

St Matthew's

ANGELICAN CHURCH, ISLINGTON



2023 Vestry Report

Clergy

The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent

The Rev. Canon Dr. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant

Churchwardens

Rector's Churchwarden

Karen Lee

People's Churchwarden

Marguerite Locke

Deputy Rector's Churchwarden

Sharon Shao

Deputy People's Churchwarden

vacant

Table of Contents

76 th Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda.....	4
The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2024	5
Rector's Report.....	8
Warden's Report.....	10
2024 Social Justice Vestry Motion	11
St. Matthew' Church Register for 2023	15
Operating Fund Budget	16
Administrative Reports.....	17
Reports Submitted by Parish Ministries.....	20
Believing.....	19
Behaving	24
Belonging	32
Nominations	35
Financial Statements (Appendix)	

76th Annual Vestry Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of the Vestry Clerk
3. Appointment of Parish Tribunal / Scrutineers
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 75th Annual Vestry Meeting
6. The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter
7. Rector's Report
 - Rector's Charge to Vestry
8. The Wardens' Report
9. Social Justice Vestry Motion
10. Financial Statements and Accountant's Report
11. Presentation of 2024 Parish Budget
12. Review Engagement Motion
13. Appointment of Accounting Firm
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 & Deaths
17. New Business
18. Prayers of Thanksgiving
19. Adjournment
20. Dismissal

The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2024



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

Dear friends,

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Simple and elegant. These few words capture the essence of a Vision that we have been pursuing and discerning throughout the Cast the Net process, a visioning exercise that began while we were still in pandemic mode. Over the course of several consultations, we listened to one another, and for the leading of the Holy Spirit. With time, sifting and testing, 20 Calls were revealed at Synod, which were supported with enthusiasm. A final version of the Calls will be received by Synod Council in February. We continue to be grateful to the Steering Committee and consultants, who have led our work together over the past 18 months. And now the work begins to incorporate these Calls into the life and ministry of the whole Diocese. This is the time for parishes large and small, missions, ministries, committees and Synod Council to animate the Calls in our own contexts. It is almost impossible for one community to embrace all twenty, but by serving together from Mississauga to Brighton, Midland to Minden, and all points in between, we can!

We begin this journey with a Season of Spiritual Renewal. We embrace the Call to deepen our walk together as communities by immersing ourselves in prayer, reading and reflection on scripture, worship and sharing our stories of faith with one another. As we promised in our baptism: we will “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers”. This Season will be supported by the Rev. Canon Dr Judy Paulsen, members of a steering committee and the College of Bishops. We hope that you will be able to join us for Diocesan worship events, learning opportunities, programs and fellowship that entice us all to walk more closely in the footsteps of Jesus.

We are delighted to reach across our borders to deepen our friendship with the Diocese of Brasilia. Brasilia is a relatively new diocese, birthed in 1985, with a small number of parishes, missions and ministries. We were delighted to welcome their Bishop Mauricio Andrade and his wife Sandra to our Diocesan Synod in November. We will learn from, grow with, and support one another as we strive to serve Christ in our unique circumstances. And we look forward to opportunities for delegations of our clergy and laity to visit back and forth, both in-person and online, as we deepen our affection for one another.

We are proud of and amazed at the ministry taking place across our Diocese, especially in the areas of youth, ecumenism, creation care, diversity, and faith formation. We encourage you to consider this year's Diocesan Social Justice motion on housing, and to prayerfully support our Church's advocacy for every person's right to adequate shelter. We are convinced that the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us, and challenging us to bravely find new ways to work and worship together, to increase in courage, to share our passion for the Good News of Jesus, and to seek and find new meaning as followers of Christ in the 21st century, where we are confronted with emerging economic and social challenges. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all who make up our dynamic community of faith – lay people, deacons, priests – all helping to give a glimpse of the Reign of God as it unfolds in our midst.

As your bishops, we know the joy and privilege of serving the Church in this Diocese. We thank all those who have joined us in giving leadership over the past year. We have recently celebrated one year of our new diocesan leadership model, and we are immensely grateful to our new Territorial Archdeacons and Canon Administrator for stepping into their roles so effectively and with such faithfulness. The five of them have helped to ease the bishops' administrative load, allowing us to focus on some of the other work to which we have been called and ordained.

Whether your work is changing this year, whether you are stepping out of your role at this Vestry meeting, or stepping into a new ministry, or continuing on in your good work, please know that we are here to support you in every way we can. We want to encourage you in Gospel ministry, in the initiatives and relationships that you are building, as you cast your nets ever wider in a world that is hungry for Christ - for meaning, connection and belonging.

Our mission statement is simple and elegant. And it invites us, like the dismissal at the close of the Eucharist, to action. We invite you to incorporate these words in your liturgies on Sunday morning:

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Thanks be to God!

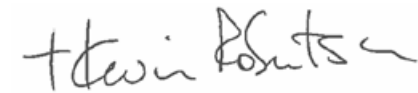
Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,



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

Submitted by the Rev. Philip Stonhouse

'As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (*Matthew 9:9*)

The Calling of Matthew feels like a fairly fitting verse for our past year. We celebrated 75 years of St. Matthew's sharing Christ's love (as our motto professes). Now we look forward to what the next three-quarters of a century might look like. We welcomed my baby boy Matteo (Italian for Matthew) into the world. Fitting to the passage, we have seen more and more people walking through our doors – called by Christ; newcomers, people we haven't seen in years, new Christians, and so many more. And I have seen people step up to grow and practice their faith, whether they have been at the church for a few months or many years. I am excited to experience what feels like St. Matthews being called out to follow Jesus in new ways.

The wardens (Karen, Marguerite, and Sharon), the welcome team (led by Deborah), and I have often commented that it feels like a week doesn't go by where we don't see a new face in the pews or at a bible study or event. Thank you for all you are doing to help make this possible. Thank you for the ways you welcome, participate, grow in faith, pray, bake, organize, invite, and so much more. We really are a team, and I could not do this without all of you. That being said, there is always a need for more support in one area or another. Please reach out to me or one of the wardens if you would like to find your place and/or help out a little more.

The biggest thing that we have to acknowledge in the midst of all of this is the work of the Holy Spirit. We have been seeing ways that people engage or feel drawn into this church that go beyond our personal or communal efforts. People who had no connection seeing a sign that God's love awaits them, receiving an invitation on the street, coming because of a friendly wave, drawn to watch us online, praying over the building, coming because of an accident, and much more. We are seeing hearts opened and hearts changed – interest and courage piqued. I have seen the same in many of you as you grow in your faith and understanding, as you reach out to those in need, as you wrestle with difficult problems and find solutions together. The Holy Spirit is doing some amazing work. I would encourage you to keep praying for this work, to keep leaning on his help, and to watch and feel for his guidance as much as possible. I have little doubt that we have more waiting for us in the months and years to come if we keep depending on Him.

There will be more updates in the vestry reports that follow, but there are two things I am hoping for in this coming year and I hope you will pray with me for them. The first is a spiritual revival, personally, in St. Matthew's and in the Christian church in general. This means that I am longing for hearts to be kindled and emblazoned with passion for Jesus Christ, His Gospel, and His love. The second thing, which goes hand-in-hand with this spiritual revival, is that I hope we as a church might become even more practical about our faith. The *Rule of Life* sermon series and workshop in Lent is all about how we might practically live out this faith in clear ways, but this is only the start. I hope you will join me at that event, but also in praying for both of these realities.

Sermon Series

You may not have realized it, but last year we spent a lot of time in the Old Testament. First, over Advent, we looked at people that precursored Jesus Christ. During Epiphany we saw how the people of God, Israel included, were always meant to be a people purposed to welcome others into the Kingdom of God. During Lent, we saw how we need to escape from sin and death through the Exodus. As we celebrated Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, we saw that God has always been at work redeeming and restoring, up to this point and beyond. Following Pentecost, we learned about the single and beautiful Fruit of the Spirit, which God has always wanted to grow in us. Finally, we ended our year with the Sermon on the Mount – which was Jesus showing Himself to be the greater Moses, giving us a law and life of blessing in our singular work with God.

Now we have started a year more closely tied to the Gospel of John and Spiritual renewal. Our Advent began with dwelling on the power and potency of the Word – which John reminds us became flesh in Jesus. We will be looking more at John through the great "I am" statement, the seven miraculous signs, and a time looking at the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Love. During Lent we are hoping to have a time of Spiritual renewal as we purposefully commit ourselves to practicing the faith by creating our own spiritual Rules of Life. I would encourage you to come to the day-long retreat (March 2nd) at the church around this theme.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. R. [unclear]", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Warden's Report

Submitted by Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke, and Sharon Shao

Our annual Vestry meeting is an opportunity to Review, Reflect and Respond.

The year 2023 was an exciting one for the community of St. Matthew's with growth in attendance at the Sunday services, wonderful participation in Messy Church and also with engaging attendees for various activities during the week, both in person and online. We are so thankful for the inspiring and thoughtful worship leadership of Rev. Philip and Rev. Merv alongside the musical talents of Tyler Versluis, our music director.

We also marked a major milestone in the life of St. Matthew's – namely our 75th anniversary. There were wonderful gatherings to share memories, to humbly reflect on the stages of growth, outreach, mission work, and ministries offered and supported by St. Matthews. An updated Parish photo book and special 75th edition of Matt's Media involved hours of volunteer work by many. The result is a keepsake for members of the church. Bishop Andrew Asbil's visit on Sunday September 24, 2023 for our Anniversary Service of Celebration and the reception following was the highlight of our anniversary year. Many former parishioners, clergy, and staff mingled during the reception and connected with friends and families who have more recently joined our church. On display was a marvelous selection of archival material which people could peruse while sampling delicious appetizers and refreshments. The afternoon was a wonderful salute to the last 75 years of our parish.

St. Matthew's is committed to sharing our large facility with community service and support groups as part of our community Outreach. The support groups include Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, APSGO (a parent/teen support group) and Scouts. These groups pay rent of a minimal amount to facilitate the needs of their clients/members.

Following COVID, the Out of the Cold program did not resume in our parish.

We also rent our facilities to Swansea Dogs and Kinglsey Private School plus various "one off" organizations for film shoot preparation, elections, special family events, etc. Occasionally neighbors rent parking spaces.

We are grateful to all our staff and volunteers for their dedication to their respective positions. Thank you.

We thank the parish for allowing us the honour to serve God and the parish as Wardens this past year.

Protecting and Advancing the Right to Housing

2024 Social Justice Vestry Motion

We, the parish of St. Matthew, Islington, call on all levels of government to take the following measures to protect and advance the human right to housing:

- **We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that federal subsidies and incentives are targeted to those developers and projects that demonstrably address housing need and uphold the human right to housing by meeting clear conditions on affordable rents, non-displacement policies and eviction prevention measures.**
- **We call on the Government of Canada to end the favourable tax treatment of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and tax them at the regular corporate rate, with resulting revenues being directed toward the creation and preservation of affordable housing.**
- **We call on the Province of Ontario to enact rent controls and vacancy controls on all rental housing and put restrictions on Above Guideline Rent Increases.**
- **We call on the Province of Ontario to work with municipal governments to enact and enforce restrictions on short-term rentals to protect rental housing stock.**

Canada has ratified the human right to housing in multiple international treaties, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Housing Strategy Act (2019) commits the federal government to the progressive realization of the right to housing. This does not mean that the government guarantees everyone a home. What it does mean is that the government must do everything in its power to realize the right to housing for Canadians, including removing obstacles and barriers to the realization of that right.

Three key aspects of the right to housing are affordability, security of tenure and habitability. Affordability is threatened when housing costs exceed 30% of a household's pre-tax income. Security of tenure is threatened when people are subject to eviction for no fault of their own, such as expropriation or arbitrary eviction. Habitability is threatened when units are not kept in an adequate state of repair.

Most recent government policy around affordable housing, at both the federal and provincial levels, has focussed on supply. Considering that both levels of government stopped creating non-market housing in the 1990's, we have a 30- year deficit in that supply. Worse, we are losing existing affordable housing faster than it is being built. For every new affordable rental unit created between 2011 and 2016, 15 units were lost in the private rental sector.¹ We cannot merely build our way out of the affordable housing crisis: we must also take measures to prevent the loss of existing affordable housing stock.

In the 1990's, as governments in Canada withdrew from investing in social housing, they also made several regulatory and legislative changes. These changes permitted the securitization of mortgages removed restrictions on the type and location of assets pension plans could hold, and enabled the creation of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS), which provide investors with access to real estate income at a preferential tax rate. These changes have accelerated the acquisition of existing rental housing by corporate investors whose primary purpose is to minimize costs and maximize profits for shareholders, rather than to provide housing at a reasonable rate of return. This trend is known as the financialization of housing, and "is associated with rising rent levels, displacement pressure, impacts on tenant quality of life, higher rates of eviction, and gentrification."²

The pressure to minimize costs while maximizing profits for shareholders has adverse impacts on affordability, habitability, and security of tenure for tenants of corporate landlords. Routine maintenance and upkeep of buildings is often neglected or deferred while money is invested in cosmetic improvements that allow landlords to apply successfully for above-guideline rent increases. Tenants suffer from neglect of needed repairs and upkeep, disruptive construction, repeated above-guideline increases, and both legal and extra-legal tactics, including harassment, that pressure them to leave their units. Indeed, financial firms strategically pursue "turnover" of tenants to benefit from vacancy decontrol (the opportunity to raise rents between tenancies.) This puts a strain on the mental and physical health of tenants while putting their security of tenure in jeopardy. These harmful effects are disproportionately experienced by people who are Indigenous, racialized, disabled, and newcomers to Canada, as well as those on low or fixed incomes – the same "vulnerable groups" that the National Housing Strategy is designed to assist.³

Some corporations buy up multiple rental units and divert them to the short-term rental market (i.e. Airbnb) This keeps these units from being accessible to local residents, and

drives up rents in the area. It is happening in communities large and small, urban and rural alike.

Carol, a renter in Toronto, lives in a building recently acquired by a REIT. She describes “a real struggle getting any work done,” with pest control, break-ins, and a non-functioning elevator being ongoing problems, while the owner was granted back-to-back above guideline increases. “We are always on edge because they have all the power and money to win things. It’s exhausting for us,” she says.⁴

Whitney is a mother of three who has been renting a house for five years in a small town with a very low rental vacancy rate. While her rent has been increasing each year as her landlord makes upgrades and applies above guideline rent increases, her own income has not been getting upgraded. Whitney is worried: “If the rent goes up anymore, I don’t think we’ll be able to stay—where will we go?”

Nicole leads an outreach team in a small community, supporting people experiencing homelessness. She recently realized how precarious her own housing is. After over 10 years of renting a house, she and her husband were given sixty days to vacate as the landlord elected to put the property up for sale. Nicole and her husband could not afford to purchase it and so, with limited options, short notice, and high prices, they had to leave the community to find housing. While Nicole continues to lead outreach work in the community she loves, she now commutes to work. It turns out the landlord didn’t sell the house after all - it is being rented again to new tenants at a new (higher) price. Nicole says, “Thankfully we were able to live with my parents for a few months until we could find a place. If it can happen to us, it can happen to anyone.”⁵

Protecting and advancing the right to housing for people like Carol, Whitney, Nicole and their families means removing the barriers to housing that is affordable, habitable, and does not expose renters to arbitrary eviction. To make this happen, governments should ensure that public funds are targeted to the creation and preservation of housing that commits to those principles. Real Estate Investment Trusts, which have been shown to erode the right to housing, should be taxed at the regular corporate rate, which would make hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue available for creating and preserving truly affordable housing⁶ The province must end the vacancy decontrol loophole, which gives landlords an incentive to evict tenants, and work with municipalities to create and enforce restrictions on short term rental operators so valuable units are not removed from the rental market.

Scripture recognizes the human need for shelter, security and dignity. Isaiah 32:18 reads, “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting

places.” If Canada is a country truly committed to realizing the right to housing, our laws and policies must reflect this commitment.

¹ <https://www.focus-consult.com/why-canada-needs-a-non-market-rental-acquisition-strategy/>

² August, Martine. 2022. *The financialization of housing in Canada: A summary report for the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate

³ August, 2022

⁴ ACORN Canada. 2022. *The impact of financialization on tenants: Findings from a national survey of ACORN members*. The Office of the Federal Housing Advocate

⁵ These are the stories of real people living in our Diocese. “Whitney” and “Nicole”’s names have been changed.

⁶ <https://www.pbo-dpb.ca/en/publications/RP-2324-001-M--cost-removing-tax-exemptions-real-estate-investment-trusts--estimation-couts-elimination-exemptions-fiscales-accordees-fiducies-placement-immobilier>

St. Matthew's Church Register for 2023

Weddings

Tyrene Jordan-Jackman and Jesse Adair

July 1, 2023

Sylvia Galano and John Mazenauer

August 19, 2023



Baptisms

Edward McLean Yestrau

October 1, 2023

Matteo James Stonhouse

November 5, 2023



Deaths

Anne Wiensczyk

January 2, 2023

Marjorie Williams

January 13, 2023

Gail Marshall

March 16, 2023

Sandra Adye-White

April 27, 2023

Jean Tovey

June 20, 2023

Elizabeth Smith

June 26, 2023

Terrence Reece

July 3, 2023

Anthony Denham,

August 26, 2023

Marion Graham,

October 24, 2023

Lois MacPherson,

December 3, 2023

Operating Fund Budget

Submitted by Karen Lee

St. Matthew's Anglican Church

Comparative Income Statement (Operating Fund)

	December 2023	December 2022	December Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Envelope Total	179,435	176,593	180,000	183,000
Open	1,808	1,138	1,000	2,400
Initial	150	370	100	150
Total Room Use	85,893	82,892	82,110	88,461
Seasonal Total	26,420	18,537	19,000	19,000
Memorials	5,385	4,657	3,000	3,000
Matt's Media	200	400	500	400
Miscellaneous	822	-	-	-
Parish Events - Total	9,287	1,506	6,408	5,100
Messy Church/Youth	-	452	-	1,000
Chancel Guild	1,169	1,010	1,500	1,000
Jubilee Grants	-	3,192	-	-
CEWS	-	59	-	-
 Total Revenue	 310,569	 290,807	 293,618	 303,511
 Total Clergy	 66,612	 65,874	 69,595	 69,851
Total Staff	81,451	91,554	95,588	87,492
Rectory	12,156	12,342	12,101	12,337
Church	91,081	68,696	68,013	77,864
Office	14,540	12,002	11,833	12,095
Audit	4,242	4,500	2,000	3,000
Ministry	4,309	7,290	4,900	7,532
Parish Events	4,611	83	-	500
Flowers	1,925	1,480	1,700	2,500
Miscellaneous	505	553	700	700
Synod	36,364	38,301	38,852	41,810
 Total Expense	 317,795	 302,674	 305,282	 315,681
 Net Income	 (7,226)	 (11,867)	 (11,664)	 (12,170)

Administrative Reports

Envelopes Report

Submitted by Noel Martin and Mary Gleeson

For the year 2024, we have assigned 25 numbered envelope sets to parishioners, and there are 42 Pre-Authorized Givings users. These are both down slightly from 2023. 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 programme. 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 right away (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 also, that would 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 etransfer system.

Thank you, Mary Gleeson, for your many years of painstaking (sometime painful?) review and editing of all the data entries; it was always a joy to work with you and you have been indispensable as Assistant Secretary.

Property Report

Submitted by Marguerite Locke, Property Warden

With the high volume of visitors to the church every day the premises requires considerable maintenance and upgrading to keep it safe and secure for all. The work completed this past year both by both professional contractors and by our Sexton included but are not limited to the following:

- Painting of parking lot lines.
- Painting of handrails surrounding walkways.
- Pruning of trees on east side of lot and on Rectory rear yard.
- Automation of the Chubb alarm system for morning de-activation.
- Replacement of two old gas fired water heaters with new high efficiency boiler following an October rupture of one tank. Subsequent extensive cleanup was required throughout the lower floor in several rooms. Our church insurance policy (part of the Diocesan plan) has a significant deductible of \$ 10,000 on such a loss, so the costs of this work were paid for by the church.
- Numerous plumbing issues were resolved in the old washrooms, from plugged toilets to plugged sinks.
- Electrical work must be performed by a licensed electrician and several repairs and replacement of light fixtures or electrical plugs were required.
- The doors frequently break down on the closure systems due to improper use and wear and tear.
- Doors and windows are sometimes left open overnight, and this let's not only cold air in but forces our furnace to work even harder to heat our large building.
- The sound system in the sanctuary has had a few problems over the past year and to resolve these issues and improve our online and in person experience, Rev. Philip and Marguerite have met with Branch Audio from Mississauga who are preparing a quotation and detailed outline of potential remedies. You will hear more about this work in Spring, 2024. Fortunately, we do have a dedicated fund for AV repairs.

The purpose of outlining these repair and maintenance issues is to emphasize that just as in our own homes/condos or apartments, the costs for service work and repairs are constantly increasing. The time required for repairs and troubleshooting what problems may arise is significant. As repairs are needed, funds too are essential. This past year we only did a small fundraising initiative of Loonie/Toonie jars but going forward it is essential that we create a fundraising team to help offset these expenses that are often sudden and unexpected.

Special thanks to Jim Currie who assisted Marguerite Locke and Tom Travaglini, our Sexton, in trying to resolve many of our property challenges.

Reports Submitted by Parish Ministries

Discipleship (Believing)

"...Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well." 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Discipleship (Believing)

Submitted by Rev. Philip and Dawn Mercer

We have been overjoyed to see discipleship grow in the church. Our Tuesday night GIFT group led by Dawn and many others who step in as needed continues to be a community of love and support that welcomes any who want to join. Our Tuesday morning group, which has just re-launched this year, started out well. It is led by Ann and Dorothy. I have often heard about the amazing and accessible conversations they have. Our special Advent discussions around The Chosen have become a tradition that many look forward to, watching it in advance. It has helped many to apply the Bible to their own life. Last Lent's special Bible Study on the Beatitudes became a great launching pad for us to understand God's blessings and the Sermon on the Mount, which we had a series on in the fall. Lastly, we were excited that many events worked well with our Wednesday morning service so that more people could enjoy and grow in that service. If you would like to participate or if you have any additional ideas or interests, we are always happy to hear it.

Last year we also had our first Rule of Life half-day retreat. It was a small but mighty group. Many said that it was a great opportunity to make practical and put into practice the important things, that they were learning about faith and God. This year we will be repeating it with a full-day retreat during Lent as we explore the ideas in a sermon series. The morning will be a short lecture about defining and building a Rule of Life. The afternoon will be a series of practices and questions that will inspire us to create a personal and meaningful rhythm of life for ourselves. Lunch will be provided for those who attend in the morning and afternoon. Drinks and snacks will be provided for all.

There will be updates on children and youth discipleship elsewhere in this report, but this has been very exciting as well.

Youth, Children, and Family Ministry (Believing)

Youth

Submitted by Bryan Tran

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

I joined the youth ministry team in February and found a structured and well-organized youth program led by an amazing group of volunteers – thanks go out to Lianne, Emily, Blessington, and Rev. Philip for their effort and dedication – and for providing the framework on which our youth ministry stands.

We continue to run Friday night events every other week, with a variety of indoor activities including video game nights, movie nights, prayer bead/gift workshops, and rock climbing, and outdoor activities such as ultimate frisbee, hiking, and skating – often in collaboration and partnership with fellow parishioners.

We have two retreats on our calendar each year. During the Winter Radiate Retreat at Ontario Pioneer Camp, we explored the theme of being rooted in Jesus, studied the story of Peter, and enjoyed the great Canadian Winter up north in minus 40-degree weather. At the Fall Recharge Retreat, hosted by the Diocese of Toronto at Muskoka Woods, we enjoyed learning about different Saints, gave feedback as part of the Cast The Net process, and enjoyed the amazing facilities and hospitality in picture-perfect weather. Both retreats offered time away from home to enjoy weekends filled to the brim with activities, worship, games, food, and time to bond as a group.

The Sunday morning youth discussion time during the 9:30 all ages service allows us to connect and dig a little deeper into some of the readings and examine topics related to Rev. Philip's sermon series. It's also been a place of discovery and exploration as we learn and grow together in faith and as followers of Jesus Christ. Some of the topics outside of the sermon series included a study on the life of St. Francis of Assisi, exploring the difference between belief and action as expressed in a poem, and an investigation into the Indigenous story of the Two Wolves.

Outside of this framework, it's been a pleasure and delight to see our youth being active and engaged in so many facets of our church. From sharing their talents as musicians in our worship band, lending a helping hand at Messy Church, participating in readings

during services and our Christmas and Easter pageants, taking on leadership roles during our first ever summer camp, and writing articles for Matt's Media, our youth are a vital and vibrant group at St. Matthew's and we are truly blessed by them.

We are grateful to the entire community at St. Matthew's – youth, parents, volunteers, staff, and the entire congregation have been so supportive and welcoming. Thanks also go out to the Bishop's Youth Ministry Committee (BYMC). I had the privilege of being part of the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP) where I got to connect with other youth leaders and benefit from mentorship and guidance. The BYMC also support our youth ministry with ongoing events, retreats, and training that help us feel connected and engaged in the larger community.

It's been a wonderful journey getting to know the families and youth. Looking ahead we are excited to host the Youth Alpha program on Sunday mornings, find open gym time for youth to be able to drop in and have time for free play, and explore offering more leadership opportunities to our youth within St. Matthew's and in our broader community. As always, we are open to ideas and suggestions and would love to hear from you.

Club Matt

Submitted by Lianne Thompson on behalf of the Club Matt team

We continue to be blessed by the families and children who worship at St. Matthew's. Following the pandemic, 2023 was the first full calendar year back to offering an in-person Club Matt children's program at the 9:30 a.m. and all Unity services. We offer the program for two age groups:

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

Dawn Mercer and Jenna Wukasch continue to work 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. We are now mid-way through the three-year rollout, and throughout 2023 we had units on:

- Jesus (stories about Jesus)
- Baptism
- Easter and Pentecost
- We Are the Church (the early church incl. stories from the stained-glass windows)
- Summer program: Rock-Solid Followers (Paul & missionaries)

- Judges and Kings (people from the Old Testament)
- Advent & the Jesse Tree, and the Pageant

The number of children increased in both classes through the first half of the year, with the Junior class regularly having 6 – 8 children and the senior class ranging between 5 - 9 depending on week and service.

- The Summer maintained those numbers in a combined class held in the Senior room.
- Summer family events (Pizza in the Parking Lot, Pool Party) had record or high attendance. These special events focusing on community, fun, and sharing a meal continue to welcome a wide audience.
- Although new families continue to visit and join St. Matthew's, Club Matt attendance in Fall 2023 leveled off somewhat, although we still had more than 25 children and youth take part in the Christmas pageant in December.

We like to maintain a leader rotation so that all teachers can also spend time worshipping. We currently have 7 leaders (3 for the Junior program and 4 for the Senior). We would like to increase the team to 8, with additional (occasional) volunteers so that most are only teaching once a month. More volunteers are ALWAYS welcome – we would love to invite you to join the fun Club Matt team!

Messy Church

Submitted by Linda Dickson

2023 was a busy year at Messy Church. It was held the last Saturday of each month with the exception of May, which was held on the first Saturday of June.

On average we see 20 children attend, some with their parents, and other come with a friend.

There are crafts to do that go along with the theme of the month, and a Worship time followed by a family meal.

This year we were very pleased to have some of our youth attend to lead activities and help with our set up.

I would like to thank Deborah Hurn for her involvement since Messy Church began, and welcome Katie Ward who has taken on the roll of preparing the meal. This is a big job, so if anyone would like to come on Messy Church nights at 5:30 to help with the kitchen clean up, we would appreciate the help. We use disposable cups, cutlery, and plates so

clean up with a few people does not take long. Feel free to speak to Linda Dickson if you feel you can help.

We would like to thank our wardens and Philip for their support.

New Ministries

Submitted by Rev. Philip Stonhouse

There have been a few new ministries that we wanted to draw your attention to.

- 75th Anniversary

This year was a special time of celebration and looking back. A big thank you to Kathie and Lisa for putting together the special *Matt's Media* with testimonials and to Bryan and Tatiana for conducting interviews to make sure everyone had a chance to share. Thank you to Sharon and Nancy for putting together our photo book. Thank you to Marguerite, Tyler, and many others who organized our special service. I know there were so many people involved in all of this work, so thank you.

- Partnership with Christ the King

With two of our members helping at Christ the King and the arrival of their new Priest, Rev. Jeff Nowers, we have seen some partnership between the two churches. Christ the King is a smaller church and so our leadership is excited about the idea of sharing events and opportunities in the future.

- The Family Room: Bible Study and Movie Nights

Once a month we had either Bible Studies or Movie Nights for all of our families, whether a family of six or of one. This was usually accompanied by a meal and had opportunities for both the children and the adults to join in a conversation of faith.

- Special *Cast the Net* Grant

The Diocese has been going through a massive quest for information as they work on their next strategic plan that they are calling *Cast the Net*. Many people in our church were interviewed. Part of this brought a great opportunity for a substantial grant that could include staff costs. St. Matthews was blessed to receive a grant for \$29,000 for three ministries: Camp Matt, an after-school Drama Club, and a Condo Bible Study program.

- Camp Matt

Our first summer camp was very successful, with many children, youth, and adults saying it was the best camp they had attended in years. We had 21 children attending, with 10 youth volunteers, 14 adult volunteers, and 4 staff involved in a camp that ran between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. We heard from many others that they had hoped to come, but we had been too late in getting the word out.

- Afterschool Drama Club

We began the program with 10 children and one youth volunteer. We later added two adults who volunteered to lead the program; one of whom has already taken on this role and the other will shortly. Half of our participants were active members in our parish and the other half were not. We heard later from a parent how impressed they were with the program, from another that they had originally sent their child to work on his confidence and speech, and from another that their children appreciated the extra time with Pastor Philip.

- Condo Bible Studies

We are currently in a bit of a holding pattern around this ministry. We are hopeful to relaunch it soon, but we have reached out to the diocese to get approval to alter our plan a little bit to help pilot the project.

- Informal gatherings

We have been excited to see and hear that informal gatherings of people within the church have started popping up. We are thankful for all the ways that you are gathering around Christ and building relationships.

Fellowship & Worship (Belonging)

Music Ministry (Belonging)

Submitted by Tyler Versluis, Organist and Director of Music

Dear friends in Christ,

This year was spent building as well as maintaining what has already been given to us by the grace of God.

The choir continues to lead music regularly at the 11 a.m. Sunday services, and Michelle Lorimer and I lead music at the 9:30 a.m. service. As music director I am working to

embrace a variety of worshipful styles in our services, including leaning into the sung psalms and responses of a traditional BCP service, as well as developing a well-rounded choir and worship band who are flexible in both traditional Anglican worship and popular praise and worship styles. This is not always easy, and as always, I am thankful for an immensely gracious roster of singers and musicians who embrace this plurality. We now have **two** established worship teams consisting of singers and instrumentalists, which rehearse either Wednesday or Thursday nights during the week. The choir also has new members. It has been an immense blessing to see the choir and these worship teams grow over the past year. We still welcome any additional instruments or voices. As music director, year highlights continue to be Lessons and Carols, Christmas, and Holy Week.

Since writing my last vestry report there have been four concert recitals at St. Matthew's, featuring mainly classical music, but in a departure from normality, also featured a folk band. Our March 2023 Lenten concert revolved around T.S. Eliot's poem cycle "Ash Wednesday", and featured music for the unique combination of organ, harp, and viola. Bruce Gleeson was featured as a reader of Eliot's poetry. Our June concert was a coffee-house style event with drinks, snacks, and a folk band singing arrangements from Southern Harmony. In October, I did a double recital with concert organist David Simon, examining the organ's fascinating 600-year history. The November concert brought in local talent as pianist Oliver Peart and singer Anna Tanczak joined us for a Young Artists concert. The ticket sales for these events are listed here:

Ashes: A Lenten Recital: \$695

Southern Harmony: \$755

600 Year Reign: \$540

Young Artists Series with Oliver Peart and Anna Tanczak: \$735

This concert series continues to operate at a surplus, and for that I am grateful for everyone who attends and supports financially. Thank you especially to Lisa Tait, Rev. Philip, Marguerite Locke, and Karen Lee who do behind-the-scenes work at these events.

Our instruments remain in good shape, with the piano being maintained by George Stimpson, and the organ by Phoenix Digital Organs. The organ was almost completely problem-free this year, which I am grateful for.

Your prayers are appreciated as I continue to balance the work of being your Music Director, President of the Canadian League of Composers and a freelance composer and

performer. Please pray for church musicians in general, as the cost of living and rent is an increasing challenge for many of us.

Chancel Guild (Belonging)

Submitted by Mary Gleeson and Sandra Wilson

2023 was another busy year for the members of the Chancel Guild. Our duties included the changing of the hangings for the appropriate liturgical seasons, filling the candles, polishing the brass and silver, and preparing for all eucharists. The preparation for the Sedar service on Maundy Thursday was a new experience for our members. The making of the palm crosses was part of the preparations for the Easter season. The guild also prepared and decorated the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Throughout the year Sandra Wilson prepared the flower arrangements. We want to thank all those who gave flowers in memory of loved ones as well as those who contributed flowers from their gardens.

Many thanks to Cathy Cross and Gerry Tilker for their dedication in preparing for the midweek eucharist services.

We are very fortunate to have a team of members who ensure the linens are kept in good and clean condition in preparation for the worship services.

We thank all those members for their contributions throughout this past year. New members are always welcome. Please contact the church office for more information.

Intercessors (Belonging)

Submitted by Mary Gleeson

Each week at a UNITY or 11:00 o'clock service, intercessors deliver The Prayers of the People. These include prayers for the church, the world, Peace, and those in need. A reminder from the church office of your duty along with prayer requests is emailed to you. We are grateful for the dedication of Barb Landry, Marilyn Freedman, Nancy Hurn and Michelle Lorimer. Additional volunteers are needed to assist in this important ministry.

Lay Anointing (Belonging)

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

This Ministry provides an opportunity for persons, who have just shared in the Eucharist to have a personal, private, and confidential prayer with a trained, licenced Lay Anointer, a fellow parishioner and to be anointed with consecrated, Holy oil. Those seeking administration of oil and prayer may be children or adults and families may receive anointing in a small group or individually.

Anointing may be administered for many reasons including "healing" in the biblical sense - the restoration of health, the making whole or well whether physically, mentally, or spiritually- it is not the same as curing. A person cannot be anointed for another person but the prayer following anointing may be on behalf of other persons or reasons when requested.

It is sometimes thought that anointing is reserved for persons in the last stages of life or has just died. This is a misconception. The following outlines some of the important history and facts of anointing as practiced at St. Matthew's.

Anointing is an ancient practice of Christian worship, and the Ministry of Anointing has been available at St. Matthew's since February 10, 2014. The ministry only takes place within the context of the Eucharist and is currently administered by our clergy or six specially trained Lay Anointers. The anointers provide the ministry under the direction of the Rector and must have a licence from our Area Bishop which must be renewed every three years.

Anointing is usually available after the Eucharist at both the 9:30 and 11:00 AM services but not when both congregations worship together at the monthly combined Unity service.

The Ministry has been very well received at St. Matthew's and large numbers of women, men, teens, and children regularly are anointed either singly or in families. If Anointing is desired, following participation in the Eucharist, proceed to the back of the nave to the Anointer standing to the left when facing the Ascension window. If special prayer is desired, either personal or on behalf of another person or reason, please inform the Anointer providing as much, or little, information as you might be comfortable in

sharing. Any such sharing is strictly confidential. If the anointee wishes further prayer and the Laying on of Hands for Healing, please ask the Anointer to so advise our Clergy.

Lectors (Belonging)

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. Unfortunately, several of our members are still unable to participate but we have added Makram Anastas to our group and Marguerite Locke continues to assist when needed. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please contact Bruce Gleeson (416-239-9640) or the rector and we will gladly add your name to our list of volunteers.

Partners in Prayer (Belonging)

Submitted by Bob Holloway

The Partners in Prayer, originally a prayer chain using telephones, has been a parish ministry for almost forty years. We believe strongly in the power of prayer. Were it not so, the ministry would not have expanded and grown as it has.

It is NOT an exclusive ministry, open only to a select few, or to present parishioners. We also have faithful participants now residing in assisted living or a long way from St. Matthew's. Some are in other provinces or other countries, but we are closely tied together by belief and purpose, but more loosely knit by physical distance. Everyone receives the request simultaneously. The number of requests received varies from year to year, but the volume is not onerous. If permitted, first names will be included in the Prayers of the People during worship.

Anyone wishing to share in this Ministry is very welcome and there are only a few requirements besides a strong belief in the power of prayer. An electronic communication device and an email address is a primary requirement. The request is to be confidential and not discussed casually. The content and duration of members' prayers is discretionary to the prayer partner. However, the given name of the person being prayed may be included in the Prayers of the People, during worship services.

We pray for members of our faith family of St. Matt's, other families, friends, neighbours, and any other person made known to us, who may need comfort and to know they are not alone with their illness or problem.

We continue to welcome anyone who would like to join us in prayer and this year our ministry grew with the addition of new parishioners to St. Matt's.

Any person wishing to pray with us can do so by contacting me as shown below:

Robert (Bob) Holloway, Coordinator
416 253 4909; rholloway@sympatico.ca

Hospitality (Belonging)

Submitted by Rev. Philip Stonhouse

After a few years of COVID restrictions where gathering, especially around food, was either not permitted or questionable, I am so glad to see that we have returned to a regular habit of spending time together over food. The starting place for this is our weekly coffee hour after our Sunday Services. Thank you to Layla Ho, Lianne Thompson, and Karen Lee for organizing volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to join in this simple but meaningful ministry.

In addition, we have seen hospitality become an opportunity to invite people, welcome them, and integrate them into the community. Karen Lee and Marguerite Locke organized receptions after our concerts, funerals, special services (like Blue Christmas) and more. Bruce Gleeson and Stuart Watt organized the ever-popular Pancake Supper. As we continued living into our Christian calling to introduce others to Jesus through hospitality, we also had the opportunity to grow in our own faith through a special Passover Seder (which we are planning to do every second year). Thank you to Sharon, Tanya, Ann Marie and all those who organized and cooked. I know many people found it extremely meaningful and eye opening.

Lastly, it has been amazing to see people open their homes to show hospitality to their brothers and sister and for the sake of the church. I have heard of little potlucks, summer ice cream, teas, special bible studies, discussion groups, BBQ with a swim, a marriage Alpha and much more all run out of peoples' homes for the glory of God and for the growing of this family. Thank you to all of you who are growing together and being purposeful about gathering around Jesus Christ. I see that we are becoming even more of a family in Christ and that is wonderful.

Matt's Media (Belonging)

Submitted by Kathie Oakden

Matt's Media is the parish newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington. In 2023, in addition to our customary four issues, a fifth was published to celebrate St. Matthew's 75th Anniversary. Their publication dates were Lent/Easter (February 19), Pentecost (May 28), 75th Anniversary (September) Thanksgiving (October 13) and Advent/Christmas (December 3).

Matt's Media provides reports and photographs of recent Parish activities and publicizes future Worship Services and Events. Parishioners are encouraged to report on activities they have attended. Please submit articles and photos for inclusion.

The 75th Anniversary Edition was suggested by Lisa Tait and published to coincide with the Bishop's Visit and Celebration on September 24. For several months beforehand, parishioners contributed photos and memories. Many parishioners were interviewed by Tatiana Saliba and Bryan Tran and common themes were grouped. The original texts are available in our archives. Highlights of recent parish life were detailed at length.

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, or 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. For past issues, electronic copies or reprints might be available.

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.

Sides People (Belonging)

Submitted by Ron Landry

In the fall of 2023, the decision was made to resume side duties at St. Matthews. The responsibilities were changed to reflect the new reality and needs of our congregation post COVID. The services covered are the 10:30 A.M. Unity and the 11:00 A.M. Traditional Services on Sundays.

The sides people greet the people as they arrive and ensure any newcomers are warmly welcomed and any of their enquires answered. They count and record the number of people in attendance, including those online. The offertory plate is presented at the Doxology.

There is a total of eight parishioners involved in this ministry. If you have interest in joining this team, please speak to the sides person on duty or Ron Landry. Thank you to the sides people for their faithful and continued service to this ministry.

Stewardship (Belonging)

Submitted by Karen Lee

St. Matthew's continues to be very fortunate to be able to offer multiple ministries. Sincere thanks to the many volunteers who participate in our ministries. Their contributions of time and talent play a significant role in the life of the parish and Sharing Jesus Love!

In March 2023, the annual Stewardship package was distributed 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.

Tech Team (Belonging)

Submitted by Karen Lee

During 2023 St. Matthew's was fortunate to be able to continue to provide our worship services and other events online through Zoom and other platforms. This was largely due to the dedication of the members of the Tech Team led by Rev. Philip, (aka Head Coach). We acknowledge and thank the team for making it possible for St. Matthew's to Share Jesus' Love beyond the walls of the church.

Outreach (Behaving)

Food Cupboard (Behaving)

Submitted by Noel Martin

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

We continue to help St. James United Church on Burnhamthorpe Rd. with their large "Food Basket" operation if ever there is a surplus that will not be used up before its Best Before Date.

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 the seemingly increasing number who are struggling with food insecurity in our area.

Your generous donations of any amount, whether food or cash, are appreciated.

FRIENDS for Friends (Formerly Welcome Committee) (Behaving)

Submitted by Deborah Hurn

I would like to start by thanking those who have participated in this Ministry through deeds or prayers: Ann Sim, Karen Lee, Patricia Currie, Sharon Shao, Kathie Oakden, Mary Gleeson, Philip Stonhouse, Lianne Thompson, Dawn Mercer, Barb Landry, Katie Ward, Lisa Tait.

In the past year we have renamed this Ministry FRIENDS for Friends. FRIENDS (Friends Relate In Every Need As Disciples for the Saviour) is more reflective of the Ministry of this group. We try to be Welcoming, we try to be Pastoral but when we reflected on the name and mandate, it wasn't truly reflective of all the work being done. Our Ministry is to be a friend to anyone who may be in need.

This group has continued to provide support to many Parishioners via the phone, Home Communion, meal drop off, and home visits. We staff the Welcome Table as everyone comes into Church during most of the Services. It is our goal to greet newcomers and regular Parishioners to keep them up to date on Parish activities. We have found it a great way for newcomers to come in anonymously or to find out who we are and how is it exactly we "Share Jesus' Love."

We all have been drawn to St. Matthews at various times. We all need some level of support at each of our life stages, whether sickness, loss of a family member, bereavement, new family member, or any life altering moments. Together, whether a team member or not, we all care for each other as we are called to do.

Community Outreach (Behaving)

Submitted by Marguerite Locke

St. Matthew's was active in several outreach initiatives during 2023 with generous responses from the parish. We filled a couple of vehicles on several occasions with donations of gently worn winter clothing and footwear and various toiletries and towels. The donations were delivered by Deborah Hurn, Nancy Hurn and Marguerite Locke to The Scott Mission on Spadina Ave., The Church of the Holy Trinity at the Eaton Centre, and the HAVEN shelter on the Queensway.

In addition, we supported the outreach refugee work at Christ Church St. James (CCSJ) on Parklawn Rd. That parish has had a large influx of refugees from a local motel on the Queensway and from hotels on Dixon Rd.

St. Matthew's was able to assist in providing many large bags of clothing plus six pairs of brand-new snow boots, and monetary donations of \$500 to the church for their discretionary purchases for the refugees. Our Christmas Toy drive, which was very much a "last minute" initiative, was terrific—we donated about 50 gifts for CCSJ to distribute to the children on Christmas Eve services.

Thank you to all in the parish who responded so generously to these needs. We truly fulfilled our mission of "*Sharing Jesus Love.*"

Social Media Report (Behaving)

Submitted by Tyler Versluis

St. Matthew's continues to maintain a Facebook page and Instagram account, as well as a professional website. These webpages are maintained very regularly, since they are often the public face of our church, and the first things people will check before making a visit. They also contain information for future events, as well as mementos from previous events (photos, videos, etc.). Saint Matt's Youth also independently runs an Instagram page (link below). We encourage you to follow these accounts regularly, and to share and "like" posts. Our Facebook page currently has 582 followers, and our Instagram has 100 followers, as of January 24, 2024. Thank you to Lisa Tait who does

much of the website maintenance and promotional materials you see on our social media.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsAnglicanChurch>

Church Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/st.matthewsislington>

Saint Matt's Youth: <https://www.instagram.com/saintmatts.ca.youth>

Website: saintmatts.ca

St. Matthew's Indigenous Group (Behaving)

Submitted by Nancy Hurn

Although SMIG has not met as a group recently, certain indigenous-related activities have been held to honour a celebrate our indigenous brothers and sisters. We worshipped twice this year in honour of National Indigenous Day of Prayer on June 25 and Orange Shirt Day on September 30 with the children at Messy Church. John Patterson came from Six Nations Reserve to show the children various animal skins and flowers and plants used for healing.

St. Matthew's enjoys an important relationship with the Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley and Esther Wesley, both well respected elders in the Toronto Indigenous and church Community. In honour of our 75th anniversary, the Wesley's made a beautiful Christmas crèche in the style of the Ojibway-Cree birch bark structure with beads from her mother's handiwork! It was given in honour of the children of St. Matthew's who have learned much from the Wesleys and their story telling.

Over a dozen fur coats and stoles were donated by members and friends of St. Matthew's and were distributed throughout Canada for repurposing as trim for coats, moccasins, and gloves in the Inuit and First Nation communities.

SMIG maintained their relationship with Holy Trinity Eaton Centre as we delivered clothing and supplies to the homeless. A decision was made to supply an Easter package rather than Christmas this year to those in need of socks, and toiletries as well as some Easter treats. We are very grateful for the support many members have made, including the wardens.

Nominations

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

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

Parish-elected Nominees:

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

Rector's Appointments

Rector's warden:	Sharon Shao
Deputy Rector's warden:	Paul Lorimer
Property Chairs:	Stuart Watt/Marguerite Locke
Friends for Friends (Welcome Team):	Deborah Hurn
Prayer Ministry:	Bob Holloway
Intercessors:	Barb Landry
Chancel:	Open
Readers:	Bruce Gleeson
Club Matt:	Lianne Thompson (until September)
Messy Church:	Linda Dickson
Parish Council chair:	Open

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

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Tel: 416-231-4014

office@saintmatts.ca * www.saintmatts.ca

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 10:30 a.m. (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

