MARCH 2021 ISSUE

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

COVID-19 updates newsletter

Hello!

What gorgeous weather we're having! I feel like spring is really here, and things are generally looking up. I hope you're feeling the same!

We had a lively Vestry meeting, and the new Parish Councl has already met. I look forward to working with this group over the coming year to build our community in the varous ways avalable to us.

If you're not sure who your Parish Councl representatives are, feel free to contact me, or check in with the office!

As ever, if you have content suggestions, prayer requests, or any other news to share, please forward me the information at megan.bruce@gmail.com or call me at (613)328-0487.

Megan Bruce
Deputy Warden

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COVID-19 ONE YEAR LATER

The Ven. David Selzer, Interim Dean

Thursday 11 March 2020 was the day the World Health Organization officially declared COVID 19 a pandemic. Many places, including the Anglican Church, remembered that day with silence and prayer.

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Archbishop and Primate, offered this prayer:
God of infinite compassion and mercy,
Our hearts are overflowing with a flood of emotions from the past year,
Fear and sorrow and grief — endurance, relief, and hope,
For the families of all who have died, who have been unable yet to mourn, we ask your comfort
For health care workers persevering in the battle with the disease we ask your strength and courage,
For government and public health leaders we ask your wisdom
For all facing the relentless uncertainties that continue we ask your endurance and peace,
We give thanks for the resilience discovered within us,
We give thanks for all who continue to work to protect and care for us
We give thanks for your unending love and compassion in our midst at all times.
As we face the year ahead fill our hearts with that same love and compassion for our world and its needs
For in you we find all that is needed — for whatever lies ahead. Amen.

On Sunday 14 March 2021 we sang a brand new hymn authored by The Most Rev Justin Welby (and others) and set to the tune of Hope by Sarah MacDonald, a Canadian now in Cambridge.

The words are:
Hope in the resurrection,
God died and death's outcast,
Just as he spoke the first Word,
God also speaks the last.

God came and shared our sorrows,
He's with us in our weeping,
He's present in our grieving,
God's in the middle of this mess.

Hope in the love we're given,
The lost that we receive,
The wonderful outflowing
Of care that we perceive.

Hope in determination
That justice will arise.
In prayer and lamentation,
Where grief no longer lies.

WE REMEMBER

In the midst of this crazy COVID 19 time, trying to find a sense of normality is often a challenge. In this past year, the Cathedral lost two staff members, one who had served for ten years and the other for five. Many still miss them.

On behalf of the Cathedral community, I want to thank The Very Rev. Don Davidson for being the Dean for these last five years, and Michael Capon for serving as Music Director the last ten years. Both served well in their respective capacities, and both left in the midst of the lockdown of COVID 19 last year. I asked two people to comment on their gifts, and here is what they said:

The Very Rev. Don Davidson

My Christian friends, in bonds of love, whose hearts in sweetest union join,
Your friendship's like a drawing band, yet we must take the parting hand.

These words were written in 1818. "The Parting Hand" is always sung at the closing of a Sacred Harp singing. Hands are joined as the congregation prepares to take leave of each other. Among the vast changes and challenges that 2020 has brought us at all levels and in all aspects of life, we have experienced the parting hand with our Dean, the Venerable Don Davidson. We bade farewell to a good priest, a good man, and someone whom our grandmothers might have described as "all wool and a yard wide."

It's good to see Don active in the Diocese in Prince Edward County. It's good to share virtual prayers with him each day during his "Prayers in A Time of Pandemic" series. We can still enjoy his Tuesday "Eat Simply That Others May Eat" sessions where, for the period of Lent, he shares recipes and theological reflections. But we no longer have the energy of his commitments to our Cathedral, our community, to our congregation, and to God. For all he did for us, we owe Don a real debt of thanks. We wish him God's speed in life. And above all, we wish him God's speed in sharing his gift in communicating Christ's mission and the Word of God to future congregations.

Michael Capon

Michael joined the Cathedral staff in early fall, 2010, bringing with him a wealth of experience working in church music. His goal from the beginning was inclusivity and this was apparent in his dealings with the choirs and with the wider community. He was particularly concerned that anyone who wished could be a part of the children's choir, including those who couldn't hold a note, and those with developmental issues. No audition was required, just a willingness to participate. The children's choir competed every year in the Kiwanis Festival, performed in the highlights concert once and one year, received an award. The children also participated in the highly successful Mother's Day high tea raising money for the music program. He continued the RSCM awards program, granting medals to those who progressed through the tasks that were set out for them, both liturgical and musical. He also mentored university students who took over part of the task of teaching the children.

WE REMEMBER CTD.

This attitude carried into the wider church community. He was the director of music in the 150th Diocesan Anniversary service held in 2012 at the Leon's Centre involving 2000 people from across the diocese. He was the principal organizer of the highly successful Organ Festival in 2016 which brought musicians from across Canada to Kingston to perform at the Cathedral and elsewhere in the city. He nurtured the already successful series of summer concerts as well as the Advent and Lenten noon hour recitals, including local talent and musicians from across Canada. The audience increased to an average 150-200 people per concert. He continued the cathedral tradition of Advent and Carol services which every year attracted several hundred congregants.

He was very good at drawing on the talents of the community. He made the Cathedral the venue for many concerts and recitals and encouraged the Cathedral Chamber Orchestra and Concert Singers who, in their performances under his colleague, David Cameron, raised money for Lunch by George and for the Cathedral. Michael supported the Celtic services and invited people to sing in the seasonal choir and evensongs. He encouraged children and parents to come to take a look at the organ after services and often played for them and answered their questions.

Michael is a superb prize winning organ player and enhanced services, weddings and memorials with performances of music from the era of Couperin and Bach to contemporary composers. He gave many recitals and most of the time they were to raise money for organizations such as Lunch by George where he was also a regular helper. He is a published composer of church music including anthems and a mass and is also on the national committee working on a new hymn book. He encouraged organ study, managing to reinstate organ as a subject at the Dan School of Music at Queen's where he is now an Adjunct Instructor.

Thank you, Michael, for what you achieved. The ten years of your employment at the Cathedral were very fruitful and one wishes you great success in your future endeavours.

Thank you to Heather Grimshaw

Many, many thanks to Heather Grimshaw who has retired (again!) as Cathedral Administrator. Heather was here previously, and then returned at the Cathedral's request, and was with us until the Vestry meeting. As someone with many gifts, especially the gift of hospitality and organization, Heather was a major person to contact for the Cathedral. We have wished her well again, and sent her off with our best wishes and a small token of our appreciation, so she can have more cottage time and perhaps retirement.

However, Heather does occasionally function as a Server on Sunday mornings, so we shall see her there.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sunday 28 March begins Holy Week. That day, The Sunday of the Passion with the Liturgy of the Palms, commemorates Palm Sunday, where Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the final journey to his crucifixion and death. We also hear the story of his arrest, trial, and crucifixion, what is known as the Passion. The story is familiar to us as Christians, yet each year we are invited to hear it again and enter into Jesus' last days before he was crucified.

If we are not in lockdown, the Cathedral will have services at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, and 11:00 am. Because we are in the midst of the Pandemic, we will have no procession of palms; we will have palms blessed and available at the back of the Church for people to take home. The colour of Holy Week is red.

On Thursday 1 April, we will observe Maundy Thursday. There will be no 10:30 am Eucharist that day. We will gather (and have live-streamed) a 7:00 pm Eucharist, at which we remember the Last Supper, the institution of the Eucharist. We will also remember the 'mandate' (maundy) of Jesus to love one another by caring for each other, including the washing of feet. Due to COVID 19 regulations, we will have Eucharist, a sermon, and then end the service with the stripping of the altar. This year, there is no foot-washing or vigil; next year, we can hope.

On Friday 2 April, we will observe Good Friday, in a simplified way at 11:00 am. There are readings, a brief reflection, and communion from the Reserved Sacrament, which was consecrated the night before. The service is simple, yet profound and inviting. The service ends just before Noon, where those who wish will gather on the steps of the Cathedral for the Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation, a most-fitting end to our Liturgy of the day. (This service will also be live-streamed). At 3pm tune in to Caelis Academy Ensemble's pre-recorded St. John's Passion by J.S. Bach, conducted by Matthew Larkin. This will be available on YouTube for 24 hours only, so you don't want to miss it! Connect via our website!

Also, there will be no Easter Vigil due to COVID 19. Easter Day 4 April, we will have Eucharists at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, and 11:00 am, with festival music and a celebration within COVID 19 limits.

Please plan to join us. Reservations through Eventbrite or by calling the parish office are required.

If you would like to contribute names and money for Easter flowers, please complete the forms available in the parish. The deadline for this is 28 March.

Direct link to our YouTube channel: http://bit.ly/SGCKingston
Direct link to our Eventbrite page: http://bit.ly/SGCTickets

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our Sunday bulletins and in services, and also in some of the weekday services, we offer a list of people who have requested our prayers. To get on the prayer list, please contact the parish office. We receive prayer requests from parishioners, from friends of the parish, and from others who contact us.

Generally, we hold people on our prayer list for about a month, and then, unless there is some other reason, offer others the opportunity to have their names or family names on the list. When someone contacts us to have a name on the prayer then that name is there for about a month. We try to keep the list current, so if there is a change in health or circumstances, please let the parish office know so that we can adjust.

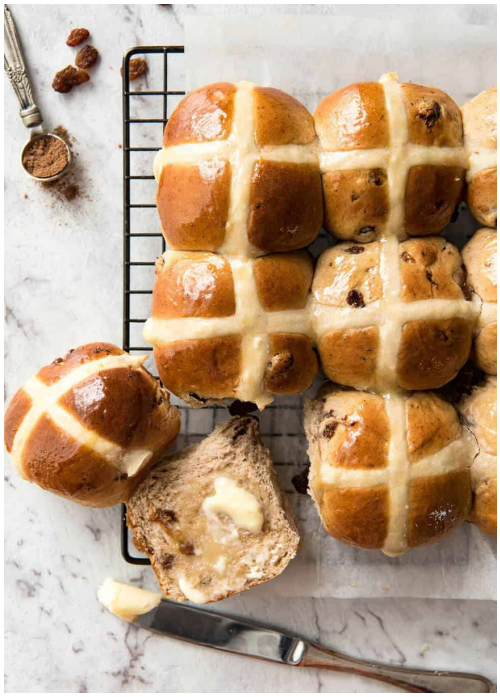
Thank you for offering prayers, for your consideration, and for your update for those for whom we pray.

Kathy Anderson, John Bate, Ralph Brose, David Bruce, Danielle Clarke, Gill Cleghorn, Diana Davis Duerkop, Rev. Don Goodwin, Gwynne Hardy, Sandy, Jason, Allie and Dev Kauenhofen, Sean Lovett, The Very Rev. Sharon Murdoch, Dee Padfield, Paul Robertson,Collin Stewart, Richard Watson-Laird

CONGRATULATIONS

To Diana Davis Duerkop, Laurie Dempsey, Sylvia Green, and Lynn Wilson who celebrated birthdays recently!

The kneelers have recently been rotated! Check out the featured designs in the Lady Chapel next time you're in!



ST. GEORGE'S MARKETPLACE

Get your fresh hot crossed buns and support the Cathedral! Megan Bruce and Zach Ariki will be baking buns in time for Easter Sunday. Packages of six will be sold for $10. Pre-order yours today; limited quantities available! Call Megan at 613-328-0487 to order. Proceeds return to the Cathedral.