



ST. MATTHEW'S

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

Pulse of the Parish

SEPTEMBER 2025

LIVING THE GOSPEL

THE REVEREND GEOFFREY CHAPMAN

"The Church exists primarily for the sake of those who are still outside it. It is a mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion."

-Archbishop William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44

"The church is the church only when it exists for others. To make a start, it should give away all its property to those in need. The clergy must live solely on the free-will offerings of their congregations, or possibly engage in some secular calling. The church must share in the secular problems of ordinary human life, not dominating, but helping and serving."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, 1944

These two titans of mid-twentieth century Christianity dreamed the church would one day become the way it is today. We have long abandoned the shackles of imperial and national Christianity. We no longer have bishops offering prayers to the nation on the radio. The coffers of our Diocese are humble, fully-transparent on a public spreadsheet, and there are more folks under the employ of the Bishop of Ottawa working for our secular community ministries than there are paid clergy. From a financial standpoint, the Diocese of Ottawa is primarily offering a secular ministry of aid to the vulnerable. We have succeeded.

The purpose of this letter is to remind ourselves as we head into a new year that the church does not need saving, but has finally, after the struggles of many generations of sincere and prayerful Christian leaders, achieved a long-sought goal: to become a humble faith community accountable to and living exclusively off the generosity of its members. I would not trade this time in ministry for any other time, as

the spiritual health of the church has never been better.

Rather than saving the church, our mission at St. Matthew's must be to fulfill the dreams of our forebearers: to live the gospel in our lives and in the world. To continue to become a parish far more concerned with meeting and following Jesus than "being religious." As a parish church with a sizable building, we have an obligation to ensure it is put to good use. As a church with a potential to lead and do great things in our world, we have a vocation and responsibility to do so.



I write these words perhaps more for myself than for you. One of the great challenges of ordained ministry is feeling a responsibility (a feeling, not a command) to safeguard the institutional church. To save the church, put bluntly. This obligation, which I largely put upon myself, takes time and energy that can distract me at the best of times, and crush me at the worst of times. I am called to preach and live the gospel as one who believes and knows he is saved. To believe I am to do the saving is blasphemy, quite frankly, and does spiritual harm to myself and those in my congregation. What does it look like when a group of Christians follow Jesus's command? We sell our possessions. We visit and heal the sick. We treat the poor and lowly as those who will inherit the earth. How do we battle our enemies? We love them and continuously call for peace. What do we do when we are persecuted? We rejoice.

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Valerie Needham, Janice Messam, Peggy Nankivell-
Bill Nuttle, Nicolas Fleet, Mary Glen, Adrian Cho,
Toronto Star



Living the Gospel.....Continued from page 1

Living in this manner takes a lot of work, and can be not only humbling but even humiliating at times. Ministry is intimidating. Being a baptized Christian in this world can be downright terrifying. Worrying about parish concerns, or planning a social event, for example, are a soothing balm in comparison to the things Jesus asks of us.

Let this letter challenge you as a member of this parish. I am writing these words to challenge myself. We are in a great position as a parish. Our budget is balanced. Our faith is strong. We are united and growing. From this place of strength let us ask much of one another. Let us

allow the gospel of Jesus to lead us wherever that may be. Let us allow the saving work of Christ Jesus into our lives and into all we do at St. Matthew's, and let the words of the gospel inspire all our choices, and fill our hearts and minds with the Love of God. We are not called to save the church or the world. God has already done these things. Let us instead follow God with faith, hope and love wherever Christ might lead us.

Thanks be to God.

Geoff+

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

FALL UPDATE

CHARLES NIXON

We find ourselves at the end of the summer running a small, overall surplus. The fact that we are in the black is in large measure because our Rental income is already above our annual budget. We commend Catherine James-McGuinty for her efforts in this regard. As well, our Fundraising revenue is above budget to date, thanks to the efforts of Margaret Terrett, Peggy Nankivell and their teams.

Our General Use donations are below budget. However, we anticipate that they will rise over the next four months when traditionally 40% of our free will offerings come in. We have a number of ways for people to give/donate: PAR, envelope, Realm or Sunday offerings, whichever option is preferred.

Renters are now able to pay the church via email which is simpler and faster. It is a win-win for them and us. As well, we are encouraging suppliers to send invoices via email too, removing our reliance on mail and ensuring we will not be charged for late payments. We are now looking at how we can modernize our payment system to make it more efficient with Corporation's approval.

Since mid-June, we have been placing our spare cash in Guaranteed Income Certificates to earn interest until the money is required. We will report at year end how this goes.

We are also updating our committee's Terms of Reference to ensure we perform our roles and responsibilities to the parish.

At this time of year, we turn our eyes to how the year is going and if there are any surprises against the current budget. We are also beginning to frame the budget for next year. For both of these, we will be reaching out to those with budget responsibilities to help us with this work. Thank you in advance for your help.

Once again, we are very grateful for the support in time, talent and treasure that St Matthew's receives from so many in the parish. It ensures we remain a vibrant community of worship. Thank you!



Memories from the Parish Picnic - June 2025

FIRST AID CLINIC FOR GREETERS AT ST. MATTHEW'S

KEVAN PIPE

On Sunday June 22, following the 9:30 am service, twenty of our greeters and others took part in a 2.5-hour First Aid Training session to learn some useful techniques and actions to take in the event of an emergency at St. Matthew's.

Led by local Certified Instructor Joan Hearn, the session was created over many months and supported by Deputy Warden and Family Physician Dr. Wendy Pullan along with fellow Deputy Warden Janice Messam. Janice was able to secure the services of the course leader, a cheerful and knowledgeable expert in the field. And when Welcoming Chair Randi Goddard expressed interest in having a session of this nature planned for her group of volunteers, the stage was set!

A number of important lessons were shared and the following messages were repeated throughout the session:

1. Always ensure that you assess the situation before taking action;
2. Ensure personal safety while dealing with the situation at hand and
3. Simultaneously, either you or a colleague call 911 to access immediate emergency response on site.

Techniques associated with how to assist a person who is seemingly choking on an obstruction were reviewed in detail while the most amount of time was predictably spent on CPR and how to deliver it.

In Step 1, it is necessary to find out if the person in difficulty is actually breathing by listening for any breathing from the mouth/nose while also watching the person's chest for about 10 seconds. Next, we learned the actual techniques of chest compression with the 'practice dummies' we were each given, along with the associated rate of breaths to be administered, linked to the number of chest com-

pressions.

Finally, in pairs, we were given an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit to use. For those who enter the church via the First Avenue entrance, you can see our AED machine displayed on the wall as you climb the stairs (the unit was checked and cleared as being fully charged and updated). For likely 99% of us who have never used an AED, to say that the unit has been designed to facilitate usage would be an understatement. We all used the AED given to us, prompted by the machine's verbal commands, now de-mystifying this process. Easy as 1-2-3! The AED also provides the timing for the compressions as well.



Some say that the Bee Gees 1977 song (after they went disco) "Stayin' Alive" is similar and useful for this as a similar reference. I wonder if there is a Rolling Stones equivalent?

It was a useful and educational session for all participants, as well as a step forward in protecting those who come to the church.

Many thanks to Wendy, Janice and Randi for being proactive in organizing this session to train members in this useful skill of applying first aid.



THE ANGLICAN TRADITION: EAT, TALK AND BE MERRY!

MARG TERRETT

The Community Committee has been busy planning events for the parish family to enjoy in the fall season.

To start, there will be special treats on September 21st as we acknowledge St. Matthew's Day.

Get your soup recipes ready so you can contribute to the first Souper Sunday on October 29. You can also take the opportunity to volunteer to help with set-up, serving or clean up for this event. Hosting the event is also something you could do. It's the easiest luncheon for 80 people you could do. Get some friends together and take the leadership for this event. There will be help from those who have done it before and even a step by step manual. Please let Virginia Lindsay, Kathi Racine or Marg Terrett know if you would like to volunteer for this role.

The next event is the St. Nicholas Party on December 14th. Again, we are very happy to have volunteers to help with

the event. Also in December, we will continue with our Cookie Ministry. We will prepare festive tins filled with homemade cookies for the members of our parish who can no longer come to services but who still think of themselves as part of the St. Matthew's family. A request for cookies will be made early in December.

We would like to restart our monthly parish luncheons if there is an interest. We lost this activity because of the pandemic. Please talk to Kathi Racine, Virginia Lindsay, or Marg Terrett if you would be interested in having this mid week time of fellowship.

*Merry moments—Parish Picnic
June 2025*



SUMMER SEASON 2025 AND SOME GARDEN HISTORY

MARY GLEN

The late, wet, and cool Spring was a blessing, giving the St. Matthew's gardens both resilience and lushness for the very hot and increasingly dry conditions of Summer 2025. Plants flourished once the warmth came, accelerating and bursting into bloom in continual succession, sustaining their show despite signs of heat stress. On the Glebe side, the stair and upper level entrance gardens were once again challenged by the heavy "snows" of another Christmas-in-July filming session. The lilies, bent and bowed, soldiered on in the aftermath.



Christmas in July 2025

One of the joys of any garden is appreciating the interweaving of long-established plantings, rearranged, added and subtracted over the years. There is history in the garden! A couple of examples:

In the autumn of 2016, Joan Lawrence and Robina Bul-lid planted *Canada 150* tulip bulbs in the Parking Lot garden. They bloomed the following Spring in time to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and are still going strong, just like our beloved country.

When the accessibility ramp was built in the context of demolishing Jefferson Hall and building the condominium to the east of the church, the slope on the church side of the ramp was planted with shrub roses and orange daylil-

ies, the soil covered by landscape fabric and small stones. As you can imagine, nurturing this garden year to year can be a challenge not only from the tough planting and growing conditions but also due to the steep slope and loose stones that require the gardener to be nimble and courageous. The roses frequently suffer from ice sliding off the roof of the church, while the daylilies have multiplied as they do, seeking gaps and seams in the landscape fabric and popping up wherever they can.

Undeterred by the challenges, Steve Reid and others before and with him have been nurturing the Ramp Garden's health, and in recent years, Steve has been adding more plant diversity to promote variety, an extended blooming season, and the Gardens Team's focus on pollinators. You will find sweet alyssum (a honey-scented annual that self-seeds), bergenia (also known as pigsqueak!), hepatica (bloodroot), hostas, Japanese anemones, clematis, globe thistles, northern sea oats, red-veined (or bloody) dock, and Canadian columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). The last is a native plant as are a few of the pop-up "volunteers" such as asters and Queen Anne's Lace.

A wild grape appeared a few years ago near the top of the ramp, and we've let it grow, supported for a time



Glebe side Stairway to Heaven Garden 2025

Continued from Page 6 "Summer Season and some Garden History"

when still young and shy by a wooden obelisk, constructed by Clarice Kramer and her son. It has since been swallowed whole by its now abundant and wide-ranging foliage. The newly secured iron gate at the top of the ramp (thank you, Grounds Team) now enjoys the vine's embrace.

We continue to welcome your encouragement and enjoyment of our efforts. We labour joyfully!

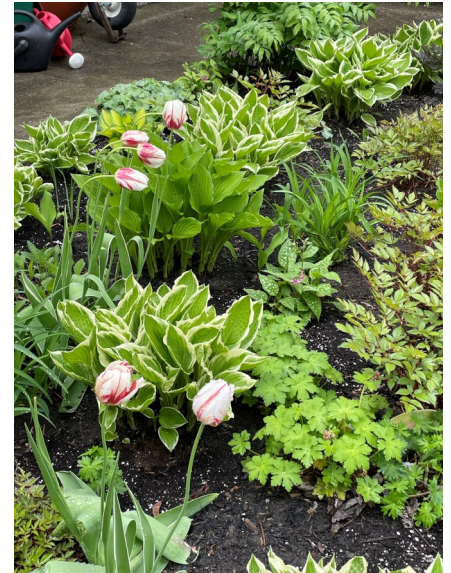
Mary Glen on behalf of...

Gardens Team: Judy Billingsley, Donata Creasy, Helen Griffin, Joan Lawrence, Sivia Logan, Ian Macmillan, Lucianne Poole, Steve Reid, Chip Smith;



Pollinators on First Avenue

and Grounds Team: Robina Bullied, Ian Glen, Bob Richards.



Canada 150 Tulips in Parking Lot

PRAYER MINISTRY

JANICE SONNEN

Throughout our lives, circumstances may draw us to prayer.

The candles on the small altar in the nave offer an opportunity to raise special individual prayers whenever the church is open.

The Prayer Chain is an informal group of parishioners who pray daily for the needs of members of the parish and others as requested. This confidential ministry acknowledges God's loving care for us and his desire for us to be able to live fully with love and joy. Praying for needs of any kind, for sorrow, health, finances, work, relationships, dying and newborns, young and old and more brings strength, healing and hope in many situations. Our prayers invite God's loving, healing presence in any situation.

Prayer requests can also be added, if desired, to those offered during the Prayers of the People on Sunday mornings by writing a name in the prayer notebook inside the entrance to the chapel or at the table near the Glebe entrance. Prayer requests are printed in each Sunday's bulletin,

and we encourage everyone to join in prayer for those listed during the week.

When we pray, God's spirit joins us in that space, linking our hearts and souls across the sky and oceans, bringing hope, even in the most difficult situations.

We would like to restart the Prayer Team (parishioners who offer prayers with parishioners in the alcove near the pulpit during the Eucharist at the 10:30 service). We welcome additional volunteers to make this possible.

If you are called to pray for others or would like to make a prayer request, contact Janice Sonnen or Rev. Geoff. Janice receives the prayer chain requests and shares them confidentially with the others in the group. can be contacted at (613) 709-1209, janice.sonnen@bell.net or through the church office.

JAZZ & TAPAS AT ST. MATTHEW'S, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

PEGGY NANKIVELL



Diane Nalini & Adrian Cho

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 25th, St. Matthew's will be filled with the sultry sounds of Ottawa jazz singer Diane Nalini, as its popular Jazz & Tapas fundraising event returns for the third time.

The intimate Jazz & Tapas event will be held at the back of the church from 4pm to 6pm, a space with excellent acoustics. It is sponsored by Amica, The Glebe which will also provide some tapas, such as marinated lobster caps, duck confit spring rolls and caramelized brie with pear.

A delicious range of nibblies will be served including donations from restaurants and food sellers. Last year's event received food contributions from more than 20 businesses including Flipper's Seafood Restaurant, Von's Bistro, Happy Goat Coffee, Erling's Variety, Light of India, Nicastro's and The St. Rita. A special highlight was the food prepared on site by Fitz's Classic Grill BBQ Smokehouse (Greenbank). Several restaurants provided gift certificates for the event's silent auction.

Nalini began singing at age three and will perform with her husband and bassist Adrian Cho who is the director of the Ottawa Jazz Orchestra (OJO). They will be joined by guitarist Magnus Paulson who has appeared at the Ottawa and Toronto International Jazz Festivals and is guitarist for the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces in Ottawa.

Singing and writing in four languages, Nalini has performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival and released several acclaimed albums. In Ottawa she often sings at the

National Arts Centre' Fourth Stage with the OJO.

Tickets will include food, entertainment and non-alcoholic beverages. A complimentary glass of wine, beer, cocktail or mocktail is included in the adult ticket price.

Half of the proceeds will go to the Black Canadian Scholarship Fund (BCSF) administered by the Ottawa Community Foundation. Since 1998, the fund has provided bursaries for first-year university students who have graduated from Ottawa area high schools.

"My colleagues and I wish to thank your team and the whole St. Matthew's community for your warm reception and hospitality at the Jazz and Tapas concert", John Harewood, former chair of BCSF said last year. "The event was organized extremely well and the performance of the musicians, especially that of singer Diane Nalini, was engaging, professional, highly entertaining and inspiring."



Tickets can be purchased through St. Matthew's online boutique. [St. Matt's On-Line Store](#) or use the QR events/code, above. Adults: \$70, Students: \$40 (not including alcoholic beverages). Saturday, Oct. 25, 4 to 6 pm, St. Matthew's, 130 Glebe Ave. entrance.



Magnus Paulson

ST. MATTHEW'S ONLINE TREASURES

AUCTION NOVEMBER 13 TO 23

PEGGY NANKIVELL

Excitement is mounting. St. Matthew's 2025 online auction site will open for bidding on Thursday, November 13th, and run till Sunday, November 23rd, closing at 4pm. A preliminary catalogue will be viewable on Friday, November 7th.

This year, our outreach beneficiary will be the Youth Services Bureau in Ottawa. St. Matthew's will sponsor a shelter room at the centre. Founded in 1960, the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa is one of the largest and most comprehensive non-profit agencies serving youth in this community.

Capital Home Hardware in the Glebe and Amica, The Glebe, are supporting us again. These sponsorships help defray auction costs such as the website, graphic design and promotion. We have also received extremely important assistance from Antique Silver and Davidson's Jewellers.

The catalogue will include paintings by important Canadian artists such as Bruce Le Dain, Hortense Gordon, Langley Donges and Georges Chavignaud. International art in-

cludes a painting by English watercolourist George Stanfield Walters, woodblock prints by Japanese artist Nisabura Ito, lovely British bronze dogs, and an Australian bark painting by renowned artist England Bangala.

Once again, we have certificates for vacation properties in the Caribbean and Panama that provide reduced per diem rates (airfare not included).

And look for unusual books, Waterford crystal, fine china, fashion items, small pieces of furniture, jewellery and antique silver.

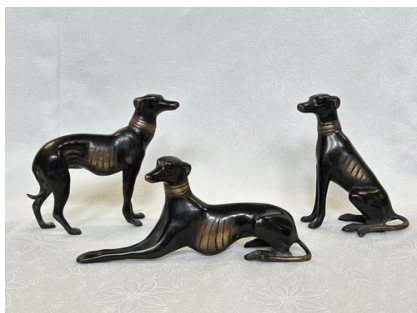
Last year's offerings of Christmas baked goods and meals were hot ticket items. If you would like to contribute food items, please contact Peggy Nankivell at

auction@stmatthewsottawa.ca.

Online store registrants are automatically registered for the auction and registration for new bidders starts in October.



Bruce Le Dain oil painting



Bronze spelter whippets



Nisabura Ito - woodblock print



Silver server



Antique cutlery box

CELEBRATING THE SWEET FRUITS OF CREATION

BILL NUTTLE

Christians all around the world celebrate the period from September 1st to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, as the Season of Creation. The beginning of the fall harvest, in the northern hemisphere, and the onset of spring, in the south, is a time to reflect on the bounty of God's creation and our duty as stewards of the Earth. Inspiration for this year's celebration is taken from Isaiah 32:14-18 in which the fruits of the field and forest heal the divide between man and nature and bring justice and peace to the world.

The Creation Matters group kicked off the Season of Creation up to our elbows in fruits of the forest making crabapple jelly. The Creation Matters group at St. Matthew's looks for ways that we can be better stewards of the environment, both as individuals and as an Anglican community. Our most visible activity focuses on the greening tree displayed at the front of the church. This tree tracks St. Matthew's progress to achieving certification as a "green church."

Installation of new bike racks this year at the First Avenue entrance are one result of the green church efforts. In another step along this path, St. Matthew's has engaged an engineering study to explore options for greening the heating system. The results of this study are expected by the end of this year.



New bike racks on First Avenue in use

Creation Matters got into jelly making last year as a way to connect people with locally harvested foods. Initially, the motivation was to provide the younger generation the opportunity to learn lost culinary arts of their grandparents. We organized workshops for making strawberry jam in June and crabapple jelly in September.

Last year's crabapple jelly workshop left us with an unexpected surplus, which was sold as a fundraiser. This success led us to reorganize the workshop this year for that purpose. As a result, more people participated, and we doubled production. St. Matthew's crabapple jelly will be on sale in the fall. Some of the proceeds will go to support the work of Water First, a charitable organization that helps first nation communities manage municipal water supplies and protect water quality in the environment.



The Crabapple Jelly Team: (l-r) Becky Rynor, Joan Lawrence, Laura Davis, Julia Lupinska, Connie Berry, and Robina Bulleid. Not shown: Bill Nuttle, Debora Flemming and Judith Maxwell.

Our next big event is the annual Low-carbon Potluck on November 8th. Come and share favorite recipes that reduce our impact on the climate. Creation Matters meets regularly, every other Tuesday night on zoom, to share knowledge and experience on how to live more lightly on the Earth. The next meeting, on September 30th, will feature a presentation by the Ottawa Renewable Energy Cooperative on opportunities for individuals to support the construction of wind

and solar energy projects in and around Ottawa. All are welcome to attend. Send an email to wknutt@gmail.com to register.

SO MANY CHOICES

MARG TERRETT

For the last 3 years the Creation Matters group has been writing about the environment and how we have individually and collectively abused it. Now we are in crisis mode and paralyzed as to what to do and who to blame. As stewards of God's Earth, we have failed to recognize that there are limits to what this precious gift can tolerate.

Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have been obsessed with having more. Because mechanization made it possible for people to have more, little attention was paid to how this "more" affected the environment. Of course, there were fewer people then so the impact was less noticeable. Now, with a few billion more people on the planet the ravages of excess are making themselves known. Not just to the scientist but to anyone who listens. But now we have a different problem. If I care, what can I do? The problems are so staggering that inaction seems the way to go.

There is also conflicting information. How can we determine what is fact and what is "Fake News"? Also, it's not easy to make behavioural changes. We love that we can have all the food we like from all over the globe. We like that we can drive to the store and stuff our vehicles with these purchases. We love that we can buy a \$5.00 T-shirt and don't much care if it lasts for 5 washes. We love that our fridges *are* full and our clothes closets too. We love that the carpet in our homes was inexpensive and we really love that our homes are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. There are a host of conveniences we are happy to have. But what is the cost to the environment?

What can one little person or family do to make a difference?

Remember during the pandemic that the air in major cities became clear? People in Singapore could see the city's skyline previously hidden by smog. The clean air was directly related to the lack of cars in the cities. That was because individuals stopped driving.



How do we as Christians, take the first steps? How do we change our habits? It's the same way as you would eat an elephant: one bite at a time. We make a change one choice at a time. Don't be crippled by negative thoughts of "my choice won't make a difference". It will. Choose something that you can do and try. Make shopping lists and stick to them. Avoid throwing out food. Check your closet! Do you need more? Can you repurpose instead of throwing something out. Can you use the car less? Can you wear a sweater and reduce the temperature in the house during the cold months? Can you keep the house a little warmer in the hot months?

There are many ways we can help. Once we are feeling good about the Reduce and Reuse part of the 3 R's then we can encourage others to take the first step. The more steps we all take the better our planet will be.

No, we can't change how foreign governments behave but can influence our own governments from municipal to federal. We can influence our work places and our recreational places. We can share our beliefs with friends and families. We can make a difference one personal habit change at a time.

ON GUILT AND VIRTUE - PLASTICS IAN GUTHRIE

I have remarked previously on the benefits of the General Confession where we collectively intone, “we have left undone the things we ought, we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves”. There is virtue in this but I do suspect there is some hiding in this, a submerging or diluting of the ‘I’ in the ‘We.’ Yes, I confess.

Which brings me round to the topic of Plastics. I try to be a good ecologist and avoid plastics as much as possible in my life, some virtue, but it is impossible. Two small examples; I like having cucumber with dinner each evening, cucumbers come in a plastic sleeve that keeps unconsumed cukes fresh; a wonderful person delivers my Globe and Mail each day in a plastic sleeve which protects it from rain and ice. (There are few things worse than trying to read a soggy newspaper). Two larger examples: I could not count the number of plastics in my kitchen, and it would be no surprise to learn how much plastic there is in my 2020 car. Plastics are inescapable, as well as in our lives they are in our rivers, the oceans and, yes, even in us.

We live in the Age of Recycling but plastics are proving almost indestructible or at best can be reduced in volume or changed from one form to another.

Now there may be a person reading this who can say, ‘I am a dedicated ecologist, there are no plastics in my life.’ Commendations! But we are also collectively responsible. Have you been in a hospital recently? Plastics are everywhere in the medical world and you could well be an involuntary consumer.

In my youth there were regular stories about how our clever scientists were discovering new ways of making new plastics from oil. I have not seen such stories recently, perhaps the equally clever scientists are now trying to discover how to make plastics gone from the environment.

I have looked searchingly around our church for plastics and I see none, virtue, but I did not venture downstairs to the kitchen.

It occurred to me that in 2125 the Anglican General Confession will have a clause to the effect, ‘we apologize for the damage done to the world by our ancestors.’

Plastics - the curse which the previous century has bestowed on the future?

Guilt, individually and collectively.

ST. MATTHEW’S CELEBRATES

Congratulations to Patrick Martin and Jacqueline ChinQuansah on their marriage in May 2025. The couple renewed their vows in August 2025 at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). “The two were chosen by The EX after more than 400 couples applied to its first ever contest to hold a symbolic wedding in front of the famed Midway wheel.”

View Patrick and Jacqueline’s story here: [Long-distance couple in their 60s tie the knot at the CNE](#)



ST. MATTHEW'S REMEMBERS

Cynthia McBride

1947—2025



Cynthia passed away on July 27, 2025 with her family by her side. Cynthia is survived her partner and husband of 52 years, John McBride, her beloved daughters Heather and Sally, sons-in-law, Luis Quiroz Garza and Kyle Vipond and grandchildren Emily, Sam and Cleo. She leaves behind siblings, John Hart (Mary Carolyn) Catherine/Kit van Tulleken (Anthony), and Alison Hart (Michael Maxwell) as well as many nephews and their families.

Cynthia and John became parishioners in 2000 and Cynthia was active in many aspects of parish life, including the Altar Guild (chairing it with John for many years), the Fundraising and Community Committees and the Out of the Cold Suppers.

A Funeral Service honouring Cynthia's life will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at St. Matthew's at 2pm. To view Cynthia's obituary, please go to [Obituary information for Cynthia McBride](#)

Steven Mackenzie Lay

1969 –2025



Steven passed away on July 25, 2025, 2 days after his 56th birthday. His partner, Becky (Rebecca Wenham) and his brother, Andrew, were at his side when he took his last breath. Becky, Steven's parents, Marjorie and Colin Lay, Andrew and his family (Sula, Kai Su, Hang Su and Yue Su), and numerous friends in British Columbia and Ottawa remember him and miss him greatly.

In his youth, Steven was a crucifer at St. Matthew's, and enjoyed the Ottawa Diocese summer canoe trips. Wilderness camping remained a passion throughout his years in the mountains and seashore of British Columbia.

A celebration of life was held in Vancouver, and one will be held in Ottawa at a later date.

The Reverend Dana Jane Rodgers

1938 – 2025



The Reverend Dana Rodgers passed away at home in Ottawa on Thursday September 4, 2025.

She is survived by her children David (Lindy) and Katharine (David) and her grandsons Daniel, Benjamin and Maki.

In 2000, Dana was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada, Diocese of Huron serving the parishes of St. Paul's, Essex, and St. Columba's, Waterloo. Dana moved to Ottawa in March 2020 where she became an Honorary Assistant Clergy, serving on the Pastoral Care Team.

To view Dana's obituary, please go to [Rev. Dana Jane Rodgers | Beechwood](#)

REMEMBERING BRENDA FLEET

NICOLAS FLEET

On August 2, 2025, members of the St. Matthew's community, friends, and Brenda's children, Nicolas (Cynthia) and Vanessa, gathered in the chapel to celebrate and remember the life of Brenda Fleet.

After completing a BA at Bishop's University and an MA at Carleton University, Brenda was married at St. Matthew's in 1978. She built a career in the public service, but her true passions were her family and art. She poured her heart into being both a devoted mom and a gifted artist, and wrote published works of poetry and painted with extraordinary vision. Some of her poems were selected in the Canadian anthology *Storm Warning*, where editor Al Purdy wrote, "I believe these poets will supplant the present-day literary establishment of Canada."

The service reflected Brenda's spirit in many ways. Nicolas, once a member of the St. Matthew's Choir, recited her poem [The Lighthouse \(1980\), poem by Brenda Fleet - Google Docs](#) from her book *Needlepoint* (1980) —

a video which is available here

["The Lighthouse" — poem by Brenda Fleet \(1948–2023\)](#) with optional closed captions.

Music also filled the chapel, as Arthur McGregor (founder of the Ottawa Folklore Centre) played guitar and led everyone in singing *If I Had a Hammer* and *This Little Light of Mine*, two of Brenda's favourite songs that spoke to her joy and light.

Brenda touched many lives with her kindness, creativity, and warmth. She will be deeply missed, and fondly remembered, by all who knew and loved her.



Brenda Fleet Art—Madonna and Child



Brenda Fleet, Nicolas Fleet, Vanessa Fleet



Brenda Fleet Art—Flower Garden

AN INVITATION

THE MOST REVEREND BARRY CURTIS

While enjoying a piece of my wife Lois' newly baked peach pie, made from fresh, juicy, delicious Niagara peaches, she made a comment that startled me and initiated some reflection in me. Lois had read an issue of a news magazine I subscribe to and commented that page after page, country after country, it told of violence, wars, bombings, riots, vicious storms, political turmoil, acts of sheer greed,all 'bad news'. She noted this obvious reality; "A steady diet of that is hard on the spirit".

Her comment resonated with me. I note that I choose not to read certain news items that appear unfailingly, every day in the press about Gaza, Ukraine, controversial political figures...issues that make up most of the daily news. I do so because they just make me angry, frustrated, stressed, and leave me with a feeling of helplessness.

We have just returned from a trip to the Stratford Festival and the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake where we enjoyed three wonderful productions in each place, each full of energy, creativity, insight, several just plain fun and laughter. They served as an antidote to the turmoil in this 21st. Century world. The juxtaposition between Lois' comment about the darkness and the pleasure we experienced in the joyful music, the provocative theatre productions, the abundant harvest of the land in Niagara, (especially the sweet, juicy peaches!) made me aware that it is too easy for us to feel clobbered, weighed down, by the darkness in the world around us and to lose sight of the vast array of wonderful, life-giving, life-enhancing, amazing, exciting, wise, things that are a part of our world.

Undeniably, the human suffering, oppression, corruption and violence we see in our world leaves us fearful, discouraged and anxious. It is real! What is also real, very real, very present, are things like the stunning advances in medical technology and the skill of doctors, the huge advances in human rights, the recognition of the evils of racism and the ongoing efforts to end it. There is the quality of education for our children and the access to educational opportunities. There is the welcoming of people from other lands, tribes, races, colours, religions that enrich our country and certainly make it more inter-

esting. There is the tortuous, demanding but fruitful move towards reconciliation with our Indigenous fellow citizens. There is the day-to-day experience of acts of kindness, compassion, care, courage and forgiveness.

I invite you to name more of these experiences in your own life; I was just getting started. Yes, be aware of our human foibles and failures and yes, be even more aware of the gift of God's love for us, our abiding, energizing relationship with this loving God and our connectedness with each other and with the creation itself. This love enables us to live with deep and glad thanksgiving and with a clear sense of purpose for our life.

I invite you to pray this prayer every day; it acknowledges an appropriate response both to the reality of darkness and the reality of the greatness of our human life.

"Thank you , Gracious God, for all the gifts you have given us this day.

for friends at our side,
for the love in our hearts,
for work to do,
for peace to make,
for justice to create,
For laughter and tears,
for the time you give us,
for life, grace, light,
Thank you, Lord."



ST. MATTHEW'S

The Anglican Church in the Glebe

St. Matthew's is a vibrant Christian community that welcomes everyone, embraces inspiring worship and learning, and is committed to hospitality and loving service.

[Worship Services](#)

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

In-person Choral Eucharist

Streamed on YouTube

Streamed on Facebook

Sunday 8 a.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.

In-person Said Eucharist

Last Sunday of the Month 10:30 a.m.

Family Service

First Sunday of the Month

Evensong

Clergy

IncumbentThe Reverend Geoffrey Chapman
Honorary AssistantsThe Most Reverend Barry Curtis
The Reverend Katherine (Katie) Tait

Leadership and Administration

Rector's WardenJohn McBride
People's WardenKevan Pipe
Deputy WardensJanice Messam
Wendy Pullan
Parish AdministratorCatherine James-McGuinty
Nominating ChairHelen Griffin
Property Co-ChairsBill Nuttle
Bill Cornfield
Stewardship OfficerJanice Sonnen
Members of SynodJohn McBride
Matt Gregg
Debora Fleming
Elaine Gordon

Finance and Accounting

Finance/Stewardship ChairCharles Nixon
TreasurerKathy Laffin
Fundraising ChairPeggy Nankivell
CountersMichael Goddard
Contributions CoordinatorBrian Effer

Worship and Music

Interim Director of MusicBarbara Hallam-Price
Altar GuildElizabeth MacMillan
Robina Bulleid
Servers' GuildCathy Simons
SidespersonsPeter Frayne
Worship CommitteeThe Reverend Geoffrey Chapman

Nurturing and Fellowship

Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministry..... *Seeking*.....
Christian Education and Formation Helen Griffin
Community Chair Margaret Terrett
Coffee HourJane and Peter Rider
Prayer Support TeamJanice Sonnen
Prayer ChainJanice Sonnen
Pastoral CareThe Reverend Katherine (Katie) Tait

Outreach

Outreach ChairBronya Gregg
CCSAC Emergency Food CentreElizabeth Kent
Cornerstone Meal-a-Month Program*Seeking*
Harmony HouseCatherine James-McGuinty
Out of the Cold SupperAnita Biguzs
FACES Refugee CommitteeTom Martin

Pulse of the Parish, the community newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, is published four times a year. The dates for publication in 2025 are as follows: November 28 (submissions by November 20).

For the November issue, please forward contributions of up to 600 words and photographs by November 20, 2025 to Dawn Gregory at collinsgregory1@hotmail.com.

Together, we celebrate all that we do at St. Matthew's to the glory of God and in loving service to our neighbours.



The Anglican Church of Canada

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