

Summer 2018

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THE THURIBLE

Newsletter | St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Toronto | Summer 2018



Roses blooming in the church garden in June.

Our Heritage Is Our Future: Report on Parish

Consultation Session and Updates



Break-out groups brainstorm during the April 22 parish consultation session to discuss the future needs of the parish and how we might better utilize our spaces.

[Read Report](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**FEAST OF DEDICATION
October 14, 2018**

Archbishop Colin Johnson

will join us to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our church. The parish (established in 1874) consecrated the building in 1893.

Renewable Energy Project

Baptistery Window Project: Restoration Studio Tour



The initial phase of the baptistery conservation project, which focuses on the stained glass and stonemasonry, began in January. The [Bromsgrove Guild windows](#) were removed and transferred to the studio of stained glass conservation and restoration expert Eve Guinan of [EDG Glass](#) in Toronto. In March, Julia Armstrong and Warden Lorne Swan visited Eve's studio for a tour and overview of the work in progress, and in May Fr. Mark visited along with parishioner Janet Dewan and her sister, Barbara Tangney, generous supporters of the project. Click the button below for highlights from the studio visits.



[Click Here to See Our Windows in Progress](#)

Thank You, Fr. Brinton

Fr. David Brinton acted as priest-in-charge from Candlemas to the end of April, during Father Mark's much-deserved sabbath leave. In this interview, Jennifer Grange discovers that, like many people at St. Thomas's, he did not start life as an Anglican. Jennifer also learns what's next for Fr. Brinton.



[Read the Article by Jennifer Grange](#)

He Came, He Saw, He Polished



Easter Day saw the end of an era at St. Thomas's: the retirement of long-time Altar Guild member Jean-Paul Napier (centre, with Fr. Mark Andrews and Anna Kennedy). On Sunday, June 3 at coffee hour, the parish gathered to thank him.

Photo by Rob Kennedy

[Read the Tribute by Jennifer Grange](#)

Guest Speaker & Clergy Seminar

The Very Reverend Professor Andrew Louth was our guest preacher at Solemn Evensong and Devotions on Sunday, May 6. One of the most respected authorities today on Orthodoxy, Fr. Louth is Emeritus Professor of Patristic and Byzantine Studies and Orthodox Chaplain at Durham University, England. An Archpriest in the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Sourozh, he serves at [St. Cuthbert and St. Bede Orthodox Church, Durham](#). Fr. Louth led this year's [Fr. Robert Crouse](#) Seminar, an annual seminar for Anglican clergy and seminarians sponsored by the Corpus Christi Foundation, which took place at St. Thomas's May 6 to 9.

Note: The parish library has several books by Fr. Louth. To borrow, please see one of the library volunteers at coffee hour.



The Very Reverend Professor Andrew Louth (on Fr. Mark's left) and the participants in the Fr. Robert Crouse Seminar for Anglican clergy and seminarians, held at St. Thomas's in May.

Photo by Barb Obrai

Electoral Synod Report

A special session of Synod was held in St. James' Cathedral on Saturday morning June 9 to elect a coadjutor bishop for the Diocese of Toronto. Your St. Thomas's lay Synod members - Jessica Nee, Jennifer McCallum, and Rob and Anna Kennedy - attended and sat on the Epistle (lectern) side of the nave. Also present were Fathers Andrews, D'Angelo, Kennedy and Ipema. They were required to sit on the Gospel (pulpit) side. There were about 300 clergy and 300 laity present to vote.

The official proceedings started after a service of Holy Communion. We received instructions about using the electronic voting system, which worked very well, truly supporting the paperless event. Two rounds of voting occurred before lunch and the final round afterwards, with Synod concluding by 3 pm. There were six nominees: The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison, The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil, The Rev. Canon David Harrison, The Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews, The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson and The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw. The nominees were given time between ballots to consult with their advisers to decide if they

wanted to withdraw their name from the ballot. After the first round, all six names remained on the ballot. After the second round, only two names remained: Andrew Asbil and Victoria Matthews. [Andrew Asbil](#), who is Dean of Toronto and Rector of St. James' Cathedral, won the final round. He will be consecrated bishop on Michaelmas and will become our diocesan bishop on January 1, 2019, when Archbishop Johnson retires. There was much thanking of people, but eventually we got to hear from the bishop-elect himself. His short but heartfelt acceptance speech set a good tone, and he encouraged clergy and laity alike to join him in his new mission: "I'll walk with you if you'll walk with me."

Anna Kennedy



Clergy and parishioners of St. Thomas's at Synod on June 9, 2018. Back row: Fr. Theo Ipema and Fr. Christopher D'Angelo. Front row: Delegates Rob and Anna Kennedy, Jennifer McCallum and Jessica Nee. (Also in attendance but missing from photo: Fr. Andrews and Fr. Kennedy.) The Very Rev. Andrew Asbil, Dean of Toronto and Rector of St. James' Cathedral, was elected to become coadjutor bishop. His consecration will be on Michaelmas. He will become diocesan bishop in the new year.

Music Notes



Young Singers: Update

We are happy to report that considerable progress has been made toward establishing a children's music program at St. Thomas's.

Those in attendance for the Feast of Corpus Christi (June 3) were treated to a glorious offering from the choir of Louis Vierne's *Messe solennelle* and Olivier Messian's motet "O sacrum convivium." Three boys joined the ranks of the choir for the service, adding a wonderful energy and brightness to the sound. Their hard work and preparation, along with that of all the dedicated choir members, resulted in a truly special mass that was warmly received by the congregation.

We are excited to propel this recent success forward by formalizing a children's choir program for the fall, building on this core group of experienced children and drawing in more. Both boys and girls are welcome and encouraged to participate, with the ultimate vision being a choral ensemble each for boys and girls.

For the time being, while we are building the program, it makes sense to rehearse any interested boys and girls together as one group. Down the road, if numbers permit, a decision may be made to create two separate ensembles with their own rehearsals.

Rehearsal plans and other details are currently being worked out, and it's certainly not too late to become involved. If you know of any child roughly between the ages of 8 and 13 who may be interested, please encourage them to contact Matthew Larkin or the Rector.

[Click for Photos and Reports on Music Events](#)



Presenters and performers at the Margaret Avison Centenary event in April. From left: Rev. Don MacLeod, Jeffery Donaldson, Gordon Johnston, David Kent, Maureen Scott Harris, Jill Jorgenson, Robyn Sarah, bill bissett and William Aide.

The St. Thomas's Poetry Series: Centenary of Margaret Avison

Recognized as one of Canada's leading poets and certainly its most outstanding Christian poet, Margaret Avison (1918-2007) lived in rooms on Washington Avenue (which runs between Huron and Spadina, across from the church) on three different occasions from the 1940s until the 1960s. And it was in her room at 2 Washington Avenue, after reading the gospel of John (14.1) on 4 January 1963, that she had the conversion experience that changed everything and led her to a life of witnessing both in act and word. Avison attended nearby Knox Presbyterian Church (Harbord and Spadina) for 35 years.

On April 19 in the parish hall, about 75 people gathered in celebration of Avison's centenary to hear examples of her poetry, recollections of her life and personality, and music dedicated to her memory. The audience was treated to a rich variety of voices, from the legendary bill bissett and Governor General Award winner Robyn Sarah to academics/poets Jeffery Donaldson and Gordon Johnston. Maureen Harris read a long poem by a 25-year-old Avison, while Jill Jorgenson read poems inspired by the distinctive Avison manner and voice. Rev. Don MacLeod spoke movingly of his friendship with Avison and of her life of service, and pianist William Aide closed the program with a sensitive performance of Brahms' *Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, no. 2*.

All the participants are contributors to a special issue of the journal Canadian Poetry (published in May at Western University, London, Ont.), which I edited and introduced. Representatives of Brick Books and Porcupine's Quill, the two publishers with whom Avison was primarily connected in the last 15 years of her life, also attended the reading, and sales of her books were apparently brisk. Avison's close friend and literary executor, Joan Eichner, cut the centenary cake. One hundred copies of George Bowering's

poem “The Weight” were printed as a broadside by Stan Bevington’s [Coach House Press](#), and signed copies were distributed to all who came to the reading.

*David Kent
The St. Thomas Poetry Series*

Property Updates

[Read the Committee Report](#)

Parish Register

[Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals](#)

St. Thomas's Photo Album: January to July

Photos by Julia Armstrong unless otherwise indicated



January baptism of Gabriel Tuttle, son of James Tuttle and Lisa DiMaria.



Potluck reception after Easter Vigil, coordinated by the amazing Friars' Guild.



1. Robert Watt and Constance Li-Kang Hsu, shown here with Fr. D'Angelo, were baptized during Easter Vigil. 2. The Easter garden.



1. David O'Rourke and Felicity Pickup. 2. Marion Connolly and Margo Swiss.



1. Workers preparing to remove the baptistery windows for transfer to the restoration studio
(photo by Christine Cover). 2. Light streaming in after stained glass removal.



Spring blooms in the rectory garden.



1. The Acolytes' Guild held its second annual barbecue on July 19 in the rectory garden (photo by Jessica Nee).
2. Tim Wright and Anneli Pekkonen hosted a choir party on July 21.

As an active and welcoming Anglo-Catholic parish rooted in Scripture, Reason and Tradition, we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and witness to Christ through pastoral care, music, education, discipleship, and service.

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