

CONTACT

Christ's Church Cathedral

Easter, 2026

Redemption

A photograph of a large, gnarled tree trunk with vibrant purple orchids in the foreground, set against a background of green foliage. The tree trunk is the central focus, showing its rough, textured bark. The orchids are in full bloom, with several bright purple flowers and buds. The background is filled with lush green leaves and branches, creating a dense, natural setting.

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FROM THE EDITOR



Well, hello! And Happy Easter to you all!

I had something quite different planned for this page. Initially, I was going to write about music – Handel's *Messiah* and a couple of arias that have been inhabiting my head since Christmas, but it got too long and I had not yet introduced the articles everyone else has contributed, so... you know, I had to start over.

I know that my Redeemer liveth...

I've had the first phrase of this aria from Handel's *Messiah* rolling around in my head since Christmas. The aria follows on the heels of the joyful and exuberant Hallelujah Chorus -- so nearing the end of the Oratorio, but not quite the finale. In contrast to the Hallelujah Chorus, this piece seems wistful, but for me, it is an affirmation because of the certainty of Christ's resurrection. If you recall, last Christmas I wrote about John 3:16 [God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever should believeth in him shall not perish but have ever lasting life.] Both passages presage redemption. It got me thinking that perhaps you can't have Easter without first

having Christmas. The birth of the Son of necessity leads to his death and resurrection. Redemption is what God does for us, as Dean Tim explains in his letter on the next page. It's not a sports metaphor, though many of us like to think of it that way, especially when we're talking about gold medal hockey games between us and the Americans.

In his letter from the Climate Justice Cathedral, James Newman reminds us that denial and avoidance are not the path to climate change recovery. James does not mince words when he reminds us that redemption is about hope rather than political maneuvering. And in a separate contribution James and Catherine Leckey offer an action plan to guide our parish in prayer, education, advocacy, and action. I think everyone will find Roseann Barry's article on the activities of the Community Engagement Committee compelling. There is more going on than you might imagine. There are many upcoming events and opportunities for volunteering. Give this one a close read. And finally, Sue and I asked the choir members to contribute a few words on what they most enjoy about singing in the choir.

Sue and I hope you have a blessed Easter



Sally Braun-Jackson

Editor



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

In what was described as one of the biggest shocks in the history of figure skating, the US megastar Ilia Malinin fell twice in the final of the men's free skate. 'It just goes to show that he's human after all,' some posted. The question being put as I write is, 'Can Ilia redeem himself?' I imagine folk mean, 'Can Ilia somehow erase his mistakes? Can he vindicate himself in some way?' Whilst 'redemption' may be one of those 'thread-bare' words in the church lexicon as Frederick Buechner describes them, which have lost much of their meaning through over-use, it is still a vital word in our journey with Christ.

'Christian' redemption differs in one very important way from its popular use in the sporting arena. Redemption is first and foremost God's work not ours. Simply by reason of our being born human, the Gospel underscores repeatedly that we cannot redeem ourselves. Left to our own devices, we cannot make it right. It's one of the implications of another thread-bare phrase, 'justification by faith.' In ways that we are likely to understand fully only on the other side of the veil, Jesus' untimely death in a state-sponsored execution and his reality-defying emergence from a stone-cold tomb three days later somehow opens the way for our 'redemption' – the astonishing gift of restored relationship with ourselves, with others, with the created order and with God.

There is absolutely no way that we ourselves can engineer this profound transformation in who we are and what we are capable of. We can only lean into this process of being turned inside out, as the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us, primarily through the bonds of affection which unite us in these small and fragile communities we call the 'church.' It's why it's so important we gather and keep gathering, simply to do life together – God's life together. That's the outworking of our 'redemption,' our healing and reconciliation on both a personal and corporate level.

Lent is a season during which we reflect on those ways in which the Holy Spirit may be calling us to lead lives that look more 'redeemed.' On Ash Wednesday, the presider invites us 'in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.' The aim of these practices or habits is simply that by God's grace we become more open to Christ's presence and activity in our lives and in the world around us. We create space for the Spirit to grow Jesus' character and charisms within us.

Following his baptism and prior to his public ministry, Jesus spent 40 days alone in the desert (from which we derive the season of Lent). It was a time which required resolute courage, unwavering resilience and defiant hope – marks of 'redeemed' living. I hardly need to rehearse the daily challenges you and I face as we navigate climate breakdown, political instability and widening inequality. Simultaneously, the church is increasingly regarded as irrelevant and ineffectual. These are indeed hard times to be a follower of Jesus. May this season of Lent be a time when the Spirit equips you afresh with courage, resilience and hope as together we recommit to leading lives that are truly distinctive, that others may see and taste God's 'redemption' at work through us.

A blessed and holy Lent to you all. ✦

Tim+

**The Very Rev.
Dr. Tim Dobbin ✦**



REDEMPTION - ALONGSIDE HOPE

I do not know how to connect Alongside Hope to the topic of redemption but I can share a personal story.

About 25 years ago, I took ski lessons, as an adult. My whole family can ski and I had never learned. I booked lessons with an instructor named, Michel, (pronounced Michelle) and he called me Eenez, although it is pronounced Inez, with a soft I. So, poor Michel attempted to teach me how to ski. After a couple of lessons, he said to me, "Eenez, have you been in an accident?" I replied, "No." He said, "Then what are you so afraid of?" I said, "I'm afraid of falling off the end of this cliff."

He persevered. One day he suggested I might want to have a shot before our lessons. I replied, "But it's 10:30 in the morning." Things did not improve much. I finished my last lessons with him, and he suggested I was ready to ski at Mount Tremblant, a different resort. Presumably, to get rid of me.

As I was walking by the chalet, out of my skis, I passed him with a group of his friends. He stopped me and said, "Eenez, you are perfect." I said, "What?" He repeated, slowly, looking me right in the eye, "You are perfect. Not physically, but, in that you can do it, there is nothing wrong with you." As I walked away, I started tearing up. Then full on crying. My whole life I had this internal voice in my head being so critical. Nevertheless, this validation from a virtual stranger, I took to heart. The fact that it made me start crying made me realize how deeply I felt this. I believed him. It was an epiphany. I know he meant it regarding skiing but for some reason it hit deeper. I felt so good about myself going forward. I know that is not truly a redemption story but growing up as a Christian you know you should always be striving to be a better person, but to just sit

with the idea that we are perfect and can just be, is very powerful.

As it says in the old testament:

"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works and that my soul knoweth right well."

KJV Psalm 139:14

I accepted that I was, in a way, perfect, just as I was. ✦

Inez Morgan



REDEMPTION IN A WOUNDED WORLD

Redemption is often spoken of as a personal or spiritual matter with words like forgiveness, restoration, or a fresh start. But today, redemption requires us to look to the life of the earth itself. The climate crisis confronts us with a hard truth: serious harm has been done. Forests have been stripped, waters polluted, species lost, and communities placed at risk. Any meaningful understanding of redemption must begin with honesty about that damage.



One of the great obstacles to redemption today is denial. Many political leaders hesitate to name the depth of the harm, fearing economic or electoral consequences. Some church leaders prefer the language of stewardship, rather than tougher words like responsibility and repair. But redemption never begins with

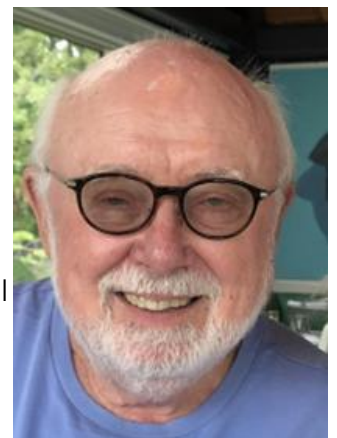
avoidance. Redemption requires a clear naming of what has gone wrong and who has been hurt.

Redemption is about hope. Redemption means believing that change is still possible. The earth has a remarkable capacity to heal when destructive pressures are removed. We see it in restored wetlands, recovering fisheries, and reforested landscapes. Science confirms that creation is resilient, but not infinitely so. Recovery is possible, but delay narrows the path and the end result.

For people of faith, this moment calls for courage. It means urging governments to act beyond short-term interests, even when it is unpopular. It's time for churches (i.e. us) to use their voices, investments, and public witness to support policies and practices that protect all life. Silence always sides with the status quo.

Redemption is not a return to an untouched past. It is the hard, hopeful work of repair - choosing life where there has been harm, truth where there has been denial, and action where there has been complacency. Facing the climate crisis honestly, with common sense, and with action, means we are living our faith. ✦

James Newman
Co-leader,
Climate Justice Cathedral



OUR COMMUNITY CELEBRATES

ORDER OF NIAGARA CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL!



Michael Lubrick received the Order of Niagara from Bishop Susan at our 150th anniversary service in recognition for his faithful, quiet, behind the scenes work for our community, especially for those members who are most vulnerable. Michael and Kerry, also ON, often move donated furniture and other necessities to these folks as they settle into new housing.

Thank you Michael, and well done!



BIRTHDAYS WITH CAKE!



Don Brown
100!



Louise
van Woelderen



Anne-Louise Watts & International Womens' Day!

OUR MINISTRIES WITHIN - THE CHOIR



The choir at Christ's Church Cathedral is a warm and welcoming community within the larger Cathedral community. The choir sings Sunday mornings at 10:30 (practice at 9:30) and about ten Sundays a year at 4:00 p.m. for large diocesan services. We welcome new members whose blend of experience, enthusiasm and commitment match the demands of preparing the music we sing. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact our Director of Music Ministries, Bruce Burbidge organist@niagaraanglican.ca or a choir member to find out more. You're welcome to come along to a practice or two on Thursdays at 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. with no obligation to see if we're a fit for you. The ability to read music is helpful, but if this is not your strength, we can provide resources to assist.

Choir members comment:

Choral singing is one of the most magical group activities I know. Through practice, perseverance, listening, and excellent direction, a choir starts with multiple individual voices tentatively figuring out their musical lines and ends up with a musical tapestry of sound that is much more than the sum of its parts. Our choir is particularly enjoyable because of the skill, experience, compassion, warmth, and sense of humour of its members and music director. My favourite choral seasons are Lent and Easter.

Nicole

I guess what I love most about singing in the choir is the chance to participate in worship in a very specific, very beautiful way -- and our choir has been so friendly and welcoming it's hard to believe I've only been singing with you since October. There's also a certain magic to being in the "backstage" parts of the church, and to being in the church at times other than worship services. I love the Anglican choral tradition -- even the "chestnuts" (as Tim called them last Sunday) are some of the most beautiful pieces of music that I've sung in 30 years of being in all kinds of choirs. My favourite liturgical season for music is definitely Advent -- I love the repertoire, I love the hymns, and I love the sense of anticipation as we look ahead to Christmas.

Sara



Thursday evening choir practice

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What an honor and blessing it is to sing in Christ's Church Cathedral Choir. All my life I have been fortunate to sing in church choirs, as well as chamber choirs and community choirs. Singing is part of who I am. When my daughter Peggy became the soprano lead I felt I too had found a church choir. Sure enough I was welcomed by Bruce, all the choristers and by Tim and Monica. I had found my church home! **Martha**

Not easy to pinpoint why I love singing and worshipping at the Cathedral. However, to be able to use my singing to help to lead the services and also that I get to do it with my Momma by my side. Well, that is pure gold to me. **Peggy**

I've felt entirely welcomed with open arms by CCC's choir! I feel like I'm always learning from the other talented musicians I sing with, who also happen to be warm and supportive friends! My favorite liturgical season is Christmas! **Parami**

In a world that becomes more complicated and disturbing by the hour, it is easy to lose perspective on what's still good and true. For me, singing in the choir provides an oasis, a refuge from the chaos. Music, and particularly choral music, sometimes stirs great emotion in me, and I have been known to cry in the choir stall! But that emotion is ultimately cathartic, and results in a feeling of peace (along with a little embarrassment!). My favourite season is Advent: I enjoy the music which invites us to anticipate the miraculous birth of Jesus, but it is also a harbinger of his ultimate death. Unlike Christmas music, it's complex, and a bit dark. I like that! **Ginny**

After 2 1/2 years in the CCC choir I know I should've started this years ago. Richard will laugh because he suggested it long ago. I'm grateful for the friendships, the silly in jokes we share and the remarkable leap in my sight reading skills since joining. **Noëlle**

I enjoy singing at the Cathedral for many reasons including: getting a chance to perform

so much beautiful music chosen to fit the church year, being part of a community within the community, sitting in the choir stalls and seeing the light from the stained glass bounce off the walls differently based the time of day and time of year. **Brian**

I have found such joy being part of this committed group of musicians, who work to offer our best in leading our congregational community in the music we all love to sing and hear. While we take this role seriously, inspired by the Holy One, it truly comes from a place of love and enjoyment of each other. There is always a lot of laughter as well as beautiful harmony! So satisfying. **Sue**



Photo: Noëlle Smith

I began to love the standard Anglican Choral Repertoire 45 years ago in Elora and have sung in a bunch of ensembles. This particular one I love best, first for its talent and experience, second for the commitment and the professionalism of its members' conduct, of course the taste, skill and talent of its leadership, but most for its degree of fellowship and true friendship and affection the members have for one another. There is no competition for attention, but plenty of encouragement. There is more to a good choir than singing. **Eric**



CLIMATE BREAKDOWN - AN ACTION PLAN

Climate breakdown confronts all of us with uncomfortable truths. Yet it also presents a profound opportunity: to rediscover our calling as stewards of creation. Rather than retreating into silence or assuming the problem is too large, Christ's Church Cathedral's Climate Justice Group (CJC) is choosing faithful engagement.

We have prepared an Action Plan to guide our parish in prayer, education, advocacy, and action. We believe that caring for creation is not an optional program but an expression of our discipleship. We know that some elements are aspirational, but all are rooted in faith. We ask you to participate, even if you are skeptical, in God's ongoing redemption of the world.

Climate Justice Cathedral, formed about 3 years ago, has been quietly engaging the members and friends of our parish, the Diocese of Niagara, and the Anglican Church of Canada in meaningful action for climate justice. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call to care for creation, advocate for sustainable practices, and foster justice for all people, especially those most affected by climate change.

We commit to:

Prayer, education, advocacy, and action in all our initiatives.

Integrating climate justice into the life of the parish, diocese, and national church.

Aligning our work with the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church.

Affiliating with the Diocesan Climate Justice Committee (Niagara) and the Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice Coordinating Committee (the governance structure of General Synod is under review)

Our Methodologies

Our practises are varied. Already many are

integrated into the life of the Cathedral parish. They include:

Liturgies: Homilies, Intercessory Prayers about climate change and stewardship,

Media: CJC Bulletin Board (new), Cathedral web site presence, Chronicle Inserts (Actions of the Month), CONTACT newsletter, Letters to the Editor, Political, Industry Leaders, Niagara Anglican newspaper, Art Crawl displays, Webinars, Environmental groups

Physical Plant: Garbage and Recyclable Containers (new), requests to Cathedral Place Property Management

Education: Homilies (Christian commitment to climate justice), Parish Recycling standards(new), Marks of Mission, Community Priorities (Appendix A), Season of Creation initiatives, and lobbying the Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice Coordinating Committee

Our Areas of Focus

We discovered that our primary areas of focus fit nicely under the 5 Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church, and so that has formed a framework for our action agenda:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
Promote awareness of climate change as a moral and spiritual issue.
Provide educational initiatives on the theological and scientific dimensions of climate justice through preaching, webinars, reflection, and an internet presence.
Publicize our efforts to demonstrate our Christian commitment to addressing the climate crisis.

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2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
 Discover the complexity and beauty of God's creation, made with care and intention.
 Recognize the value of creation, our role as caretakers, and foster a deeper love for our environment.
 Express our gratitude for what God has made and acknowledge our responsibility to preserve it.
 Advocate for policies that protect vulnerable populations and environments from climate change.

3. To respond to human need by loving service
 Encourage policy advocacy at municipal, provincial, and national levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 Collaborate with diocesan and interfaith groups to influence environmental legislation and sustainable practices.

4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
 Advocate for policies and support initiatives addressing social issues including food insecurity, homelessness, inadequate housing, living wage and guaranteed annual income programs, and disaster relief.
 Encourage parish-based and home-based sustainability measures (energy audits, retrofits, renewable energy).
 Endorse local, diocesan, and national church programs that promote creation care and reduce ecological footprints, such as the Season of Creation.
 Encourage practical personal actions such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, and care for biodiversity.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Promote ethical investment practices and responsible divestment/reinvestment decisions
 Support diocesan and national initiatives, for example, from General Synod, to integrate climate justice into worship, education, and parish governance.
 Develop Bishopsgate and gardens as example of green spaces and biodiversity
 Serve as a model parish demonstrating tangible commitment to creation care and climate advocacy.

Beyond the Church

Almost any newscast or media production will identify a range of community, provincial, and national priorities where the environment is under stress or destruction. The Climate Justice Cathedral group may choose to engage beyond church-based initiatives. This list is not intended as a list of commitments, but as a menu of possibilities. The Group will review these priorities regularly and determine which issues to focus on.

Local Community (Hamilton and area)

Homelessness and affordable housing – advocate for and support initiatives that connect climate and housing justice, such as affordable and energy-efficient social housing, transitional housing programs, living wages, guaranteed annual income and Cathedral-supported meal and shelter services.
 Urban food security – strengthen partnerships with local food banks, gleaning networks, and community kitchens to reduce food waste and increase food security and access to healthy, affordable food.
 Public transit and sustainable mobility –

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advocate for expanded, affordable, and green public transportation as an alternative to car dependency.



James Newman and Catherine Leckey
The Climate Justice Cathedral Group

Provincial (Ontario)

Highway 413 and Highway 401 tunnel – oppose projects that worsen sprawl, increase emissions, and damage farmland, green space, watersheds, and biodiversity.

Just transition and green jobs – advocate for retraining programs and green sector employment to help workers move away from fossil fuel-dependent industries.

Affordable housing strategy – support policies for sustainable, climate-resilient affordable housing development.

National (Canada)

Fossil fuel divestment and renewable investment – advocate for phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and expanding investments in clean energy, electrification, and efficiency.

Climate-resilient infrastructure – support federal investment in affordable, energy-efficient housing, public transit, and Indigenous-led land and water stewardship.

Indigenous land rights and climate leadership – support Indigenous communities opposing destructive resource projects and lead in partnerships for renewable energy and environmental protection.

National housing and poverty reduction – advocate for programs that integrate climate goals with addressing homelessness, poverty, and social inequities. ♣



Community at Play

Go Team Canada!

Sadly, the Gold Medal was not to be ours....this time



BLESSING OUR NEW KITCHEN!



PASSAGES

Baptisms

Reid Richard ROBINSON: Born January 21, 2025
Baptised: January 11, 2026

Odette Dolores WEBB: Born June 28 2025,
Baptised January 11 2026

Marriages

Mitchell Daniel MAYER and Nicole Lynn LUBRICK
September 27, 2025

Luc Michael METHOT and Madison Lee FOUGERE
October 4, 2025

Deaths



Virginia Grace WILSON: Died Aug 3, 2025 (funeral October 11 2025)

Gary Clarence COSBY: Died October 23 2025 (funeral Oct 30, 2025)

Ursula BENNETT: Died December 2, 2025 (funeral Dec 20, 2025)

Joan GILVEAR: Died December 24, 2025 (funeral Feb 7, 2026)



SUNDAY LAY LITURGICAL TEAMS CALENDAR

March 29 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday St. Andrew	May 10 - 6th of Easter St. Veronica
April 2 - Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m. St. Veronica	May 17 - Ascension Sunday St. Thomas
April 3 - Good Friday 11:00 a.m. St. Thomas	May 24 - Day of Pentecost Ven. Bede
April 4 - Easter Vigil 9:00 p.m. Ven. Bede	May 24 - Ordinations 4:00 p.m. Greeters from all teams
April 5, Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day St. Andrew	May 31 - Trinity Sunday St. Andrew
April 12 - 2nd of Easter St. Veronica	June 7 - 2nd after Pentecost St. Veronica
April 19 - 3rd of Easter St. Thomas	June 14 - 3rd after Pentecost St. Thomas
April 26 - 4th of Easter Ven. Bede	June 21 - National Indigenous Day of Prayer Ven. Bede
May 3 - 5th of Easter St. Andrew	June 28 - 5th after Pentecost St. Andrew

WEEKLY CALENDAR - EASTER/PENTECOST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Holy Eucharist 8:30 am</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) See above for your team's Sunday</p> <p>Digging Deeper 12:15 Spence Room</p>	<p>Centering Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey lynn.godfrey79@gmail.com</p>	<p>Centering Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM</p> <p>Morning Prayer 8:30 am in person</p>	<p>Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 11:30 am In person</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 1:00 pm Spence Room</p>	<p>Morning Prayer 8:30 am in person</p> <p>Discovery Bible Study 11:30-12:15 in the Nave</p> <p>Online Discovery Bible Study 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Centering Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM</p> <p>Litany of Reconciliation 12:15 pm In person & ZOOM</p>	<p>(V) indicates that service is both in person and livestreamed on YouTube</p>

Cathedral Café is open Monday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Exceptions to regular weekly programs are on the next page

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 29 Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday	30	31	April 1	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm	3 Good Friday Service 11:00 am	4 Holy Saturday Vigil of Easter 9:00 pm
5 Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day One Service ONLY 10:30 NO Oasis today	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 2nd Sunday of Easter, Baptism Cathedral Questions	13	14	15	16	17 Seniors Eucharist & Tea 2:00 pm	18
19 3rd Sunday of Easter NO Taizé today	20 Church office closed	21	22 Cathedral Café Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 5:00 pm	23	24	25
26 4th Sunday of Easter	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
3 5th Sunday of Easter Oasis 12:30 pm RSCM Evensong 4:00 pm	4	5	6 Cathedral Chat "Beyond the Hurt" On Intimate Partner Violence 7:00 pm	7	8 Artcrawl 7:00 pm	9
10 6th Sunday of Easter	11	12	13 Cathedral Chat "Anne Boleyn" A book chat with Rev. Martha Tatamic 7:00 pm	14	15	16
17 Ascension NO Taizé today - postponed to May 31st	18	19	20	21	22	23
Please consult the weekly Chronicle for further upcoming events						

CAN COMMUNITY SERVICE BRING REDEMPTION?

As I was reflecting on the theme of redemption in the context of an update on the activities of the Community Engagement Coordinating Committee (including the subgroups it oversees), I decided to do what I normally do. I googled it. I came across a book written by an American pastor Mark DeYmaz called "*Disruption: Repurposing the Church to Redeem the Community*" as a guide for churches to reevaluate the way in which they measure effectiveness, i.e. not just numbers attending services. I then turned to Canadian urban expert Mary Rowe who echoes DeYmaz. She encourages communities of faith to rethink their roles and prioritize community service. She urges churches to focus on caring for their neighbours, to form partnerships with other faith communities, non-profits and municipalities, and to collaborate for maximum impact. At the Cathedral we have been community minded for many years and our outreach keeps expanding.

DeYmaz says it takes a long-term commitment to the community to yield results and that along the way there will be disruption.

Cathedral Café falls under the purview of the Community Engagement Coordinating Committee. As everyone knows, this is a joint project of the Cathedral, the Diocese, St. Matts and the City of Hamilton. The Café is in its third year offering programming 6 days a week and serving some 175 guests per day. The partners stepped up in early February to offer approximately 40 homeless men shelter overnight for 6 nights a week, now 7 nights a week until March 31st. Hopefully, Warton Willie was right and we will see an early Spring with warmer weather. This is disruptive (some might say chaotic lately) to normal church operations, but clearly, we are living out our

faith to help our neighbours, and we are also building our parish numbers! We had a very busy dinner this past Christmas Day spearheaded by Richard Cunningham and Gen McIntyre serving over 200 meals to guests and engaging over 50 volunteers at the dinner and behind the scenes chopping, cooking and baking. Many of our Café guests look forward to this special time since the Café has become the family some of them need.

The Community Engagement Coordinating Committee is currently finalizing a panel for another Cathedral Chat on Wednesday, May 6th to bring oxygen to another important issue in our city, that of intimate partner violence (IPV). We are bringing together survivors, service providers and an MPP who is the author of a comprehensive report on IPV. The goal is to have a solutions-focused discussion to both educate and energize the community. This Cathedral Chat will once again be hosted by the wonderful Rev Monica Romig-Green. Mark your calendar for 7 pm that day!

To continue the celebrations of Christ's Church Cathedral's 150 Anniversary, a small committee, organized by Inez Morgan, is planning a BIG afternoon BBQ on Saturday, June 20th with food prepared and cooked by the Café chefs, and music and games delivered by the Cathedral parish. We hope to bring together the Cathedral parish (yes, that's you), the Café guests and neighbours, both James St N businesses and residential neighbours, mostly on Hughson Street (where our Guerilla Gardener neighbours do their summer magic maintaining the green streetscape together with the Bishopsgate Cathedral gardening volunteers).

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We will be looking for volunteers since the crowd could be big! Mark your calendars for 1pm that day. More to come on this fun event!

Jeni Darling has been leading the Bishopsgate group for many years and has been looking for someone to take over for quite some time now. Everyone at the Cathedral benefits by the greenery and if gardening is your passion, please give this some serious thought.

Lastly, the Cathedral has a new leader for Art Crawl, Supercrawl and tours. John Watts has stepped down after many successful years. Anne Kaewmongkol has taken over and is looking to build a strong roster of volunteers. She would like to have 10 for each of the art crawls with many more for Supercrawl! Please let her know if you can assist. The Art Crawls are on the 2nd Friday of the month (evenings). The Cathedral will be open from May through October. The September event is Supercrawl from the 11th -13th.

The first Art Crawl for 2026 will be on May 8. The community counts on the Cathedral to be open, and our beautiful new doors will welcome them! Mark your calendar for this and more! ♣



Roseann Barry

For Community Engagement Co-ordinating Committee

PAST COMMUNITY EVENTS

Joining the James North business community with a tree lighting celebration in Bishopsgate. Plenty of Song and Hot Chocolate!



CATHEDRAL PLAQUES 1: THE DIOCESEAN SET



During the summer of 2025, I was given a hand-out from Portsmouth cathedral, which had a plan of the cathedral with markers showing the location of some of the plaques. For each of the selected plaques there was a QR code that linked to a story about the plaque and its relationship to an element of local history. This was the seed that led to this article; I have never written about the plaques on the walls of the cathedral, so this is the first of a series of articles I shall write.

In 1977 Dean Jo Fricker initiated and led the "Restoration Program" in which the battleship-grey walls were painted cream, thereby showing off the fine stained-glass windows, the old, fixed pews were replaced by movable benches, the link to the School House was built, and the crypt was excavated to provide a passage from the back to the front of it. The proposed columbarium was not constructed, because the cost exceeded the budget, but it was added later. As part of the program, Jo rearranged the position of some of the plaques

into related sets. One such set is on the north wall of the nave, and they are plaques of people who held some form of diocesan office, primarily bishops. (*Photo above*)

In front of the plaques was a chair that sat on a low platform that was used later to display badges of former members of the ACW. The chair was a gift of the Diocese of Toronto, because our cathedral did not have a cathedra until the 1925 building program. This chair (shown in the photo below) is used by the bishop for confirmations, installations into the Order of Niagara, and ordinations. The carving at the top with a bishop's mitre and crozier indicates that this is a chair for the bishop.



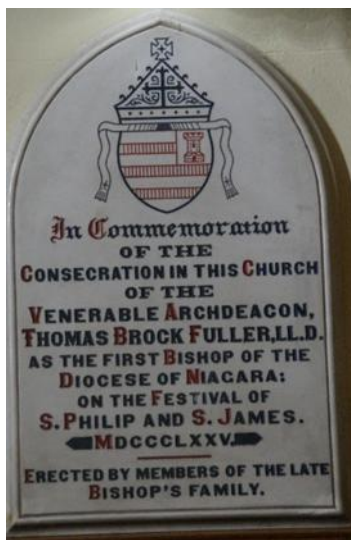


descendants continued to worship at the cathedral. The Martins were lawyers and one of my favorite names for a lawyer was Argue Counsell Martin, although Counsell was a family name as you will find out in the next article. Argue's brother, Hubert, came with Dean Harry Dawson and me to visit the bishop when we suggested that the diocese should move its offices to the cathedral.

Perhaps the most notable of the other plaques is that commemorating Bishop Dermott Owen, who was dean when the 1925 extension was added. Subsequently, he was Bishop of Niagara, then of Toronto before being named as primate of the church in Canada. The shield from his coat of arms is on the east side of the bishop's prayer desk.

Other plaques for bishops include those for William Reid Clark fourth bishop, and bishops Walter Bagnal and John Bothwell, who will be remembered by some readers. One bishop who does not have a plaque here is Bishop de Moulin, who is remembered by a plaque in the floor of the sanctuary. Most of these people deserve more written about them, but I leave that research to our readers! ✦

The most prominent plaque in the top row in the center is that for the first bishop of Niagara, Thomas Brock Fuller, who had been Archdeacon of Niagara in the Diocese of Toronto. He is also memorialized in the east window, which was given by his family and was the largest stained-glass window made in Canada at the time. The other candidate for bishop was John Gamble Geddes, rector of Christ's Church, and Bishop Fuller named him as Dean of Niagara. The other plaque in the top row recognized the first chancellor of the diocese, Edward Martin, whose



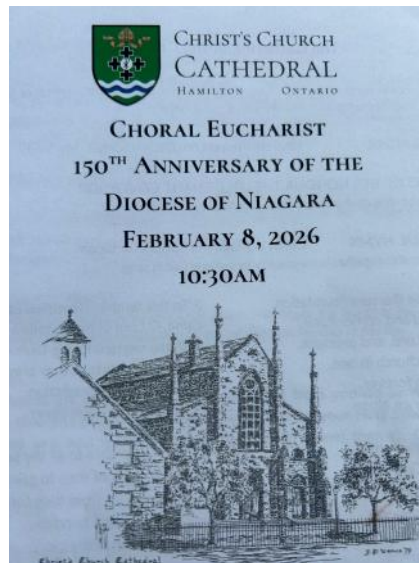
Sandy Darling

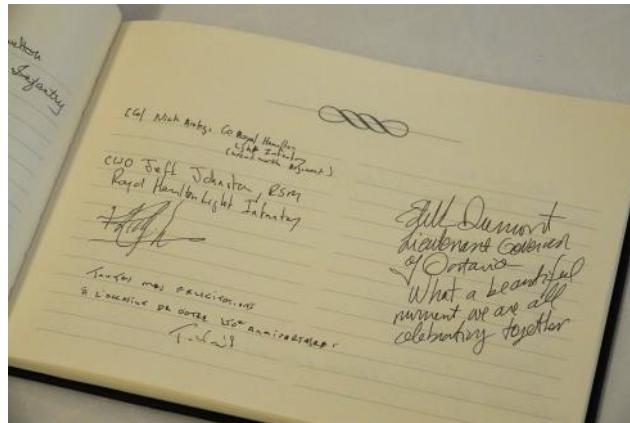
Photos: Alexander Darling ©



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS AS CATHEDRAL

On February 8, 2026 we celebrated our 150th Anniversary as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Niagara. Bishop Susan, Dean Tim, our community, along with Bishops Ralph and Michael, welcomed dignitaries Lt. Gov. Edith Dumont & her husband, Tony Viscardi; Aslam Rana, MP, and Dr. Robin Lennox, MPP Hamilton Centre, Mayor Andrea Horwath and many members of our wider community, who expressed their gratitude for the Cathedral and our commitment of witness and service to Niagara and our neighbours. It was a joyful occasion, and as always, with wonderful food! Thanks to all who made this possible!





Photos: courtesy of Diocese of Niagara Facebook page

WARDEN'S WORLD

As part of the rules governing Anglican churches in the Diocese of Niagara, all parishes are required to have a Parish Council. The Parish Council is made of clergy, wardens and parish members leading various committees and is tasked with ensuring coordination of various activities. At Christ's Church Cathedral, many of the coordination functions are undertaken by groups such as the Generosity Team and the Spiritual Care Committee and others. To avoid duplication of effort, we have been using Parish Council as a forum for discussions about key issues in the parish.

How we "Welcome" people into our parish community was the topic for the November 30, 2025 Parish Council meeting. This is an important topic because it speaks to how we, as Christians, share Christ's message of love and acceptance. Practically, it also speaks to how our community is sustained and renewed as people join the community and participate in our life.

Parish Council members shared a variety of experiences of being welcomed as a newcomer to Christ's Church Cathedral in warm and inviting ways. For me, these warm initial welcomes came from Anne Louise Watts and Marg Laidler. This included stories of long time parishioners greeting people by name after only a few visits and appreciation for the welcome that is extended to Cathedral Café guests on Sunday mornings. There was a general sense that we are pretty good at greeting people who come through our doors.

A couple of brave people also shared experiences that were not positive. One person recounted sitting at a table with a newcomer at a lunch following the 10:30 service and that no one spoke to the person. Someone else noted that sometimes the welcome is warm, but it can be hard to get to know others in the parish.

A key part of the meeting is exploring what God might be calling us to do. In this case, we were listening to what God might be calling us to do in terms of welcome. Here are some of the ideas that we came up with:

- Greeters should welcome people warmly when they arrive as well as hand them an order of service. Research suggests that people will determine if a congregation is friendly before the service even starts.
- We should all wear our name tags so it is easy for new people to get to know our names. If you don't have a name tag, please contact Karen in the parish office (CathedralAdmin@niagaraanglican.ca) and she will create one.
- Consider sitting in a different place in church from time to time and introduce yourselves to the people around you. Practice the "rule of ten" and greet people within 10 feet.
- We need to take our cue from others. When you say good morning try to read if they are open to more conversation. Not everyone wants or needs the same thing, but it is good to err on the side of welcome.
- When you greet someone new, invite them to join you at coffee hour to learn more about them. Consider greeting guests or newcomers before friends as research shows first time visitors will leave within 3 minutes of the end of the service.
- When greeting someone you have not seen in church before, say, "I don't believe we have met..." or "what brought you here today?" It is possible the person has attended a number of times, but you have not seen them. This avoids the potential for someone to feel like they have not been seen. In some cases, people might feel like

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VESTRY

part of the congregation but attend intermittently.

- Help people make connections to others who might share similar interests. "Let me introduce you to _____, she is involved with _____ and could tell you about it."
- Remind people that they can fill out a card to share contact information with the office and ask for some follow up contact. The cards in the pocket on the back of the red chairs in the Cathedral and once filled out they may be placed in the offering plate or handed to one of the clergy or a warden.

These suggestions sound easy enough but can be harder (or uncomfortable) in practice. Easter is about rebirth and renewal. I encourage you to consider how "welcoming" others, using the suggestions from Parish Council, might form part of your personal practice of sharing God's love during Lent and the Easter Season.

Please contact me if you are interested in talking more about this topic. ✝

Yours in Christ,
Brian (bkreps@yahoo.com)



Brian Kreps

Our annual meeting - looking at where we were, are now, and hope to be following God's call.



OUR ENDOWMENT FUNDS – OUR PRESENT, OUR FUTURE



few retirees. Worker contributions to the CPP were more than sufficient to pay for retiree pensions. However, as the workforce aged, this was no longer the case. It became clear that the cost of pensions each year was going to outstrip the amount going into the CPP fund from worker contributions; therefore, impending bankruptcy.

Fortunately, in the mid 1990s, encouraged by then federal Finance Minister Paul Martin, Finance Ministers across Canada finally turned their full attention to the impending CPP crisis. Discussion papers were written, public consultations were held across the country and various solutions were proposed. Thereafter a set of CPP amendments were agreed upon and legislation enacted. The key all important change to the CPP was the 1997 establishment of an arm's length CPP Investment Board.

While the CPP Investment Board was created, worker CPP contributions were raised. The intention was that surplus contributions, i.e. those not needed to pay immediate pensions, would go into an investment fund to generate income to help pay future pensions.

The CPP Investment Board has been hugely successful, and the investment funds now total almost \$800 billion – certainly enough to guarantee that our pensions will be paid. Now, what has all that got to do with us at the cathedral?

In years past, congregations were larger and parishioner contributions were more or less sufficient to keep the church and its ministries operating. But that has changed. Our congregations are not so large now, some parishioners are not as well off financially,

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As you begin to read this article you will likely wonder what it has to do with our current life at the cathedral. Please stay with me.

Retired workers in our congregation and those currently in the workforce are either receiving, or expect to receive at retirement, a Canada Pension Plan (CPP) pension. But at one point not so long ago this was less a guarantee. Towards the end of the 20th century, it was evident that the CPP would go bankrupt by the early years of the 21st century unless something was done.

So how did the CPP problem arise in the first place? When the CPP was established in 1965 Canada had a large, young workforce and

costs have risen and so on. Parishioner givings alone are not sufficient to support all our ministries. But we are helped by our endowment funds.

Endowment funds – you hear this term at vestry meetings – but what are these funds, what do they do, and why are they so significant?

Our endowment funds are our investment funds. Like the CPP investment funds that help pay our pensions, the cathedral's endowment funds help pay our operating costs each year. Right now, our endowment funds generate about **21 percent** of our operating budget. **Just think what it would mean if we could grow those funds!** For one thing it would help to free us from worrying about whether we will have a deficit budget each year. And it could enable us to do more, and be more, in all our ministries.

This is why we ask you to consider capital gifts now, or legacy givings or bequests to the cathedral in your will. Growing our endowment funds would make a world of difference in helping secure our present and in making a commitment to the future. In a future Contact, I will write more about our specific endowment funds, what they are intended for, and our commitment to investing these funds in a manner that takes into consideration environmental sustainability, social responsibility and good governance practices. †

Janina Vanderpost,
on behalf of
The CCC
Generosity
Team



MOTHERING SUNDAY

Our community of slmnel cake bakers outdid themselves for Mothering Sunday



FINANCIAL REPORT

For period ended January 31, 2026

We incurred a higher deficit in January than was anticipated in our budget due to a shortfall in Parishioner Givings. It's early in the year though and we just completed our annual Vestry where the Vestry approved a year over year increase in giving of 3%. We hope that each you will thoughtfully and prayerfully review your monthly giving and make an increase where possible so that we may meet our 3% overall year over year target increase.

Income	1-Jan-26	2026 Budget	Variance	2025 Actual
Parishioner Givings	\$26,022	\$37,388	-\$11,366	\$29,515
Other Income*	\$5,966	\$2,033	\$3,933	\$1,855
Open Collection	\$340	\$583	-\$243	\$405
Misc Income	\$55	\$142	-\$87	\$52
Bishopsgate	\$40	\$350	-\$310	\$40
Fund Income	\$13,750	\$13,750	\$0	\$12,598
Alongside Hope	\$70	\$323	-\$253	\$175
Special Offerings	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,272
Transfer in from Funds	\$7,711	\$0	\$7,711	\$20,054
Total Income	\$53,954	\$54,569	-\$615	\$79,966
Expenses				
Staffing	\$34,067	\$34,167	-\$100	\$35,918
Diocesan Assessment	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$0	\$5,375
Property	\$7,476	\$7,476	\$0	\$40,933
Bishopsgate	\$0	\$350	-\$350	\$0
Admin and Programs	\$9,705	\$6,823	\$2,882	\$3,105
Alongside Hope	\$70	\$323	-\$253	\$175
Transfer out to designated funds	\$3,550	\$0	\$3,550	\$680
Long Term Debt Repayment (Diocese)	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
Total Expense	\$61,868	\$56,139	\$5,729	\$87,436
Net Income (Deficit)	-\$7,914	-\$1,570	\$7,221	-\$7,470

*Other Income includes Choral Scholarships, Dean's Discretionary, Memorial Flowers and Festivals, and Outreach (Café).

Note: Expenses for admin and programs appears to be higher than budget plan but that is due to costs associated with the upgrade to the kitchen for the Café program. Removing those expenses, the actual admin and program costs move to \$2,456 which is under budget. The costs associated with the kitchen upgrade are entirely offset by donations made to that specific cause which make up the bulk of the "transfer in from funds" in the income section.

J. Lefebvre
Treasurer





Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday of the Passion with Liturgy of Palms, March 29

Holy Eucharist with distribution of Palms

In-Person at **8:30am & 10:30am**

Also available on **YouTube** at **10:30am**

Tuesday, March 31

Morning Prayer at **8:30am** in person

Holy Eucharist at **10:30am** In-Person & on **Diocesan YouTube**

(Diocesan Clergy & Licensed Layworkers Vow Renewal & Blessing of Oils)

Wednesday, April 1

Morning Prayer at **8:30am** via Zoom

Holy Eucharist at **11:30am** in person

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Morning Prayer at **8:30** in person

Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing

In-Person & on **YouTube** at **7:30pm**

Good Friday, April 3

Solemn Liturgy

In-Person & on **YouTube** at **11am**

Holy Saturday, April 4

The Great Vigil of Easter

In-Person & on **YouTube** at **9pm**

Easter Day, April 5

ONE SERVICE ONLY

Choral Eucharist

In-Person & on **YouTube** at **10:30am**

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