

Ministry Report June 2022

Whilst we were away

Having missed the last PC meeting whilst at Clergy Conference, I thought I should let you know a little of what the conference was about! Apart from gathering Clergy which the Bishop requires a few times a year, this conference is change to pray together, relax and connect with one another, and do some shared learning. The sessions this year were about the emotions that we often ignore or are unaware of both personally and organizationally, particularly in church communities. It was a fascinating and useful insight into 'communal behaviours' and, I found it very revealing as to the dynamics we have within our own community of St John's and how we might support one another better.

The conference was cut short, unfortunately, by a windstorm which brought hydro wires down outside the venue – we had to leave the premises quite quickly, and missed out on the end of the final session and a shared Eucharist led by our Bishop on the closing emotion 'joy'!

Worship

Having brought back a number of services we continue to work with small but perfectly formed groups as people's confidence grows in gathering together. It's be a pleasure to lead 8am Sunday services of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer, Midweek (Wednesday) 8am service, and Meditative (Thursday) Eucharist at 12.30pm along with Stephanie (and soon John), and even to have some people new to our community joining these.

Our Sunday 10am continues to ebb and flow, attendance wise, but I am excited to welcome Bishop Anna to preach and preside at our Pride celebration on 26th June at 10am, and she will join us in the crowd following the service and coffee.

I must express my gratitude to the volunteers, led by Joan Huzar and Gerry Melville, who have got our coffee hour back and running – thought the plan has been to start monthly, we have had enough special events to have nearly weekly refreshments! Thank you for your hard work, and we plan to have refreshments after this Sunday's gathering with our Bishop.

Community Safety and Well-Being

Apologies that that report for CSWB was not circulated before – a report of the recommendations the team has made, and request for clarity in direction from PC will be circulated for May's PC meeting

A New Priest and a sad goodbye

Pentecost (Sunday June 5th) saw the ordination to the Priesthood of John Thatamanil and Colleen Lissamer, it was joyful and uplifting, and a pleasure to see the two of them be ordained into the vocation they have been called to. We look forward to John continuing to gain experience at St John's and being a part of our community for the foreseeable, albeit remotely as a new semester begins in New York.

Sadly on the evening of the Ordinations, Colleen's husband Grant Croswell died suddenly, and the day's joys were tempered with grief. Grant will be missed, and was a friend to St John's, including having had his orders received by Bishop Logan in our community and worked here first as 'intern' then as Priest Associate. Colleen has been well supported by the Bishop and her local Incumbent, and is doing well, she will begin working in our region, at St Matthias Church, Fairfield, in a few weeks. Please keep Colleen and Neil, their son, in prayers. Grant's funeral will be at the Church of The Advent in Colwood in July, Bishop Anna will preside and Bishop Logan will preach, details will be shared as they are available.

Sabbatical

I received (informal) notification that my application for a grant towards sabbatical was approved and await the formal notification. Apparently the cheque is in the mail, or whatever the contemporary phrase is that covers that. As plans are firmed up I will share them with you all.

As always, with thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

Alastair