



Thurible

A NEWSLETTER for ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH

383 HURON ST. TORONTO ON M5S 2G5



WWW.STTHOMAS.ON.CA SAINTTHOMAS@ROGERS.COM

FALL, 2013



Summer of Travel and Song

Parish 2013 U.K. Tour

Julia Armstrong

Members of the choir and clergy, along with a group of 40 parishioners, friends and family members, spent two weeks in the U.K. (July 19 to Aug. 5), where the choir did residencies at Canterbury Cathedral, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and Westminster Abbey. Here, several participants share reflections and memorable moments.

It was wonderful to show the heart of Anglicanism that the Anglican choral tradition is alive and well and excelling at St. Thomas's. Just to have the opportunity to sing in those places was a treat that can't be equalled! *Robert Laughton, Chorister*

The music was the foundation of the tour and was truly a pleasure to hear. I got to know, like and admire as people a large number of choir members. A truly special group of talented people. *Bill Thoms, Parishioner*

☛ 4-5

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The Larkin-Stuart Lectures

'Spirit of Place' is the theme of this year's Larkin Stuart Lectures to be delivered by architect A.J. "Jack" Diamond. The lectures, scheduled for November 6th and 7th at the George Ignatieff Theatre, are already sold out.

Jack Diamond has practised architecture since 1968 and is recognized for his astute interpretation of site and context across a wide range of award-winning building types, from civic and residential to academic projects. Previous work includes the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and the Israeli Foreign Ministry. ■



Wedding Anniversaries

Fr. Ian Nichols and his wife, Jean, a chorister, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 9.



Most Sunday mornings, you can spot three generations of their family serving in various capacities at St. Thomas's.

Likewise, **Rector Emeritus Father Roy Hault and his wife, Diane**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 21. They were married in England. Although their honeymoon/voyage to Canada on the *Empress of Britain* was a rough passage indeed, with the aid of a helpful steward, the happy couple missed only one meal! ■

Parish Register

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In Memoriam

Major (Ret'd) William L.B. Heath,
OSTJ, CD, KCLJ, OMLJ,
The Royal Regiment of Canada
September 19, 1928 – August 6, 2013
Solemn Requiem at Saint Thomas's
on Saturday, August 10, 2013

Marriage

Natalia Marchenko
and Matthew Mulholland
at Saint Thomas's Church
on Saturday, August 17, 2013.
Matthew is Fr. David Mulholland's nephew.

Baptism

Caspar Tej Suagh Penz, born
December 11, 2011, son of Erik James
Ruskin Penz and Priya Suagh, was
baptized on October 11, 2013.

Congratulations

In August, Suzanne Kennedy married
Alex Dergachev in Evangelische
Church in Ruppolding, Germany.
The daughter of Anna and Rob Kennedy,
Suzanne attended Church School and
was an acolyte here before moving to
Montreal to attend McGill. She
redesigned our church website.

Acolyte and Assistant Verger Leonel
Abaroa-Boloña defended his thesis and
will receive his PhD from the Toronto
School of Theology at Convocation on
November 2.

Former choir member Alain Brosseau was
ordained deacon in the Diocese of
Montreal on September 8.

St. Thomas's Church

www.stthomas.on.ca



The Diocese of Toronto

www.toronto.anglican.ca

The Anglican Church of Canada

www.anglican.ca

The Anglican Communion

www.anglicancommunion.org



Rector The Rev'd Mark W. Andrews

Associate Priest

The Rev'd Robert Mitchell

Rector Emeritus The Rev'd Roy A. Hoult

Assistant Priest

The Rev'd Canon Brian D. Freeland

Honorary Assistant Priests

The Rev'd Canon W. David

Neelands, The Rev'd Ian D. Nichols

Parish Administrator Barbara Obrai

Assistant Verger Leonel Abaroa-Boloña

Organist & Choirmaster John H. Tuttle

Organ Scholar Elizabeth Anderson

People's Warden Diana Versegby

Rector's Warden Julia Armstrong

Deputy Wardens Phil Spencer

Bruce McEachern

Treasurer Tim Wright

Pastoral Care Contact Phyllis Garden

Outreach Contact Alice Degan

Co-ordinators of Sidespeople

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Friars' Guild Coordinator

Jennifer McCallum

Newsletter Editor Jennifer Grange

Newsletter Designer

Leonel Abaroa-Boloña

Webmaster Evolving Web

Web Editor Julia Armstrong

Church & Hall Bookings

saintthomas@rogers.com

St. Thomas's Nativity Play

An Annual Parish Tradition

✠ Fr. Rob Mitchell



This December, St. Thomas's will again co-produce a Nativity play with Poculi Ludique Societas. Our annual dramatic production of medieval plays for Christmas is fast becoming a tradition at St. Thomas's, drawing people from around the city.

Our performances are known for their high quality of production, including beautiful costumes, great music, and passionate acting. This year's performance will consist of a compilation of plays from the Towneley Cycle. This will be the third Nativity play and fourth partnership with PLS in recent memory.

Our plays have drawn out some of the great talent of St. Thomas's parishioners. Both experienced and developing actors have discovered the joy and satisfaction that comes with producing a high-quality dramatic performance. Many of our actors have commented on the spiritual depth contained in the plays and how spiritually fruitful the experience has been.

The plays have also been an opportunity for some great music making, drawing out musicians from the parish and beyond who, under the direction of Bryan Martin, have brought back to life some long-forgotten medieval music. Others have contributed to the success of the performances, including our stage hands, front-of-house volunteers, wardrobe helpers, and costume designers.

The wonderful post-production parties hosted by John Lawson are a highlight for both the actors and behind-the-scene participants. The plays have always made a profit for the church, contributing to the ongoing life and ministry of our parish.

This year's play will be performed at St. Thomas's on Friday, December 13, at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, December 14, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Auditions are now complete, but other volunteers will be required, including ticket sellers, dressers, stage hands, and a prop/set coordinator. Please speak with Fr. Mitchell if you are interested in helping in any way.

Mark your calendars now and make the medieval Nativity plays at St. Thomas's a part of your Christmas tradition. ■

✠ Detail, *Adoration of the Magi*, Altichiero, from www.bibleartists.files.wordpress.com

cont. Summer of Travel and Song (from Page 1)

The choir adapted to three very different spaces with competence. Both the *a cappella* works and the voices rising above the organ were thrilling. Hearing the choir in the Abbey was a particularly moving experience. *Parishioner Charis Kelso and her father, Clair Kelso*

Spiritual Highlights

The unplanned Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace was unforgettable: the fact that he only came down to the chapel *after* hearing that a group of us from Toronto would be there, and the intimate experience of taking communion in a circle around the altar. As everyone partook of the bread and wine together, I really appreciated the sense of community in Christ in a way I never have before. *Robert Laughton, Chorister*

To be at the cradle of our Anglican faith was a truly uplifting experience. *Bert Metcalfe, Parishioner*



Choristers and tour members relax on the Thames River, near Windsor and Eton College. Thanks to Fr. Mark for arranging so many diversions. 📷 Our tour guide.

Social & Sightseeing Highlights

I feel that relationships deepened among choristers and parishioners. *John Tuttle, Organist and Choirmaster*

The tour was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the personalities behind those faces one sees Sunday by Sunday, and for the chance to bond. *Bert Metcalfe, Parishioner*

The punting tour in Canterbury turned out to be a delightful way to unwind after a long and busy day; the walking tour of the ancient city in London was very interesting (though we were footsore and hungry by the end of it); and the pub tour in London was a pleasant evening with good friends and an entertaining guide. *Janice Kerckamp, Chorister*

All of the group sightseeing activities were splendid: Dover Castle, Sissinghurst and Knole, Chartwell House, Hever Castle, Windsor Castle, Kew Gardens, and more. During the Farewell Dinner Cruise, it was very easy to circulate and chat with a broad mix of people. What a perfect way to end a fabulous trip! *Charis Kelso, Parishioner, and her father, Clair Kelso*

I enjoyed Dover Castle as it brought history to life with its audio and visual presentations. Second was Battle Abbey, as it is such an important historical site. *Bill Thoms, Parishioner*

What Others Said

The Dean of Canterbury, recounting what the head verger had said to him: “Well, Dean, this choir has broken one of your rules. You always say that visiting choirs are either vocally excellent but a bit cold, or friendly but slightly wayward with their notes. But this choir is both excellent and very friendly.”

Robert Laughton, Chorister



A parishioner at St. George's Chapel – the wife of one of the Military Knights – told us that the St. Thomas's Choir was the best visiting choir she had ever heard at the chapel. *Parishioner Charis Kelso and her father, Clair Kelso*

When dismissing us after Evensong in the Abbey cloisters, the Rev. Canon Ralph Godsall thanked us for our music and “for the care and prayerfulness with which you approach the entire service.”

Julia Armstrong, Chorister



Photos

(Page 1) Choir members and supporters on the steps of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. 📷 John Meadows

(This page) Photo top left: Jennifer McCallum, Lisa Dell'Aera, Hanné Becker. Photo top right, from left: Jimmy Martins, Stephen Frketic, Michael Roth, Kevin Blagrave, Bill Thoms.

Photo bottom right, from left: Carol Percy, Jennifer McCallum, Emily Hofstetter. Photo bottom left: Marlene Fader, Tim Wright, and Anneli Pekkonen at Hever Castle

📷 Felicity Pickup / For more tour photos and participants' reflections, visit www.stthomas.on.ca/2013_tour_memories

Treasurer's Financial Update

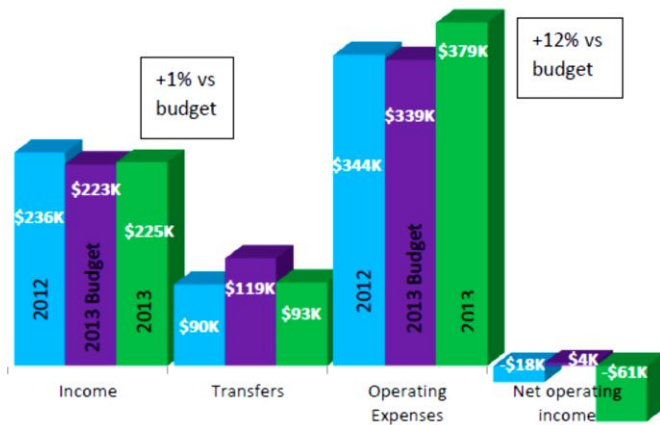
Tim Wright

How are we doing versus the budget?

In this report, we describe how the parish financials are looking compared with the budget we approved at Vestry. Subsequent to Vestry, we created a monthly view of the budget, which is used to compare it with actual income and spending during the year.

A brief summary of the parish's financial results compared with the budget for the period January 1 to August 31 and the same period in 2012.

Operating results vs. 2012 and 2013 Budget: January through August



Income: Vs. last year: \$11,000 lower than last year, primarily because of the ending of the Morley bequest income and lower general givings. This reduction represents a 4% drop.

Vs. budget: \$2,000 higher than budget; however, income would need to be about \$24,000 higher than budget to offset the associate clergy housing expense now included in Operating (previously paid through Heritage).

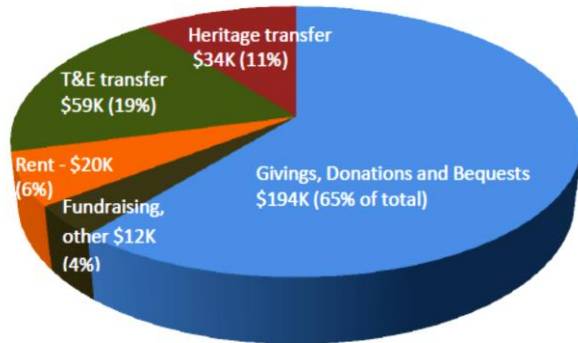
Expenses: Vs. last year: \$35,000, 10% higher than last year. **Vs. budget:** \$40,000, or 12% higher than budget. These additional expenses are due to the associate clergy housing expense now included in Operating (previously paid through Heritage) and higher property expenses.

Net Operating Income: Deficit position of \$61,000, including transfers, funded by cash draw-downs.

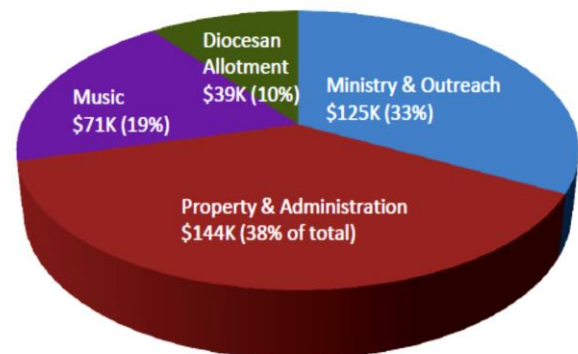
Sources of Income and Parish Expenses

The two charts below show the break-out of operating income and expenses, consistent with past trends for the period from January 1st through August 31st.

Income Sources - Jan through Aug 2013: \$318,000



Expenses - Jan through Aug 13: \$379,000



Artisan Fair in Our Parish Hall

Saturday, November 9, 10:30 am to 3 pm

Artisans and authors from St. Thomas's Church, the Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization and Coach House Press present a treasure trove of goods, including weaving, pottery, stone art, jewellery, painting, and more.

Lindsay Squire, Willem Hart, Alice Degan, and Marilyn Ramsingh are participants from St. Thomas's. ■

Divinity Student at St. Thomas's



Irina Dubinski is this year's divinity student at St. Thomas's. She is a Master's of Divinity student at Wycliffe while also studying for a diploma in spiritual direction at Regis College. She is a postulant in the Diocese of Toronto.

Raised in Moscow, she grew up in a religious atmosphere despite the fact that organized religion was prohibited in Russia at the time. Irina was 17 when her family moved to Toronto. Her family now also includes her husband, William, and their one-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Sophie. Irina has a love of animals and also enjoys oil painting.

Although she has only been at St. Thomas's for a few Sundays, Irina has found the High Anglican liturgy very appealing on a personal level. ■



Upcoming Parish Events

Friday, November 1, All Saints

Mass 7.30am, 12.15 & 6.15pm.
(Reception in the Rectory after the 6.15pm Mass)

Saturday, November 2, All Souls 10am Mass

Sunday, November 3

8am, 9.30am & 11am **Sunday after All Saints**
7pm **Requiem for All Souls**

Wednesday, November 13 8 pm, **Poetry Reading**

in the Parish Hall. **With** Philip Gardner, Richard Greene, John Reibetanz, Bernadette Rule, Margo Swiss, John Terpstra. **Give-aways, bargain prices on books, refreshments.**

Update on Huron-Sussex Neighbourhood Planning Study

✉ Janet Stewart

Preservation and improvement of green spaces, intensification of new residential development allowing for live/work models, and strategies for neighbourhood stabilization were among the top initiatives explored at the second Community Meeting held for the Huron-Sussex Neighbourhood Planning Study on June 24, 2013. Approximately 30 people attended the workshop, including residents of Huron, Sussex, St. Thomas's and Councillor Adam Vaughn, who, in his closing remarks, cautioned "careful what you wish for."

The study, and its accompanying workshops led expertly by the firm Brook McIlroy, aims to devise creative approaches to future campus development within the neighbourhood, which has been identified as an Area of Special Identity in the City of Toronto Official Plan. Central to the Working Group is the goal to preserve Huron-Sussex as a historic, house-form, mixed-use community engaged with the university.

The Working Group, whose members represent the university, City of Toronto, and the Huron-Sussex Residents Association, have met several times since 2010 to discuss a framework for a balanced approach to short- and long-term development that will ensure economic and environmental sustainability in the expansion and enrichment of residential and institutional activities. Both a Draft Report of Recommendations and a Final Report are expected this fall. ■



Cover Art

Thurible: drawing by Willem Hart.
St. Thomas's figure photo by Dorothy Parr.

Correction

In our last issue, the photograph on page 4 is in fact the work of Birgitta Nielsen.

Better Know a Parishioner **Michael Rowland**



Michael Rowland's face is one that we will see often around St. Thomas's during the next several months as he leads us through the process of Determining Our Parish's Financial Priorities, seeking the direction the parish will take over the next decade.

Michael Rowland is not, however, a newcomer to St. Thomas's. He came here from St. Paul's along with John Tuttle and several other choristers in 1989. For Michael, the move was a greater transition than just changing parishes. Career demands also meant giving up singing regularly in a church choir. A lifelong Anglican, he had been a boy soprano at St. Matthias Church, Westmount, lured by a friend with promises of indoor ball hockey during practice breaks. The friend failed to mention that there were also ruffs and "dresses" involved.

While it was music that brought Michael to this church, it was not the only thing that kept him here. Weekly worship is important to his life. The beauty of the sanctuary and the excellence of the many forms of the liturgy along with the continuing high standards of music enhance that experience. Over the years, his appreciation of "the community of worshippers" at St. Thomas's has grown.

His career as a facilitator for organizational strategy and change in non-profit and government organizations makes Michael Rowland well-suited to directing the congregation in its efforts to create a way forward. The simple answer as to why he agreed to take on this task: "I was asked."

As a "failed warden" who found that he was unable to balance the time required for both his career and for being warden, he feels he can find the time for a specific task. As an "invested" member of the parish, he has an interest in seeing the project through while maintaining the neutrality he has learned through his career.

Outside of work and church, Michael is a member of the Exultate Chamber Singers, with an interest in other cultural events. He is also interested in sports, particularly cycling. Socializing with friends is also an important part of his life.

Michael is married to Lydia, a teacher at St. Brigid's. Although a Roman Catholic, Lydia is often around St. Thomas's as well. Together, Michael and Lydia are parents of Madeline, a University of Guelph student.

Contrary to common perception, Michael Rowland and Larry Beckwith are not the same person. ■

✉ Jennifer Grange



Next Issue of *Thurible*

Advent 2013

