



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener ON EAGLE'S WINGS

May 29, 2022

Available online at StJohn316.com/OEW

Introducing: St. John's new tenant!

Eileen Scully

It's been a couple of months now, and something that had been brewing for a little while. On March 1 I moved in to one of the offices on the main floor of the church and became a rent-paying tenant at St. John's. Gone for me now is the pandemic-era-begun remote-working isolation and weird lack-of-work-life-balance of working from home; gone, too, and more importantly, is a previous ten years' pattern of keeping a tiny apartment in Toronto, working there during the week and coming home only on weekends. Instead, I now have the privilege of walking or taking the LRT to a congenial office in a lovely context, and returning home the same way. As the old ad went: For some things like rent in Toronto there is (insert name of credit card)... Living *and* working in the same community: priceless.

What is my work, you might ask? You may have seen me in the pulpit or at the altar a few times this past year. Yes, I'm a priest, and as of last November an honorary assistant at St. John's. But I'm not on staff at St. John's – an important point. I'm here present as a parishioner who occasionally helps out the rector as do the other 'honorarys'. I'm in the office Monday to Friday, though, minus the occasional biweekly jaunt to Toronto on the GO train, doing other church work. For me it's a wonderful connection between parish life and national church life. As a parish we belong to a much wider family, even than the diocese, and for my part, I gain better grounding for the national work by being rooted here, and the work is a beneficiary of that grounding!

My work since 2010 has been as Director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry for the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. A big title that basically means I'm responsible for overseeing groups of volunteers on committees and task forces that undertake national priorities as named by the General Synod or the House of Bishops. I also get to do hands on work on projects around formation for ministry and in liturgy. I have some supervisory responsibilities for others who work in ecumenical and interfaith relations and also in youth ministries. Together with my colleagues Scott Sharman (in Edmonton) and Sheilagh McGlynn (in Toronto) we make up the Faith, Worship, and Ministry (or FWM) department. Governing our work is a committee of five people elected at the triennial meeting of General Synod, and we're ultimately responsible to that General Synod and its Council (Council of General Synod, or CoGS), which meets every few months.

I tried in the first week after I moved in to keep a little list of the typical stuff that I do out of St. John's that might be interesting to the parish, and then realized that there is no typical week for me. Some days I'm in conference planning mode, sometimes I'm editing or writing liturgical texts, and some days I'm supporting the House of Bishops' discernment for ordained ministry work. Often I'm just plugging away at the bureaucratic and administrative stuff that neither fun nor exciting, but is necessary (the month of April seemed consumed with copyright permissions issues!). Projects develop and are launched and new directions taken, priorities shift and change, and the job does, too. I can say that in the past few weeks the things I've been doing all from 23 Water Street North that give me the most joy are with a network of Anglican Health Care Chaplains, and doing the research to support a task force that's revising the services of ordination in *The Book of*

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Alternative Services. The office Wi-Fi that comes with my rent has taken me in Zoom meetings with Anglicans and with full communion and ecumenical partners across the country – and even to a fair share of international meetings. The best part about the work is the people with whom I get to work across the country. I do look forward to getting back to *some* travel in the future but being able to do so very much connection-making from right here has been delightful. Think of it: it's almost like St. John's hosting a whole lot of connection-making. If a typical week's connections were present in person, they'd fill the Upper Parish Hall. That's a fun image I carry around!

It's also been fun to reconnect within the parish now with folks who've been part of some General Synod and FWM-specific work in the recent past: Marilyn Malton expertly facilitated a major full communion meeting on theological education a few years ago with the heads of our Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and our two sister Churches from the United States; Ken Hull chaired our Hymn Book Supplement Task Force and has been project manager for the new supplement (which should be available by the time this newsletter goes to print), *Sing a New Creation*; James Brown was a member of a Liturgy Task Force that started work ten years ago and whose fruits you can hear in some of the new collects that are prayed from time to time on Sundays; André Lavergne was a long time full communion colleague when he worked as Ecumenical Officer for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and prior to that in liturgical development; and Simon Guthrie is our new national church representative to the Management Board of Project Ploughshares. This parish has got talent galore!

Thank you to the wardens and the rector for making this office move possible. And if you're in the church office on a weekday, feel free to drop in. The General Synod Office At St. John's welcomes you!



Racial Diversity Training Workshop

June 11 9am-5pm
St. James Anglican Church
520 Ellis Road Cambridge
\$25.00 per person
Lunch will be provided
To register,
contact your rector

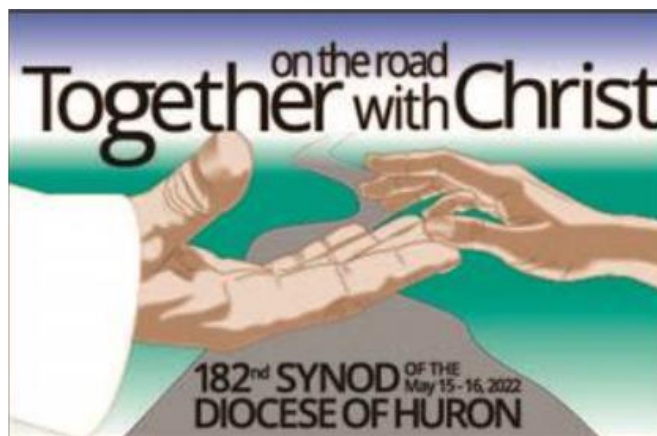
The Deanery of Waterloo is hosting a Racial Diversity Training Workshop on June 11th from 9am-5pm at St. James Anglican Church, Cambridge. This is an event that has been endorsed by Bishop Todd and the Diocese of Huron, and all our welcome. There is a \$25 fee that covers a pre-course online prerequisite and the day-long workshop. (If you'd like to attend, but the cost is prohibitive, contact the rector.) This one day workshop will be led by Bernadette Arthur (she/her), an experienced trainer, facilitator, and consultant in the areas of anti-racism, Biblical reconciliation and asset-based community development. To register, contact the church office.

Synod 2022—Lay Delegate Report

Dr. Bruce Wheatcroft

Tianna Gocan and I have shared the Lay Delegate to Synod responsibilities for the past two Synod gatherings in London, Ontario. Apart from our obligation to attend and be prayerfully present throughout Synod, there is an expectation that we submit a report to the Parish Council of St. John the Evangelist shortly after our return from the Synod event itself. Celebrating the 182nd Synod of the Diocese of Huron, this year's events were wrapped up in a 24-hour window. I wondered if the changes in format together with the reduced amount of time was perceived as an advantage or a disadvantage in the context of its impact on the style and content of Synod.

Synod 2022 began with a BBQ on the lawn of St. Paul's Cathedral. Reports from those attending 'in person' gave a thumbs-up to this opening event that prepared the way for a 'Choral Eucharist' in St. Paul's Cathedral. Bishop Todd's sermon primed delegates for the morning roster of events alluding to successes as well as areas of concern. The Bishop transitioned through a plethora of topics, all brief but finely crafted, and skillfully threaded together; a fine balance of positive and negative perspectives appeared to stimulate a good deal of interest among delegates.



Quoting the theme of this 182nd Synod, "Together on the road with Christ," Bishop Todd was both firm and completely engaged when speaking of 'pastoral interventions'. He was particularly eloquent about the need to be pro active when issues of youth and young ministries were in his sight line, adding a touch of humour about his own age.

The sense of journey was apparent throughout the morning and afternoon sessions, having been placed before us in his sermon the evening before. When Bishop Todd addressed 'culture' there was a sense that he was embracing all aspects of 'culture, following what appeared to be a sensitive protocol as he continued the theme of *present culture, a multiplicity of cultural practices and an ethos that is companion to these multicultural sensibilities*.

Attending 'on line' comes resplendent with many advantages but also with disadvantages that requires attentive discernment. For example, the lack of one on one chat opportunities and indeed in larger groups (the 'breakout' moments) were tricky to navigate. With only a minute for each participant to think and then speak, there was a good deal of pressure to 'get it right' or perhaps better said, 'get it going in the right direction'. Here the operative words might be "there are no wrong answers, just friends to work on it with you so that all might revel in a response filled with a richness of material and the Holy Spirit." At least that's the gist of it!

Housekeeping financials moved through the process they are supposed to with the finesse that only the church can model. Insurance is sure to be a hot topic again next year. There appeared to be a 'spend to fix the problem' approach that might be a point of tension for some, perhaps subject to individual understanding of stewardship. None-the-less Bishop Todd's concern was just that—concern. It seems what lies before us is a year and a journey that some might wish away, if it were only possible.

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In the midst of our current quasi-Covid aftershocks came a ray of hope. I refer to the powerfully word-painted and passionate message that The Ven. Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm presented —the final 'event' of the morning's deliberations. Articulate, clear, engaging, powerful, and dramatically presented, this was/is a message for all of us committed to this journey that defines this 182nd Synod, *'Together on the road with Christ.'* Far from damning, never inclined toward being abusive, always acknowledging that still small voice of hope, our spiritual compass of hope for reconciliation, of hope for a new heaven and a new earth, of hope for a people of God, reconciled and made new.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to presentations and motions, most of which were 'walked' through the delegates. There was a bit of difficulty here for my experience of the zoom link.

"With the limitations of time and technology, some committee reporting and group presentations will be published in video form before and possibly during Synod." Those words from [Synod 2022: Popular Report](#) were by Rev. Ann Webber, the Deacon Assistant to the Rector at St. Michael and All Angels, London.

These files have been beautifully organized and written in a calm tone of the pen. I commend each one of them to you. The link again is [Synod 2022: Popular Report](https://diohuron.org/news/synod-2022-popular-report) (<https://diohuron.org/news/synod-2022-popular-report>). Just before concluding remarks for the afternoon took place, Bishop Todd spoke to the *vision and planning* of his charge. He updated four specific themes from his charge:

- Life Long Learning
- Justice
- Diversity
- A New Earth

Following the Bishop's concurrence with all of the decisions of Synod, the day ended with a commissioning of four of the Territorial Archdeacons for the four new four Archdeaconry areas:

- Sam Thomas (South)
- Megan Collings-Moore (North)
- Osita Oluigbo (East)
- Jane Humphries (West)

Every once-in-a-while a piece of music pops into mind, the result of a particular set of circumstances. That was the case for me at Synod a few short days ago. I was struck by the message of Bishop Todd. His charge is a challenge but was helped along the way for me by this anthem. We have all heard the text in readings over the past week, so the text will be easily recalled. **CLICK** on the **bold face title of the anthem**, then sit back and hear the essence of Bishop Todd's charge to us all.

[And I saw a new heaven](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lyy7RWXAV9Q) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lyy7RWXAV9Q>)

Edgar Bainton (1880-1956)

This stunning anthem is for me Bishop Todd's charge in musical form the 182nd Synod of the Diocese of Huron. I commend it to your charge. May it feed your spirit. [Click here](#).

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Bainton was a British-born, latterly Australian-resident composer. He is remembered today mainly for his liturgical anthem *And I saw a new heaven*, a popular work in the repertoire of Anglican church music.

'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea.

'And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

'And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,
and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death,
neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away.'

(Revelation 21.1–4)

The Choir of King's College, Cambridge
Donald McCann | organ
Daniel Hyde | Director of Music
Student members of King's College

Reader

The Revd Dr Stephen Cherry | Dean

The Rector's Appointment to the International Pentecostal Anglican Commission

The Revd Dr Preston Parsons

It's not everyday you get a letter from the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. Or, perhaps, it's not everyday this priest gets a letter from the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

About this time last year, however, out of the blue, I received a letter from the Most Reverend Josiah Idowu-Fearon appointing me to what's now known as IPAC, the International Pentecostal Anglican Commission. It's a new international-level ecumenical dialogue between Anglicans and Pentecostals from all over the world. The Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, had recommended me, and Bishop Idowu-Fearon appointed me. And Bishop Todd is thrilled that one of his priests will be taking part in something so significant.

The talks have been low-key until now, with only short meetings by zoom. Starting yearly, however, we will all travel to somewhere exotic in the world to meet face-to-face. So at the end of June, I will be heading to South Dakota. Hopefully next year we will go to somewhere a bit more exotic for a Canadian from the Prairies?

As a seminarian I hoped that one day I could participate in such a venture. So it's not just an honour to be appointed to this Commission, but a hope fulfilled.

CKCKW Partners with oneROOF

Ann Coughlin

The Community Kitchen Cooperative (CKCKW) has been a part of St Johns since 2016, and was formed in part to “coordinate food-based projects and opportunities that support community building.” (www.kitchencoopkw.org) Late in 2021, CKCKW was approached by oneROOF Youth Services to participate in their Streets to Employment & Education (SEE). oneROOF “is committed to providing for the safety, support and overall well-being of youth who are experiencing homelessness, and youth who are at-risk of homelessness, aged 12-25, in Waterloo Region.” (oneroof.org) and their SEE program advances this mission by engaging youth from Waterloo Region in a 16-week educational program that teaches transferable job and life skills.



In one component of the SEE program the youth are taught how to cook, and are guided to earning the Safe Food Handling Certification. CKCKW supports the program program by teaching nutritional cooking in our commercial kitchen. Through our collaboration, participants are able to apply the skills they have learned through their food handling course in a professional and safe setting. With the support and dedication of CKCKW, the SEE program gives the youth a chance to apply and practice safe food handling, while building connections into the community.



For six months, we have worked with oneROOF and are excited to embark on a new relationship. Beginning this week, oneROOF will deliver their program on weekdays from St John the Evangelist using space that has at times been the choir room and a preschool classroom. The partnership with CKCKW will continue with the Friday cooking program. This relationship between St John’s, CKCKW and oneROOF is a wonderful opportunity! Feedback has been gathered from both leaders and students, and a few comments make clear the value of this partnership.

“Many participants have never cooked full nutritious meals before so this has been an excellent learning experience... Youth have expressed how these sessions have made cooking seem less daunting and very doable.

“Participants are always encouraged to participate in group

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activities and discussions. The learning circle allows everybody to ask questions and learn from each other. Participants have voiced they feel “safe” in this space. Many of these individuals suffer with mental health concerns such as depression and anxiety. The feeling of being unsafe in unfamiliar situations is common for them.”

“The hope is that all youth in this program can secure safe/adequate housing sometime in the near future. It is with this in mind that these affordable cooking conversations and demonstrations have been so important for the youth. Not only have participants practiced and perfected skills in the kitchen, they have also benefited from knowledge about how to fuel their bodies nutritiously while also being conscious of cost.”

“I’m someone who doesn’t cook solely because I don’t ever know where to start – and cooking with the co-op kitchen has showed me how I can start where its not overwhelming.”

“I really enjoyed the time spent at the church with everyone, their all so nice and smart. We got to know each other well, and I even signed up to volunteer.”

“I had a great time with the Community Kitchen. I liked getting right into cooking without having to worry about the space and resources. I liked not having to worry about how long or hot something is cooking, just dealing with the prep.”

“Anything you do more than once you are going to gain confidence in one way or another. One thing I’ve always tried making sure to pay attention to is that I’m buying as local as possible.”

The next cohort of students begins May 23 and goes through September 9. Please welcome Jacqueline, Kandice, Sarah, and their students if you see them! This partnership is a great opportunity for St Johns to express it’s role as a vibrant presence in downtown Kitchener, supporting our neighbours. Please don’t hesitate to speak with Ann or Al Coughlin if you would like to volunteer with the Friday cooking program.



Synod 2022 Summary

Tianna Gocan

On Sunday afternoon, I arrived at the Cathedral. I went straight in because I was asked to be a chalice bearer and so I had to attend a rehearsal of the Synod service. After that, I went to look at the different items that were available from the parishes that had closed in the past year. From there, I attended the barbecue and the Synod service, and I must say, having that many people in a church service all singing together was powerful. The bishop's sermon touched on the several tales in the New Testament about being on the road; Emmaus, Damascus, and others.

Monday morning, we headed to the convention centre, and the bishop opened with talking about "where we are" as a diocese. He indicated a focus on the culture of the diocese, and determining what was working well, and what needs to be enhanced. This seems to be ongoing, as he expressed the need to continue to look at the aspects of our culture. This included looking at committees, discernment, lifelong learning, deaneries, and archdeacons. At this point, he also mentioned the new 4 territorial archdeacons. He also promised more intentionality with regards to children, youth, and young adults in the diocese. Lastly, he mentioned that they are working to fix the processes and functionality in church house but mentioned that it may take time to see what changes should be made, if any.

Finance discussed briefly that they have a "find & fix approach", as they acknowledged that processes within that department need to be streamlined. They also expressed a desire for feedback on how things are going.

The Bishop's charge continued with the theme of being "on the road" that he first introduced to us during his sermon the evening before. He told us that we, as a community, are on a journey. He first talked about where we had been, that we should continue listening to those around us, and recognizing that we won't return to the same church that we had before COVID, and that in some senses, that is a blessing because it allows us to really think about what we want to carry forward with us. He also commented that this work can be exhausting, and so, the prioritizing of this process is important. He also touched on the commitment to central Christian practices such as prayer, confession, sabbath, etc, which can be categorized as catechesis, worship and stewardship. He desires us to continue working towards becoming a Learning, Just, Diverse, and New Church.

Archdeacon Roz also had a chance to speak after the Bishop's charge, which I thought was very powerful. We got to hear about how the Indigenous Anglicans in our diocese have been over the past year, and how COVID has impacted them. Despite the pandemic, they have great hope in their communities.

Following lunch, we had several presentations and motions presented. For more details, please read the popular report linked here (<https://diohuron.org/news/synod-2022-popular-report>).

The day closed with the commissioning of the four territorial Archdeacons: Sam Thomas (South), Megan Collings-Moore (North), Osita Oluigbo (East) and Jane Humphries (West).

Thank you again for choosing me as one of your Lay Delegates.