



CONTACT

Christ's Church Cathedral

October 2022

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK



I believe that the greatness of a parish doesn't depend on any particular person or programme. Rather its greatness exists in the faithfulness of each of its members to the gospel of God and their generosity in offering the gifts of time, skills and resources in support of the ministry and mission of God for the sake of the world.

I am deeply grateful for the myriad of ways in which members of the Cathedral family live and share the good news of God's reconciling love for us and for all of creation, and offer their gifts generously. Through us, God is transforming our neighbourhoods, and indeed all of creation, one heart at a time. It is important we affirm and give thanks for this simple and joyful truth.

The Season of Creation in the Anglican Church of Canada is an intentional time of prayer, education and action which runs from September 1 through October 4. Together, we reflected on the significance of our baptismal call to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and to respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth. We gave thanks especially for the gift of this exquisite and fragile planet we are privileged to call home. We confessed those ways in which we have not exercised the ministry of care, which God has entrusted to us by reason of our baptism. We asked for the grace to make wise and responsible choices to promote the health and well-being of the earth for God's sake and for the sake of the generations who follow us.

The first of the Lambeth Calls on the environment issued at the recent global meeting of Anglican bishops urges us to 'treasure God's marvellous creation' and calls world leaders 'to enact bold and urgent policy changes' and 'to recognise the wisdom within faith communities about the value and care of creation.' At the Conference, the planting of a tree in the garden of Lambeth Palace marked the launch of the Anglican Communion Forest. It is an initiative encouraging dioceses across the world to take actions that preserve and regenerate the environment. My hope and prayer is that we at the Cathedral will play our part locally in the Anglican Communion Forest.

How shall we play that part? Often the world around us may think that the

good news we have to share is simply about a better after-life – 'pie-in-the-sky after we die.' It's so much more than that. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, God has both announced and unleashed a plan for the healing and restoration of all of creation, including us. We are not abandoned to a life of 'one damned thing after another' as Aldous Huxley so deftly put it. Here and now, right where we find ourselves, God is at work through people just like you and me, using our God-given gifts faithfully, generously and courageously, to usher in the new creation, this new way of being, the kingdom of heaven, which God promises us all. What could be better news than that?

A blessed Fall to you all.

Tim+

THE VERY REV. DR.
TIM DOBBIN
RECTOR & DEAN



October 2022

WARDEN'S WORLD



Fall 2022 has been an exceptionally busy one at Christ's Church Cathedral, as pandemic restrictions have eased and the Cathedral has resumed its role in the life of the diocese with a round of services including ordinations, confirmations, and special services for the Order of Niagara and a diocesan Celebration of Ministry. As part of the latter event, after almost two years with us, The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin was finally officially installed by Bishop Susan as Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and Dean of Niagara at a beautiful service on the afternoon of October 2. Tim's keen mind, clear sense of mission, gentle pastoral presence and – perhaps especially from a wardens' perspective – his collaborative style, make him a joy to work with. We are blessed to have him among us. Once again, welcome Tim!

One of the issues Tim drew to the wardens' attention soon after his arrival was the sorry state of the Cathedral office suite.

Over the years, the offices had become cluttered and very tired-looking, and considerable work was required in order to provide a professional and healthy environment for both staff and volunteers. In response, over the last several months the clergy, staff, wardens and others have invested time in decluttering. We were delighted when the diocese, through the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee, allocated funds for a fresh coat of paint for both the offices, and for a new Cathedral Living Room in space adjacent to Myler Hall formerly occupied by the Jamesville Child Care Centre. Warm thanks to friend of the Cathedral Mieke Schroeder and colour consultant Denise Loveroff for their roles in ensuring a beautiful finished product, as well as to Derek Smith and his staff for the many ways they've contributed. The refreshed office space and new Living Room will be dedicated following the Sunday service on October 30 – please plan to join us

for that happy occasion. You may also have noticed a new child-friendly space in the sanctuary, created with the help of Jeff and Becky Potter.

The condition of our building and the facilities we offer communicates a strong message to others about how we see ourselves. Space is also an important resource for ministry, and how we care for it really matters. So, we need to keep the decluttering and cleaning initiative going, with the Myler Hall cupboards, the kitchen and the church narthex all needing to be addressed. If you enjoy decluttering, organizing and cleaning the wardens would love to have you join us. Please contact Elizabeth Wensley (eawensley@gmail.com) or Wendy Newman (wendy.newman@utoronto.ca) if you can help.

In other news, the Corporation has hired a new Parish Coordinator, Tricia Kalantari, who started on Monday, September 19. Tricia is a life-long Anglican with a deep knowledge

of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Niagara as well as exceptional administrative and interpersonal skills. We're also delighted to welcome The Reverend Jeff Potter and his family. Bishop Susan has assigned Jeff to the Cathedral two days per week (normally Wednesdays and Thursdays) as well as Sundays for the next year or so. While we're delighted to greet new members of our staff team, we're also very sorry to bid farewell to our interim Parish Coordinator, Carol Henley. Warm thanks, Carol, for all you've contributed! The wardens are forever grateful for your willingness to fill in on short notice with such skill and grace.

Finally, the Corporation nominated Pat Barton to receive the Order of Niagara, created by Bishop Ralph Spence in 2000 as a way to honour outstanding ministry by lay people. Pat will receive the award at a

diocesan service at 4 pm on Sunday, October 30. She is being recognized for her many contributions to our common life, including as a chorister, Bede Team member (reader, intercessor, hospitality host), "lay weeder" in Bishopsgate, Art Crawl and Open Doors volunteer, Tuesday morning meal ticket program volunteer, pandemic "keep in touch" caller and walker for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and Out of the Cold. Congratulations, Pat!

ELIZABETH WENSLEY
PEOPLE'S WARDEN



THANKSGIVING



A little more than five years ago, when our daughter Josie was born, we lived in a lovely little century home immediately beside St. Stephen's Anglican Church – a kind of church plant that took root within a church building that had been closed for several years. We called it a 'Christian community in the making.' Josie was born on a Thursday, and by Sunday all three of us were at church. Having a thin distinction between our home life and our church community brought both blessings and challenges, but it was kind of lovely to be able to take for granted that Becky and Josie could wander in and out, and pop back home whenever they might need to. It was easy to take Christian community for granted.

As a community, we spoke often of exploring the endless connections

between the Lord's table and the dinner table, and we tried to find deliberate ways to lean into community life. Neighbours became friends, many who had once been agnostic became pillars of our little community, and bit by bit our living room became unofficial church meeting space. Josie, and later, our son Jamie, had countless honorary aunts and uncles. It was easy to take Christian community for granted.

The onset of the pandemic came at a particularly difficult time, just as we were preparing to move on from the community that we planted. In those early days of fear and lockdowns, our usual rhythm of regular in-person connection was strained, and our sense of loss was partly obscured by a hope and an expectation that things would soon return to 'normal.' All of this meant that we had to say farewell to our tight-knit

community over zoom, and the usual things that might mark this kind of departure had to be put off indefinitely. It felt a bit like leaving a wonderful party by slipping quietly out the back door, with some vague thought of making up for it later. I'm not sure that later ever really came, at least not in the manner we might have hoped. All of a sudden, though it took us a little while to realize it, the Christian community that had anchored our lives had been lost.

It's been a real joy and delight to begin to feel rooted once again in Christian community here in the parish of Christ's Church. Though it's only been a short time, we've all been made to feel especially welcome. It's readily apparent that this is a broad, engaging and hospitable community that is unusually open to change and eager to find ways to

build relationships within our neighbourhood. There seems to be a real sense of potential in the air, as we return to events and initiatives that have been on hold, and look for new ways to participate in the unfolding work that God is up to in our midst. I wonder if perhaps it's an invitation to recognize the importance of Christian community, and to give thanks for it. And to remember that we're always a community in the making, open to the involvement of new and different people, and receptive to the leading of the Spirit. Thanks be to God.

REV. JEFF POTTER
PRIEST ASSOCIATE



GENEROSITY TEAM



Personal Stewardship for the Overwhelmed

Lori Gunther Reesor is one of my favourite writers on Christian generosity. Her book, "Growing a Generous Church: A Year in the Life of Peach Blossom Church" (2021), which grew out of a year of listening in church basements in many denominations across Canada, has become a must-read in Canadian churches. I've had the privilege of her coaching, together with other Diocese of Niagara participants, and I follow her blog. Last month she posted a basic – and inspiring – list of steps we can ALL take to become more generous in our Christian stewardship. With her gracious permission, I'll summarize her post ("Simple Steps Towards Generosity: Church Stewardship for the Overwhelmed") here. Maybe you, like me, are inclined to feel overwhelmed in our not-quite-post-pandemic world these days. I hope you'll find her recommendations as life-changing as I do – way more than tidying up. (Sorry, Marie Kondo.)

Six Simple Steps

Step 1: Belovedness

"Remember that you are a beloved child of God," she writes. "If this takes some convincing, then pause to refresh before going further."

Step 2: Gratitude, looking back

This means thanking God for the generous folks who have gone before – your parents who set an example, perhaps? – "saints across time who have prayed, persevered, and passed the torch to us", as Lori writes.

Step 3: Prayer

You could start with "Lord, help me to be generous." Remember that generosity is a spiritual gift. Pray for the people around you, as all are children of God.

Step 4: Gratitude, right now

Be thankful for – and send a personal note to – someone at your own church – the Treasurer, the Dean, perhaps. It could be a quick email. It doesn't have to be eloquent. Your goal is encouragement, which is contagious. You will make a difference.

Step 5: Action

Do something new in your generosity. You might sign up for pre-authorized giving. Or make an extra special donation online. Or decide you really can commit to a stretch – give more, regularly in response to God's generosity. Generosity is a spiritual discipline. The followers of Jesus understand this.

Step 6: Gratitude – future

Thank God for how God will use your contributions to transform lives through the ministries of the Cathedral, the ones that are obvious and the ones known only to God. Lori's deeply personal observation will remain with me: "Gratitude for the future is my working definition of hope right now."

WENDY NEWMAN
FOR THE GENEROSITY TEAM



October

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Pentecost 17 Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucharist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	3 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	4 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	5 (V) Morning Prayer with Dean Tim <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	6 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	7 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	8
9 Harvest Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucharist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	10 Thanksgiving Monday (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Offices Closed	11 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	12 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	13 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	14 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	15
16 Pentecost 19 Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucharist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	17 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	18 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	19 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	20 Brass Monkeys 9 am -12 pm Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	21 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	22
23 Pentecost 20 Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucharist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	24 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	25 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	26 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	27 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	28 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	29 (V) Diocesan Synod
30 Pentecost 21 Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucharist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Community Celebration & Town Hall Meeting 11:30 am	31 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>					

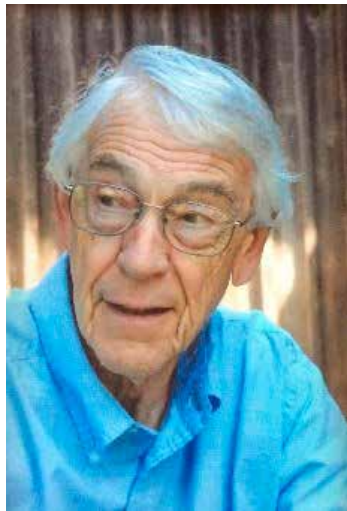
November/December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 All Saints Day (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	2 Feast of All Souls (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm Requiem Eucharist in-person & livestreamed at 7pm via <u>YouTube</u>	3 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	4 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	5
6 All Saints & All Souls Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucha-rist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	7 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	8 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	9 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	10 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	11 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	12
13 Remembrance Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucha-rist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	14 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	15 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	16 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	17 Brass Monkeys 9 am -12 pm Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	18 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	19
20 The Reign of Christ Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucha-rist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	21 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	22 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	23 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	24 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	25 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	26
27 First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucha-rist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	28 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	29 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	30 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	Dec 1 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	2 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	3
4 Advent 2 Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am (V) Holy Eucha-rist 10:30 am <u>YouTube</u> Bible Study 12:15	5 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 pm Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	6 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u>	7 (V) Morning Prayer <u>Zoom</u> 8:30 am Said Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl 1-3 pm	8 Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Mid-Day prayers 12:15 pm	9 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:15 am Contact <u>Lynn Godfrey</u> or <u>Thom Davies</u> Cathedral Caf� 10 am -12 pm Litany of Reconciliation 12 noon	10

3...2...1 CONTACT

DON BROWN

POETRY &
SCALLOPS



1. What is your idea of a perfect day?

A perfect day for me would be one in which our federal government announces a plan that effectively reduces our country's contribution to the rising temperature crisis on our planet: children are dying from lack of food where the ground has become too hot to grow food. Flooding and forest fires are increasingly threatening people's homes and livelihoods. I have three children, three grandchildren and three great grandkids: their future is in yours and my hands. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". St. Luke 12: 34

2. Why did you choose the Cathedral as your spiritual home?

More and more I think of my "Spiritual Home" as being the world surrounding me. From this I was formed, to this I shall return. Christ's Church Cathedral reminds me of my spiritual home with all its beauty, space, and sounds. I am grateful that it is within walking distance of where I live: by bus also on cold or rainy days.

3. What is the one thing that you most look forward to at the Cathedral?

Having sung in many choirs, there is nowhere that I can think of that has better music, including choir and organ, than that of Christ's Church Cathedral. The choice and performance of music during services together with preludes and postludes are well suited to every occasion.

4. If you could change one thing at the Cathedral, what would it be?

Two things I would like to suggest changing at the Cathedral. Ever since my voice changed from a boy soprano, I have wished that many of the hymn tunes could be pitched lower. Is such transposing possible? I'll ask the organist. The second thing: The recitation each Sunday of the "Territorial Acknowledgement" without any sign of commitment "to walk together gently upon this land" seems lifeless to me. I would be happy to discuss ways of showing evidence of this stated commitment.

5. Which living person do you most admire?

The living person for whom I have great admiration is my daughter, Christine. Though not a church goer, her spirituality and zest for life is both refreshing and reassuring. My two sons also reflect that same spirit.

6. What would be your desert island pick for a book, a piece of music, and food?

If confined to a desert island, a book of favourite poems would provide both solace and connectedness to all creatures great and small. Handel's Messiah comes immediately to mind for music appreciation and inspiration. Not sure why scallops come to mind as a delightful food. I had some recently and look forward to a repeat of that experience soon.

7. Where would your dream vacation spot be?

Cottage life began when I was a child. First, visiting the cottage of my mother's friend on Lake of Bays, Muskoka. Until her death 8 years ago, for 40 years Sheila and I have owned jointly with our daughter, Christine, a cottage on Gooderham Lake in the Haliburton Highlands. I'm thankful that it continues to be a dream spot for me.

NOTES AND NEWS



It is a joy to have regathered again after the Summer. At the time of writing, there is some uncertainty about what form this edition of Contact will take and when you will receive it. Our care and prayers remain with Contact Editor Paula Esteves as she navigates the trauma and the complex logistics of a house fire.

There is much for which to give thanks. Bishop Susan has generously appointed the Rev. Jeff Potter as part-time Priest Associate for a year. Only it's not only Jeff; Becky, Josie and Jamie accompany him. Not only are we richly blessed by Jeff's considerable gifts as a preacher, teacher and pastor; we delight in the presence of the Potter family and give thanks for all the ways in which they are helping us welcome young families. The beautiful children and young family space adjacent to the north font is testimony to the ministry they are already exercising in our midst.

A warm Cathedral welcome to Tricia Kalantari as she joins our ministry team as Parish Coordinator on September 19. Tricia impressed the selection team with her

superb interpersonal and communication skills, her administrative gifts, her experience in coordinating volunteers, her professionalism and her willingness to go the extra mile. She is a lifelong Anglican and is married to Rev. Bahman, rector of Our Saviour the Redeemer in Stoney Creek, where she coordinates Sunday School. I am looking forward very much to sharing ministry with her. May I also extend our heartfelt and unrestrained gratitude to Carol Henley who has been simply outstanding in providing interim support in this capacity. Carol is a gem and has gone above and beyond in seeing us through a time of significant transition.

The search process for our new Director of Music Ministries continues, as I write. The Search Team decided to extend the deadline for applications to September 16. With the strength of the candidates who continue to indicate interest, I am confident that God will continue to guide our discernment in the best fit for our ministry and mission. Please continue to pray for Catherine Anderson,

Brian Kreps, Ginny Arnott-Wood, Sue Crowe Connelly and Jeni Darling. On your behalf I thank them for their service in this important appointment.

What a gift to be writing to you from a freshly painted study. Mitch and Spencer are currently working on the Parish Coordinator's office before moving to the volunteer space and then our reconfigured former nursery. It has made a significant difference to our life and I am delighted that the new members of our ministry team will begin their time with us in such appealing surroundings. Our thanks to Derek Smith, to the Cathedral Place Property Management Committee for allocating the necessary funds, to Mitch and Spencer from Burli Painting, to Wendy Newman our Corporation liaison and especially to Mieke Schroeder whose input at all stages of the project was invaluable.

Supercrawl will be in the rear vision mirror by the time you read this. There is a lot of preparation involved. It offers us an unparalleled opportunity to connect with the wider Hamilton community and

I am very grateful for John Watts' and Sandy Darling's coordination of volunteers and for all those who give so generously of their time to welcome those coming through our doors.

There is so much to look forward to this Fall. Jeff and I have enjoyed several exciting conversations already as we plan our various initiatives. Our Faith Formation team hope to re-offer our weekly lectionary study on Sundays and other opportunities for folk to deepen their faith through conversation; our Community Engagement team will provide oversight of Cathedral Café, Open Cathedral and Art Crawl – three vital ways of serving our neighbourhood and beyond; our Generosity Team is working on a narrative budget as I write; our Liturgy Team is assessing our capacity for extending our mid-week services and for hosting an alternative worship experience monthly on Sunday evenings; our Pastoral Care Team gathers monthly to ensure that we are staying connected, especially with those who are vulnerable.

On Sunday September 25 we celebrated the Rev.

Deacon Dr. Rob Jones' ordination to the priesthood. Rob and Kyle contributed significantly to the life of the Cathedral during their time with us. We miss them and wish them both God's abundant blessing on this next chapter in their lives and ministry as Rob pursues post-doctoral research at Penn State University and the University of Tel Aviv.

On a personal note, Felicity, Sophie, Lynn and I were very grateful for the opportunity to spend part of our summer vacation in England. We spent time in London, in Falmouth Cornwall with friends who have an apartment there, in the Cotswolds and of course at the Warner Bros Studios in Watford for the making of Harry Potter. The girls tried surfing and coasteering, and enjoyed a steady diet of Cornish pasties, fish and chips and Cornish ice-cream. It was a great gift! My thanks to Bishop Terry and Canon J for holding the fort in our absence.

A blessed Fall to you all.

Tim +

ST FRANCIS AND CELTIC CROSS COME TO BISHOPSGATE

Have you noticed two additions to the gardens of Bishopsgate? They are gifts given by our beloved Bishop Ralph Spence. When +Ralph decided to move from his house, he asked that a statue of St Francis and a Celtic Cross be transferred to the gardens of Bishopsgate. They spent a year in isolation because of COVID until discussions about placement could take place in July. Dedications of the two additions took place on October 2, the Sunday closest to St Francis’ feast day. As one might expect, there are stories as to how +Ralph and Carol came to have these two decorations in their garden.

St Francis of Assissi was born into a rich merchant family, and as a young man he lived the high life, spending freely on his indulgences. He sold silk and other fine fabric in the market, and an encounter with a beggar started him to question the kind of life he led, but it was some years before he gave it up to serve the poor and spread the gospel of Christ. He established the Franciscan Order of monks and other orders for both women

and men. He became the patron saint of Italy and patron of animals; one may see a stained-glass window of St Francis surrounded by animals at the Church of the Ascension. Services for the blessing of animals have traditionally been conducted at the cathedral in Bishopsgate on the date closest to the feast day, so that a dedication on that day was most appropriate. How did St Francis come to +Ralph? When he was rector of St John’s, Thorold,

he knew a man for whom his dog was the center of his world, but, unfortunately, the dog ran into the street and was killed by a passing car. +Ralph witnessed the event and in consoling the man told him the story of St Francis, and subsequently conducted a service for the burial of the dog, even though the man was not a church-goer. In gratitude the man gave +Ralph and Carol the statue that we now can see close to the west doors of the cathedral.



The nature and origins of Celtic crosses are described in a companion article (facing page). After the Saxons conquered Britain, Christianity continued in Celtic Britain and there was much interaction among the monasteries of Ireland and the Hebridean islands of Scotland, including Iona with its famous monastery

founded by St Columba. +Ralph’s family came from Scotland, and as a child and teenager +Ralph visited Scotland each summer. When he was sixteen, he spent a summer constructing stone walls on the island of Iona, and enjoyed his time there despite the continual raw weather of north-west Scotland. Some years later,

+Ralph and Carol were on holiday with cousins when they saw the Celtic Cross in a shop window in Burlington, Vermont on sale. They bought the cross and brought it back to Hamilton. After years on Herkimer Street, it is now part of the local scene at Christ’s Church Cathedral.

SANDY DARLING



CATHEDRAL CROSSES

The Visual Tour of Christ’s Church Cathedral' (Darling 2020) has little to say about crosses, except for the Rood above the entrance to the Steve Varey Memorial Reading Room. The donation of a Celtic cross (see facing page)

provides an opportunity to talk about other crosses of the cathedral. The **Rood or Calvary** was previously in the houses of the Community of the Sisters of the Church, first in Toronto and then in Oakville, and after its transfer to the

cathedral was consecrated on Ash Wednesday 2006. The Rood was prepared by Sylvia Hahn (1911 – 2001), a prominent artist, who worked at the Royal Ontario Museum. Detailed information about this work can be found elsewhere

(Darling 2020, p. 5). The cross that is most prominent is the cross at the center of the reredos behind the altar. The cross was given “To the Glory of God and in Memory of Minnie Lotherington”, who died on June 6, 1946, by

her husband and family on December 21, 1947. Part of the inscription says that it was given to St James’ Church. Which St James’ Church and when?

A second prominent cross is the Coventry Cross of Nails above the pulpit, given to the cathedral by Coventry Cathedral in 1949. In November 1940, the city of Coventry, in the English Midlands, was the second city after London to suffer massive concentrated bombing. More than 36,000 bombs, predominantly incendiary devices, landed in a single night. The medieval center of the city was devastated by fire, and the 14th century cathedral church was left with only the walls, empty of all their

stained glass, and the spire still standing. In the rubble were the remains of the roof beams in which some of the massive medieval nails had fused together with the heat of the fires. One of the cathedral staff found one longer nail and two shorter nails fused together as a cross – thus, the Coventry Cross of Nails was born. Our cross, given its date of receipt, was almost certainly made of nails from the original roof members. The Cross of Nails and a larger cross made from charred beams wired

together were placed on the stone high altar of the old cathedral, with the words "Father Forgive" carved in the wall behind the altar. In 1962 the Cross of Nails was incorporated in a contemporary cross on the altar of the new cathedral. The cross became the symbol of an international movement of reconciliation. Although originally directed primarily at war-time enemies, the symbol now extends to reconciliation and forgiveness between victims and perpetrators of terrorism, violence and,

especially in Canada, of colonization. This Community of the Cross of Nails has more than 250 members (churches, schools, peace centers) on every continent-. The first were churches in Kiel, Dresden and Berlin which had suffered in the same way as Coventry in World War 2. Many members, including Chris’s Church Cathedral say the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation every Friday at noon.

A much less obvious cross is the Cross of Canterbury, and there are two representations of it in the cathedral. The first cross was found in 1867 in Canterbury on a brooch dating from about 850 A.D. according to some sources and in the 8th century according to the document our cathedral received. A replica of the Canterbury Cross was carved in a stone of Canterbury cathedral, and in the 1930s copies of the cross were carved in stone and sent to cathedrals in the empire or commonwealth and in the United States. Our stone (photo near right) is near the organ console at the entrance to the ambulatory and a framed description

is inside the ambulatory. Our cross was carved in a stone from the walls of Christ Church Canterbury, dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury on June 15, 1935² and given to the cathedral in 1935. The cross has a rounded square at the center from which four triangular arms radiate, each representing the Trinity. The distribution of the crosses to cathedrals symbolized dioceses being in communion with Canterbury. The other representation of the cross is being held by the carved dog (photo far right) on the stall of the Chancellor of the diocese, next to the bishop’s cathedra. This carving from 1926 predates the carved stone near the organ.

Celtic Crosses were developed between the 9th and 13th centuries) in Ireland, France and Celtic regions of the British Isles, and were often used on high crosses as memorial stones. The essential feature of a Celtic Cross is a cross with a circle around the center. The meaning of the cross is debatable. A practical reason for its shape is that the circle provides support to the arms. Some suggest that the cross was developed to represent Christianity overcoming the sun in lands where the pre-eminent god was the sun. Others suggest that the circle represents eternity and so represents the everlasting love of God or eternal hope of salvation.



SANDY DARLING & JOHN WATTS

[John Watts was born and grew up in Coventry, the source of the Cross of Nails. The photo of the dog holding the Canterbury Cross was taken by Jeni Darling, and the other photos by Sandy Darling.]

1 Alexander (Sandy) Darling A Visual Tour of Christ’s Church Cathedral, Hamilton, Ontario Christ’s Church Cathedral, 2020, 72pp. Copies can be purchased from the author or the cathedral office for \$12.00.
2 Sources that I consulted give different versions, including the date of 1932 rather than 1935 in our document. The number of stones distributed vary from “all” cathedrals of the empire and the U.S.A., to 92 and to as few as 12.



Contact is published for the parishioners of Christ's Church Cathedral. All questions or concerns should be directed to the Church Office, 252 James St. N. Hamilton, ON, L8R 2L3. Call: 905.527.1316. Email: cathedral@niagaraanglican.ca. Website: <https://cathedralhamilton.ca/>

Thanks to this issue's contributors: *Tim Dobbin, Paula Esteves, Jim Newman, Wendy Newman, Jeff Potter, Don Brown, Sandy Darling, John Watts*



Congratulations Tim!

On Sunday, October 2nd The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin was Inducted as Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and Installed as Dean of Niagara.

Advocating for our Most Vulnerable

Rentals crisis

Regarding "Skyrocketing rents absolutely unsustainable for Hamilton tenants" (Sept. 19): It's beyond absolutely unsustainable. Some tenants report 80 per cent of their incomes go toward shelter. Far worse off are people living on social assistance programs (OW and ODSP). Their total monthly income falls \$10,000 short of the rent of an average two-bedroom apartment.

It's a completely indefensible lack of action by governments that are elected while spending billions on highways and fossil fuel industries. Locally and for starters, Hamilton could make available upwards of \$900,000 by disbanding its largely ineffectual mounted police unit.

A famous quote from Mahatma Gandhi comes to mind: The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.

James Newman, Hamilton

Hamilton Spectator - September 27, 2022

PASSAGES

Funerals

Aug. 24 Shirley Sibiga
31 Frederick Albert Hall
Sept. 17 Jack Morris Rousseau

Weddings

Sept. 24 John Haig Chapman & Sarah Elizabeth D'Atri



Congratulations Rob!

On Sunday, September 25th we celebrated the Ordination to the Priesthood of The Rev. Dr. Rob Jones.

Photo Credit Sandy Darling