiving Ontario Works are considered employable, the abysmally low rates of assistance drive them deeper into destitution, making it more and more difficult for them to lift themselves out of poverty. Nowhere in Ontario is the \$733 per month received by a single person on OW adequate to meet their needs for food, shelter, and clothing. It is hardly surprising that homelessness is increasing everywhere in our Diocese, with shelters overflowing from Peel to Peterborough and Collingwood to Cobourg, while food banks and other food security programs are reporting a huge spike in the numbers of people accessing their services for the first time. In 2019, the Daily Bread Food Bank, which distributes food to nearly 200 programs in Toronto served 60,000 clients per month across Toronto. That number doubled to 120,000 during the pandemic. Now,

182,000 clients use their services every month - and if current trends continue, the number is expected to rise to 225,000 by March 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Some ODSP recipients have even sought medical assistance in dying (MAiD) – not because they are dying of their disabilities, nor because they do not wish to live, but because their income is too meagre to allow them to live with their disabilities in dignity. For such people, the recently expanded access to MAiD may at least allow them to die with dignity.<sup>2</sup> We recognize that MAiD is meant to enhance personal agency and freedom of choice. However, when people who would rather live are put in a position where their lives are intolerable to them not because of their condition, but because society refuses to provide adequate levels of support, choosing assisted death in such circumstances is the opposite of a free decision. As Canon Douglas Graydon has noted, this is an indictment against a society that has “determined that [disabled people] are not worthy of sufficient resources to ensure a quality of life.”<sup>3</sup>

This past summer, the Income Security Advocacy Centre (a branch of Legal Aid Ontario) released an open letter calling on the provincial government to double social assistance rates and index them to inflation.<sup>4</sup> This letter has been endorsed by more than 250 community organizations and social service providers, including food banks and legal clinics across the province, faith communities such as the Salvation Army and Mennonite Central Committee – Ontario, and coalitions such as the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC), of which our Diocese is a member. A number of our FaithWorks partner ministries, including the Orillia Christian Centre – Lighthouse and the Dam, have also endorsed the letter.

It is true that doubling the rates of social assistance would present a significant cost outlay. However, the provincial government is already in an advantageous financial position. Lower social assistance caseloads during the pandemic have resulted in a savings of nearly \$800 million for the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, and the provincial government currently has a \$2.1 billion surplus.<sup>5</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2022/10/08/daily-bread-food-bank-ceo-says-2023-is-looking-grim.html?fbclid=IwAR3vNg8fsJLmGwd4zwMh1GumMsd5gXeY0iCON5p8Br-rJn6rhzSgAecp0zw>

<sup>2</sup> Doctor-patient confidentiality means that we do not know how many social assistance recipients have sought MAiD due to a lack of adequate income and other supports, beyond those cases which have been reported in the news. However, the UN special rapporteur on the rights of people with disabilities has expressed “extreme concern” that disabled people seeking MAiD are not always able to access viable alternatives, including adequate social supports. <https://www.thestar.com/2022/assisted-death.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://anglicanjournal.com/justice-and-the-new-assisted-death-maid-is-now-easier-to-get-should-anglicans-be-concerned/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://incomesecurity.org/open-letter-premier-ford-double-social-assistance-rates-now/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://budget.ontario.ca/2022/fallstatement/pdf/2022-fall-statement-en.pdf>.



province can thus readily afford a significant increase in social assistance rates, if not the full cost of doubling the rates. Moreover, a substantial increase in social assistance rates would reduce the externalized costs of poverty – the increased burdens on our healthcare, emergency services and criminal justice systems, which Ontarian taxpayers are already shouldering. Indeed, even before the pandemic it was conservatively estimated that poverty costs Ontario between 27 and 33 billion dollars per year.<sup>6</sup>

This year's Vestry Motion offers our parishes the chance to add our voice to this growing call for income support levels that allow people on social assistance to meet their most basic needs.

This is surely one of our most fundamental obligations as a society. Disabled people on social assistance should not be driven to seek "death with dignity" because we fail to provide them with enough to live life with dignity. Those who are down on their luck should be supported to rise out of poverty rather than pushed deeper into destitution.

More importantly, it is one of our obligations as followers of Jesus to care for the most vulnerable in our society. To fail to respond to the needs of the poor in our midst is to be like the rich man in Luke 16, who enjoyed the good things of life while ignoring Lazarus at his gate. We are called instead to recognize in our neighbour the face of Christ, and to work together to ensure all have enough.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://feedontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Feed-Ontario-Cost-of-Poverty-2019.pdf>

# St. Matthew's Church Register for 2022

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## Weddings

Thomas Wright and Casandra Pasaforte  
*October 14, 2022*



## Baptisms

Liam Alexander Pearson  
*September 11, 2022*

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



## Deaths

June Ziegler  
*January 20, 2022*

Dianne Hall  
*January 21, 2022*

Jack Smith  
*March 16, 2022*

Joel Easterbrook  
*March 21, 2022*

Marjorie McConnell  
*March 22, 2022*

Sally Martin  
*April 22, 2022*

Sissy Reece  
*April 29, 2022*

Irija Cook  
*May 8, 2022*

Sylvia Ingram  
*August 14, 2022*

Peggy Dunbar  
*September 29, 2022*

Bea Wright  
*December 18, 2022*

*"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
	2022	2021	2022	2023
Envelopes / PAG	176,963	177,186	181,150	180,100
Open Offerings	1,138	268	1,000	1,000
Seasonal Offerings	18,537	20,660	18,500	19,000
Room Licenses	82,892	75,169	79,812	82,110
Memorials	4,657	2,760	2,500	3,000
Interest	0	0	0	0
Advertising - Matts Media	400	150	100	500
Parish Events	2,361	6,715	7,350	7,908
Miscellaneous	607	521	350	0
Building Fund	0	0	0	0
Debt Reduction Contributions	0	0	0	0
Jubilee Grants	3,192	0	0	0
Government Grants	59	11,568	0	0
<b>Income</b>	<b>290,807</b>	<b>294,997</b>	<b>290,762</b>	<b>293,618</b>
Staff/Clergy Salary and Benefits	157,427	153,058	157,235	165,183
Rectory Expenses	12,342	12,053	12,535	12,101
Church Expenses	56,704	51,961	60,837	59,543
Office Expenses	12,002	13,746	14,233	11,833
Audit	4,500	3,955	3,675	2,000
Worship and Ministry	7,290	6,520	5,989	4,900
Parish Events	1,563	1,116	1,000	1,700
Insurance	11,992	10,198	8,106	8,470
Misc.	553	104	0	700
Major Reno Church	0	0	0	0
Synod	38,301	41,760	38,301	38,852
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>302,674</b>	<b>294,471</b>	<b>301,911</b>	<b>305,282</b>
<b>Net Operations</b>	<b>(11,867)</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>(11,149)</b>	<b>(11,664)</b>

# Administrative Reports

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## Envelopes Report

*Submitted by Noel Martin and Mary Gleeson*

For the year 2023, we have assigned 30 numbered envelope sets to parishioners, (please note: your number may have changed from last year) and there are 51 Pre-Authorized Givings users. In addition, there are a dozen or so who give via electronic transfer and another small group of members or occasional visitors who contribute sporadically throughout the year, but do not wish to use numbered envelopes. Your generous Initial offerings offset the cost of the envelopes.

We encourage all regular donors to sign up for envelopes, or even better, the PAG program. Use of either system greatly reduces both the time required to process each donation, and the likelihood of introduced errors in correct assignment of the donation.

Annual tax receipts will be ready in February. Please remember to pick yours up in the Narthex and review it immediately (please don't wait until you are doing your tax return). In the (unlikely) event of an error, please let us know as soon as possible so it can be corrected.

If you can deliver a friend's receipt, that would also be appreciated.

Many thanks to Lisa for gathering the files needed to help keep the donations lists organized and complete, and to Anita for coordinating the PAG and E-transfer system.

## Property Report

*Submitted by Stuart Watt*

All pre-COVID tenants are back to meeting in person with the exception of the Brownies. These tenants include a number of AA groups, APSGO, Swansea Dogs and, of course, Kingsley School. We hope to have the Brownies back in September 2023. It is nice to see the church being used by these mainly not-for-profit groups. The gym was also used in 2022 for elections, a coffee/lunch room for movie crews filming in the area, and various social events.

Two rooms were put to use by groups in the church. The youth room was painted and is now an inviting room for our youth. As well Club Matt Senior room located on the main floor at the top of the stairs is a nice room for them to meet in.

No capital projects were undertaken to maintain the church in 2022. Occasionally a plumber or an electrician needed to be called to deal with a particular problem. Outside the church our landscaper did a good job of keeping our grounds neat and tidy.

All in all, a quiet year for property. Many thanks to Tom for all the work he did in maintaining the church.

## Technology Report

*Submitted by Rev. Philip Stonhouse*

As of now, we have received most of the equipment we had ordered to improve our sound equipment. Here is a short breakdown of what we have ordered and why:

A digital soundboard - Though our previous soundboard was still working, it did not have the functionality we needed. 1) A digital sound board has streamlined how the sound is communicated to Zoom and so has cut out a great deal of static and interference caused by our previous transmitters. 2) It also increased our capacity to use specialty microphones as phantom power and gain could be isolated to individual microphones without creating static in the others. 3) It allows us to create a different volume for online viewers vs. those in the house (finding a balance before was very tough). 4) It allowed for a box (audio rack) to be placed at the front of the sanctuary so that we could plug in more microphones

Audio rack - as mentioned prior, this box allows us to plug in microphones at the front of the sanctuary rather than having to lay wire all the way from the soundboard. Because it is a digital box, we only needed to lay down one thin (Cat 6) cable to get all the information from the front to the back. We could not lay down thick cabling without digging up the floor and so this became an easy alternative. The audio rack has also allowed us to put the cordless microphone antenna closer to where they can more consistently receive the signal. If we ever need to put more speakers at the front, this box could help simplify that process as well.

A new projector and cabling - Our other one stopped working just before a service. Sadly, the first one we ordered was not sufficiently bright enough for people to read easily; the second one was. The reality of the distance between the projector and the computer means that the signal breaks down in a regular HDMI cord. We had tried this and two 150 ft cords had already stopped working. So we went another route with an HDMI to cat 6 switch, which translates the information into a medium that does not break down (the same cables used for your internet). The switch has not always worked perfectly, but it is fairly consistent.



New microphones and cabling - Our microphone options were fairly limited. We can still look into getting a few cordless microphones fixed, but in the meantime, we ordered two wired regular microphones (for general use), two small diaphragm microphones (for the choir and ambiance), and two gooseneck microphones for use at our lectern and pulpit. There are still some struggles with static coming from the small diaphragm microphones, but they have already been a big help with our concerts and worship band. The gooseneck microphones just arrived and we are hoping to test them soon. The cabling is simple microphone cabling and necessary since we have more corded microphones.

USB hub and additional cabling - With more devices connecting directly to the computer we needed more plugs and more cables. This has also increased some functionality for the computers at the back as more can be added to it.

As you can imagine, with all of this new equipment there is more for our tech people to know. We have done our best to streamline the information and train our team. We are looking at bringing more people onto the tech team as well.

We know there are still a few struggles such as volume online. Sometimes this is quietness we can fix in the church and sometimes there can be a massive difference between computer, speaker, and headphone volume. We are working at understanding the best ways to streamline and fix this problem.

We have had a few recommendations on the next steps, but we are currently discerning what we need at this time, what is the best use of what you have so generously given, and what can help simplify the process for everyone involved.

## Reports Submitted by Parish Ministries

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### 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)*

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*Submitted by Rev. Philip and Dawn Mercer*

Since 2020, ongoing small groups at St. Matthews's have been called Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) groups. Throughout the pandemic one GIFT group continued Tuesday evenings on Zoom, and then beginning this past summer, in-person and on Zoom as required. Sunday scripture readings and the sermon are the usual focus for discussion. This allows a deeper look at the texts and exploration of how the challenges for growth and discipleship can be put into practice in our personal life and in our St. Matthew's community. These active conversations, though sometimes challenging, are in a context of trust, respect, and prayerful concern for each other. It feels safe and supportive as we seek to grow in our faith.

A GIFT group will begin to meet during the day in the spring of 2023. We hope to begin a GIFT group particularly designed for busy families as well. We are happy to create additional groups as needed. Interested people are encouraged to attend to explore how it would work for them. Or invite your neighbours to explore how faith can become part of daily life.

Following the usual pattern, in addition to the ongoing GIFT groups, short-commitment small group studies were offered in Lent and Advent. During Lent, in the series "Returning to Christ" we explored some ways of coming closer to God that included journaling, keeping Sabbath and the practice of fasting. The discussions followed a Taizé worship time. In Advent, discussions were based on the video exploration of Jesus' life in "The Chosen." It was a new and challenging look at the early part of Jesus' ministry; further sessions are under consideration.

This year we are planning a four-week study over Lent on the Beatitudes and a four-week study over Advent continuing our study of The Chosen Web Series.

From a new GIFT Group member: "You helped us see the Holy Spirit at work! And for that, we are immensely grateful. I truly believe that the world would be at peace if everyone took part in such a group!"

### *Special Discipleship Opportunities*

Throughout the year we have also offered special, interesting, one-off discipleship opportunities. This year we ran a discussion on "Why There is Suffering in the World," "The Power of Invitation," "Biblical Reconciliation," and by the time of vestry we will have completed the first five classes of our "Questions of Faith" course. To create different ways of engaging our faith we have also been looking at films and shows. We viewed and discussed the Christian ideas in the Disney film "Encanto," and the first episode of the Web series "The Chosen." Lastly, we ran a marriage course for four couples who were either preparing for marriage or had been married for a while.

This coming year we are planning on watching and discussing "Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" in late May, we will be looking at "The Doctrine of Discovery," and we will continue our "Questions of Faith" course a few weeks after Pentecost.

If you missed any of these special discipleship discussions, many of them can be found on our YouTube channel.

### *Family and Youth and Children's Ministry (Believing)*

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#### Youth

*Submitted by Lianne Thompson on behalf of the youth team*

The first half of 2022 was focused on maintaining connections with youth as our church (and the whole world) continued to emerge from COVID and we got used to the new "normal" on how to gather and socialize safely. Christine Ivy, the youth coordinator during this time, moved on to other opportunities in the summer and St. Matthew's thanks her very much for her commitment to the youth throughout this challenging time.

At the beginning of the new school year, we saw increased interest and participation in the youth group. This is in big part due to increased volunteer engagement and connection opportunities for the youth such as special events and Youth Retreats.

#### *Renovating the Youth Space*

Through the winter of 2022, volunteers came together to renovate the youth space (lower level, across from the choir room). Thanks to generous donations from members

of the congregation and support from Reverend Phillip and the Wardens, the room was painted and decorated, a new rug was purchased and then the youth created artwork for the walls. The room is now a comfortable space for Sunday discussions and youth game nights.

### *Re-launch of In-person Sunday Program*

The Sunday Youth program relaunched during the 9:30 All Ages service in September. These casual discussions for youth aged 11 to 18 are held during the sermon time and have been overseen by Emily Crump and Blessington Velagapalli. Some of the discussions through the fall aligned with Reverend Philip's *Acts* sermon series and included videos and discussions on persecution, the Good News, Paul, the Holy Spirit, and more. One Sunday a month, the youth stayed up in church to hear the sermon. During Advent, many of the youth prepared and then participated in the Christmas pageant!

### *Friday Night Events*

With the return of the Sunday youth program in September, Friday night events resumed on the first and third Fridays of each month. These events are a mix of fun activities and discussion on topics of what faith looks like today – there were good turnouts as youth invited friends to join them. Events included paint and games night, Black Panther movie night, candy competition, and rock-climbing. Plans into 2023 include cooking, skating, and more.

### *Youth Retreats*

In addition to events planned and hosted by St. Matthew's, three of our youth, as well as Rev. Philip, Emily, and Blessington, attended a youth retreat at Muskoka Woods camp in September. Everyone attending reported that it was a wonderful time with other youth from across the diocese. We have seven youth signed up to attend a winter youth retreat in February.

### *Looking Ahead*

While we have been so blessed with the volunteer team supporting our youth since the summer, hiring a staff person with the time to dedicate to planning and expanding the youth program and inclusively engaging youth has been a priority. Reverend Philip led the search for a new Youth staff coordinator and a small team participated in interviews through the fall. Interviews continued in January, and we hope the new coordinator will be announced soon.

## Club Matt

*Submitted by Lianne Thompson on behalf of the Club Matt team*

### *Emerging from COVID*

With most Club Matt families still online through the winter and spring of 2022, special children's talks and activities were developed for the 9:30 online service. Activities were sent by email in advance of Sunday so all children could participate during the online service.

Summer was considered a good time to again offer an in-person program for the children during the 10:30 a.m. combined service, and a nine-week Fruit of the Spirit program was developed. A related children's talk was included during the liturgy each week for those joining online, and then those children attending in person went to the program in the Lounge during the sermon. There were regularly 8-10 children attending in person each week which was very exciting.

### *Club Matt Space Renovations*

After two years of the Club Matt spaces being unused, a thorough cleaning, organizing, and renovation was required as we looked ahead to the fall program. Teams spent days over the summer purging and sorting lesson and craft materials while the Club Matt spaces were painted and decorated. The Nursery was also given a thorough purge and cleaning for the benefit of parents with infants and toddlers. All three spaces are now cheerful, happy rooms where it is fun to visit, play, and learn.

### *Full Club Matt Program Resumed*

With the relaunch of the All Ages 9:30 service in September, the full Club Matt program resumed and was designed specifically for two age groups:

- Club Matt Junior for children ages 3–6
- Club Matt Senior for ages 7-10

Dawn Mercer and Jenna Wukasch are working with Reverend Philip on rolling out a three-year program of Club Matt content. The program is based on an established curriculum with adaptations and suggestions that customize it for our children and our resources. The fall began with a unit on the Creation story, followed by learning about some of the key figures in the Old Testament. Hands-on activities, videos, and learning from age-appropriate bible readings helps all of the people and events in the bible come to life for the children.

To support a leader rotation so that all teachers can also spend time worshiping, we now have seven volunteer leaders (four for the Junior program and three for the Senior)



which means that most are only teaching once a month. More volunteers are ALWAYS welcome.

Numbers have continued to increase in both classes, with the Junior class regularly having 6 – 10 children, and the senior class increasing to 4- 5 in recent weeks.

### *Advent and Christmas*

The start of the Advent program in late November (focused on Mary, Joseph, and Jesus being born into a family) also marked the start of pageant preparation. We were delighted that we had 30 children and youth participating in the pageant this year – all in person! What a joy it was to witness the Christmas story take shape before our eyes with the church more full than we had seen in a couple of years.

### Messy Church

*Submitted by Linda Dickson*

2022 brought us back to being able to hold our events inside and serve a meal.

We held eight events, which were on the last Saturday of each month starting at 4:00 p.m. and finishing at 6:00 p.m. There is always a theme for each event such as Advent, Gratefulness, Easter, or Families. For the Taking Care of God's Earth Messy Church, we cleaned up and planted the garden by the gym doors which we hope to do each year. Rev. Philip continues to bring a great worship time that goes around the theme of the evening. We also planted a Chinese maple bush by the memorial bench in memory of Sally Martin, a great supporter of Messy Church.

Messy Church children joined with Club Matt for the Easter pageant, Pizza party, Pool Party, and Christmas pageant.

We have had some new families join us this year with one family that continues to come each month from North York by transit and, of course, many of the club Matt children. Each event is always a blessing for those who attend.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming some people from another Anglican Church who wanted to see what Messy Church was all about and see what they would need to start one at their church.

I would like to thank the Messy Church team of volunteers. This event could never happen without all of you. And to all who keep the children of St. Matthew's in your prayers, thank you.

Please feel free to drop by for one or all of our events.

## *Inclusion Report (Believing)*

*Submitted by Rev. Philip Stonhouse*

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You may remember that two years ago we voted on a vestry motion to work on how we as a congregation were inclusive, welcoming, and empowering to all people, but especially those who are racialized. We went through a discernment process along with creating a committee to get the ball rolling on events and actions pertaining to this work in hopes that more people would continue the work. We ran many events and conversations, most recently a book discussion on Wab Kinew's book "The Reason You Walk." After a year and a bit of this work, the inclusion committee had found that the responsibility of doing this work had mostly fallen on them and so without new interest, the committee disbanded. This work continues in an ad hoc way but ultimately needs your interest and inspiration to run events and talks.

In September I led a conversation on the biblical perspective of reconciliation and how we can put it into practice. Along with this, Messy Church had an indigenous-themed event for the children and families. Every January and February I use the season of Epiphany when we remember the wise men coming to Jesus from across the world and the gentiles being brought into the church as an opportunity to talk about how the church family is meant to be welcoming and inclusive. I am excited for this year as the St. Matthews Indigenous Issues Working Group (SMIIG for short) begins to meet again and as we plan a viewing and discussion on the Doctrine of Discovery. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have ideas or things you would like to take part in or lead as it pertains to inclusion.

## *Fellowship & Worship (Belonging)*

### *Music Ministry (Belonging)*

*Submitted by Tyler Versluis*

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This year has brought a surprising amount of growth to the Music Ministry at St. Matthew's, thanks to the grace and service of many people, and the intercession of God the Father who continues to bless us richly. Although we were saddened by the death of two long-time choir members, Sally Martin and Bea Wright, we are also greatly pleased to welcome several new members to the music ministry, including Michelle, Sophia and Joshua Lorimer, Lauren Ward, Rita Namabgembe, Bryan Tran, and Tatiana Esse. The music ministry's current schedule is one service a month with our full worship

band, with choral leadership at our 11:00 a.m. service. Michelle and I lead music at our 9:30 a.m. All Ages service.

This year was the inaugural launch of our chamber music concert series, "Musical Moments at Saint Matthew's." This grew out of the success of our March 2022 fundraising concert, which featured Damien Macedo on organ, and raised close to \$2000 for our new sound system. The first concert in the series took place in September, again featuring Damien Macedo and myself on piano, with an attendance of around 50 people. I am grateful to the family of Sally Martin who provided a memorial fund to launch this series, and also to the parishioners of St. Matthew's who have attended and brought guests.

Other notable events this year included our Lenten Tenebrae service, which featured my composition "Stabat Mater" and the hard work of the choir singing three challenging motets by Healey Willan. Our Lessons and Carols service this year was also immensely rewarding. Thank you to the choir and to Erika Sitko, Michelle Lorimer, and Philip Stonhouse who prepared solo work.

Our organ and piano remain in working shape, although Phoenix Organs was called in this fall to fix an unresolvable speaker issue. Our warranty covered the fees for this repair. We also disposed of two old electronic pianos in the church and replaced them with an apartment upright (generously donated by neighbours of the Boughtons), and a 2011 Yamaha electronic (my old touring keyboard from my rock band days).

Once again, I express my gratitude to all the volunteers in the music ministry who dedicate time and effort, and to Rev. Philip and the wardens who have trusted and supported me in this leadership role.

### *Choir (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Bruce Gleeson*

Music Director Tyler Versluis provides a variety of inspiring and challenging music for the choir and is patient and supportive in directing our efforts. In addition, he has organized Sunday afternoon concerts to enrich our experience of devotional music and offer the local community opportunities to enjoy some unique musical presentations.

Throughout Lent, Tyler presented a weekly Taizé service followed by Bible study to prepare us for Easter through peaceful, musical reflection on God which culminated in a moving Tenebrae service on Palm Sunday evening involving visiting singers and musicians along with our choir. All of our Lenten experiences resulted in especially joyous celebrations on Easter Day.

In April we were deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Sally Martin, whose musical gifts as Junior Choir leader, choir member, and occasional pianist were a true blessing to St. Matthews. She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.

Our November 2 All Souls Service was a beautiful candlelit service of Taizé music with choral assistance from Laura Larson, Michelle Lorimer, Karen Davidson, and violinist Gemma Donn. Our traditional Lessons and Carols service and Blue Christmas Service emphasized Christ's presence as a source of light to help us see the many blessings in our life. Our Christmas Pageant saw a noticeable increase in attendance, as did our three Christmas Eve services which included three beautiful contemporary anthems: *Creator of the Stars of Night*, *The Angels Sang A Song of Love* and *Night of Silence*.

In early December we were again deeply saddened by the passing of Bea Wright, our longest serving choir member, following a long stay in hospital. Bea sang alongside her brother Bill and father Bill Twidale Sr. She too will be sadly missed and gratefully remembered for her faithful service.

### *Chancel Guild (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Mary Gleeson and Sandra Wilson*

During 2023, we experienced a somewhat more "normal" year, resuming changing the hangings and setting up for and tidying up with a partner after the communion services. With people attending church more regularly, flower donations given by generous congregants increased and were received and attractively arranged by Sandra Wilson, and later distributed after the services to be shared with others.

During Lent there were no flowers, but last year's palm crosses were collected and burned on Ash Wednesday. New palms were ordered and used for church decoration on Palm Sunday, and were also made into crosses by several of us for distribution to parishioners. As in previous years, hydrangeas and lilies were set out for the Easter services. The summer months were very quiet with just communion set ups from week to week. At Thanksgiving donations of produce were used for decoration and later distributed to the Food Bank. We were blessed to have our very first meeting with Philip in late November. There was some trepidation over the arrival of new Advent candles but they arrived in time for the first Sunday of Advent! For the Blue Christmas service, tapers were distributed and blue bows put on the pews. This year, red, white, and mottled red and white poinsettias were ordered for Christmas, and before the pageant a small group of our members hung the garlands, the big wreath, set up the tree as well as the two Nativity Scenes, and placed the poinsettias appropriately, as well as taking it all down and packing it away after Christmas.

Our dedicated members are Pat Currie, Gerry Tilker, Jen Boughton, Cathy Cross, Leighton Sayers, Richard Farrar, Cliff LaRose, Jean Tovey, Jeff Wright, Sandra Wilson, and Mary Gleeson. We would welcome those interested and do need other volunteers to assist us in this rewarding ministry. We are very grateful for the support of the parish with donations of flowers for regular Sundays and for the extra Easter lilies, Thanksgiving produce, and Christmas poinsettias given at special times of the year. Special thanks to Ann Marie May for her gift of the three golden wisemen which were set up in the Narthex.

### *Lay Anointing (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Marilyn Friedmann, Bob Holloway, Deborah Hurn, Nancy Hurn, Ann Sim, Dorothy Sproule*

"You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." *Psalm 23:5-6*

As part of their Pastoral Ministry, more than 30 Anglican parishes in the Diocese of Toronto offer regular, personal anointing of parishioners with holy oil as an integral part of the Eucharist. Licensed lay persons anoint fellow parishioners with a prayer to the Holy Spirit for wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

Lay anointers are appointed and licensed by the Bishop, only after proper training, and under the direct supervision of their Rector. The license must be renewed every three years and regular, additional training is required for renewal.

Incorporation of this Ministry in St. Matthew's was undertaken only after respectful and prayerful consideration of acceptable, respectful, confidential and discreet means that do not interfere with the Eucharist.

### *Lectors (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Bruce Gleeson*

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers whose expressive readings of scripture enhance our worship and we appreciate the support of our technical team who make that participation possible whether in person or online. Unfortunately, medical issues have prevented several of our number from participating recently but we hope they will soon be able to resume their valued service. We were delighted to welcome Josh Lorimer and Ethan Forbes to our group this year, and recently Marguerite Locke has volunteered to assist as well. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please contact Bruce Gleeson (416-239-9640) or the rector and we gladly add your name to our list of volunteers.



## *Partners in Prayer (Belonging)*

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*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. Some are close by while others are a longer distance away. Everyone receives the request almost simultaneously. The number of requests received vary from year to year, but the volume is not onerous.

Requests are confidential and shared only with the Partners, but names only may be included in the Prayers of the People during worship services.

We continue to welcome anyone who would like to join us in prayer as this is not a closed group and we are pleased to add three newcomers to St. Matthew's who are now praying with us. The only requirement is that parishioners be able to receive and send email. To be added to our distribution list or to get answers to any questions you might have, I can be reached at the numbers shown below.

Bob Holloway, coordinator, 416 253 4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca

## *Hospitality (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Rev. Philip Stonhouse*

As we continue to expand our fellowship, we have found that there are numerous opportunities to show hospitality in and outside of the church. You have hopefully seen or been a part of a few already. As such we are in the process of separating Sunday Coffee Hour – which will still be led by Jean and Jeff – from hospitality in general. At this point, dinners, receptions, and events have been run in an ad-hoc way. We hope to form a list of people who would be willing to help out as hospitality needs arise such as funerals, weddings, dinners, Messy Church, special event receptions, etc. If you put your name on the list you would not be volunteering for everything, but you would be contacted to see if you were available.

These are all exciting ways for us to welcome others while we grow in mutual service.

## *Matt's Media (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Kathie Oakden*

*Matt's Media* is the parish newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington. In 2022 our customary four issues were published on: Lent/Easter (February 27), Pentecost (June 5), Thanksgiving (October 14) and Advent/Christmas (November 27). *Matt's Media* provides reports and photographs of recent Parish activities and publicizes future Worship Services and Events. Parishioners are welcome to submit articles for inclusion.

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. 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, Lisa.

## *Stewardship (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Karen Lee*

Sincere thanks to the many volunteers who participate in St. Matthew's multiple ministries. Their contributions of time and talent play a significant role in the life of the parish.

In March 2022, the annual Stewardship package was forwarded to the members of the Parish. Parishioners' participation in 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.

In November 2022, we hosted our Ministry Fair and Lunch. The Fair highlighted St. Matthew's many ministries and provided an opportunity to share with each other what activities are included in each ministry.

## *Tech Team (Belonging)*

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*Submitted by Karen Lee*

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Tech Team whose responsibilities include keeping St. Matthew's worship services and other events online. Under the leadership of

Rev. Philip (also 'Head Coach'), coupled with equipment upgrades, the team has successfully ensured that St. Matthew's services are available on Zoom and other platforms weekly.

## Outreach (Behaving)

### *Food Cupboard (Behaving)*

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*Submitted by Noel Martin*

In the past few months, our food cupboard has been operating in a very limited way. We currently have few clients asking for food, but those who do, come regularly, and we need to be able to help them.

Your generous donations, of any amount, are appreciated. If we have surplus, or stock that will not be used up before its Best Before Date, we are taking it to St. James United Church on Burnhamthorpe Rd, which has a large "Food Basket" operation.

We will continue to need and to collect your donations and put them to the best use.

We trust that you will continue to help provide for those struggling with food insecurity in our area.

### *Welcoming Ministry and Pastoral Care (Behaving)*

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*Submitted by Deborah Hurn*

I would like to start by thank those who have participated in this ministry through deeds or prayers: Karen Lee, Dawn Mercer, Barb Landry, Pat Currie, Lianne Thompson, Kathie Oakden, Ann Sim, Sharon Shao, Mary Gleeson, Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Rev. Merv Mercer, and Lisa Tait. Together, this group has tried to live the Gospel as an essential extension of God's love.

This team works to maintain and develop relationships with long term or new members of St. Matthew's. We try to recognize and welcome those who are new to the Church, returning members, or the Sunday morning faithful. We all have a home here. In the coming year, we are going to look at what and how we are doing that. We hope we are expressing these actions to all, but sometimes our intentions may not be meeting your needs. It is our goal to be truly welcoming, to ensure everyone feels they are being incorporated into the Body of Christ.

One of our activities this year was moving from *Soups On* to *Beyond Soup*. With this program, we have a freezer full of soup and entrees available to anyone in the Church

who know someone with a need. It might be due to illness, death, or just to provide care and comfort to a fellow parishioner, neighbour, family member, or stranger in need. Over the past year we were able to support those experiencing illness (7 people), those experiencing bereavement (2 families), and those just in need of support (3 people). The program can be accessed by a call to the office or Deborah Hurn.

The other focus of this group has been to maintain contact with those parishioners who may not be seen in Church each week. It may be a call or a visit by a team member to see if the individual requires any assistance or has any need for help. Sometimes, we may be just a familiar voice on the phone to help them know they are still an important part of St. Matthew's. Many of these folks are the builders of our Church and have laid the foundations that keep us strong today. There are 40-50 individuals whom we try to maintain contact with. Please let the office know if there is anyone you feel may benefit from a call or visit.

### *Social Media Report (Behaving)*

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*Submitted by Tyler Versluis*

Beginning in August, we started a campaign to increase our social media presence, mainly on the Facebook and Instagram platforms. This is part of a broader effort to reach out to our neighbourhood and digital communities and to participate in some "soft evangelism," finding easy ways to invite people into the building and participate in services and events. The pandemic has definitely created opportunities to do this, as we began building an online presence out of necessity.

Our efforts have been directed toward the following activities: posting events and worship times regularly on Facebook, taking (lots!) of pictures to show what's happening during events, and occasional video promos. Mostly, we want our Internet presence to be an accurate reflection of St. Matthew's active and vibrant community life.

This attention to social media has worked. In the past 90 days (as of January 24), the posts on our Facebook page have been seen by over 1,500 people. We have encountered visitors who have seen our online posts and became interested in our ministries based on what was being shared on our website, Facebook page and Instagram page. "Sharing" our content is especially helpful, as one share can easily triple our reach.

Thank you especially to Lisa Tait who designs many of the graphics you see on our website and social media, and thanks also to Lianne Thompson who cares for our St. Matt's Youth Instagram account. And thank you all for your "shares" and "likes."

## Nominations

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"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 who have so generously committed to share their gifts over the coming year.

### Parish-elected Nominees:

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

**St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington**

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***Service Times***

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

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

(Book of Common Prayer once a month)

Unity Worship (first Sunday of each month)

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

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

