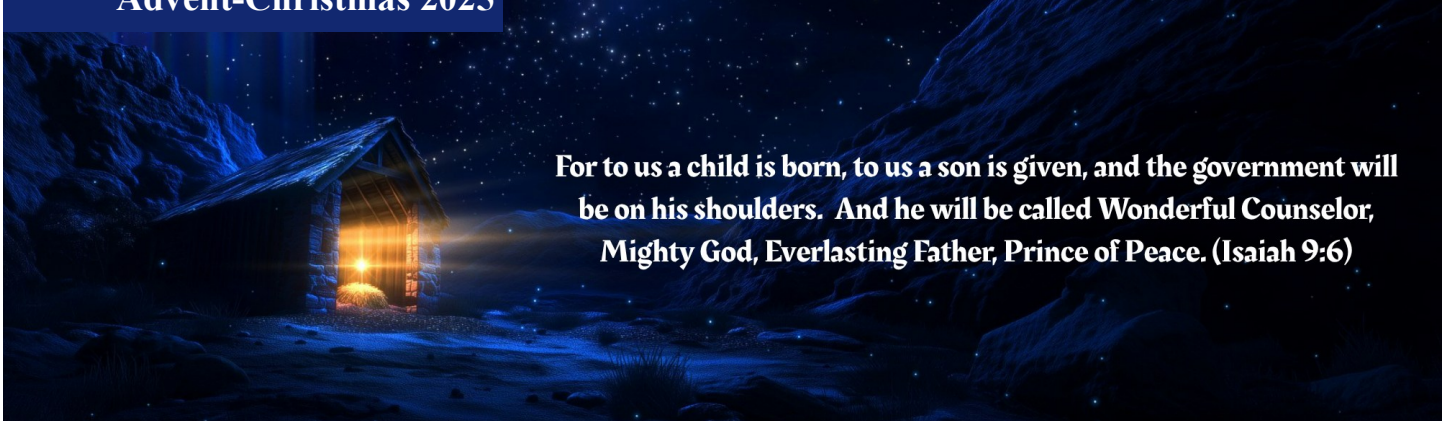


Matt's Media

The Newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

Advent-Christmas 2025



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

FROM THE RECTOR:

The Truly Good News of King Jesus

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" *Isaiah 52:7*

Here we have some of the best news one can ever receive, but we aren't used to this kind of good news. Our usual good news is nice to know, but it doesn't change everything. I think the closest experience that we can all relate to is when parents find out that they are pregnant or when a child is born. When Eliza was born, I was outside of the room and so suddenly there was this new person in my life who was going to change everything, but I had yet to know or experience it.

This is a very fitting image of the Good News we receive at Christmas. Here is this new-born child who will utterly change our lives and world whether we want this or not. We do have the choice of how to respond, of how to receive him, and to see him as the pure gift from God that he is. This gift can be a new kind of joy and life, and yet many may only see it as a burden, a restriction, a prison. It is unpleasant to imagine that a parent could feel this way, and yet most do at one time or another. Most Christians have experienced Christianity in this burdensome way, too. If you have never experienced this, the likelihood is that you haven't really understood the kind of sacrificial love Jesus is calling you to. We all must count the cost, as Jesus says. Of course, the hope of Jesus is that we will give all of these burdens to him, so he doesn't leave us burdened. Yet all of us are still being sanctified, so we all need to learn how to trust his will, to trust this new little baby and the life he is giving us.

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 3 Financial Report
- P. 4 Give Us Unity
- P. 8 What's Happening
- P. 11 Farewell
- P. 13 Music
at St. Matthews

NEXT ISSUE:

Lent: February 15
Submissions due: January 25
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The Truly Good News of King Jesus (continued)

Another true image we are given of Jesus Christ's good news is that of a conquering king. This image expands the example of the good news we heard about the newborn baby. With a conquering king there are two sides, we either belong to the kingdom that is being conquered, or we belong to the kingdom that is conquering.

If we belong to the kingdom that is being conquered by Jesus, there is an initial fear. Who is this king and what is he going to do to all those who were loyal to the previous kingdom? Will our life be worse than before? What will this new king mean for my life, my family, my work and more? However, if we do give our allegiance over to this new conquering King Jesus, we will start to see the kind of kingdom he is building. We will see that there is more justice and peace. We might have gotten ahead in the old order, so it will be hard to abandon the old ways we were used to, but what we will see is that this new king gives even greater gifts to those who show themselves to be good citizens and servants in his kingdom. And if we prove ourselves to be a loving friend to King Jesus, not just dutiful and obedient, what we will see is that his grace and bounty pours out on us. This king is much more present and approachable than any other, even while he is more glorious, scary and powerful than any other. We can see in this example that this good news may be hard to hear at first, but that it can and does change everything for the better, even if we start out opposing it.

If we belong to the conquering kingdom, we hear the news long before we see the king coming home. And the reality of this hope and truth begins to take effect. The good news leads to celebrations in the street and in our homes. We begin to see with hope all that the king will bring with him. We wait for our own family to come home and draw close. We know that this new conquered land will bring riches and further joy and we know that peace has been established in an even greater way. This good news is much better news to us initially, but it also fills us with a great desire for this good news to be realized and for our king to come home.

We could spend more time on these situations, imagining the closeness and trust that a new baby gives us, or the glory and majesty of a conquering king, or the struggles of learning how to raise a child and adapt our life to include it, or the struggles of learning to serve a new king, and invite people to meet him and follow him. I would urge you in this Advent of Jesus' coming, as we wait for the full realization of this conquering king, that you reflect on these images of good news and thus see how Jesus' good news and kingdom are affecting your life for the better even while we wait.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us". *Romans 8:37*

*Your brother in Christ,
Philip Stonhouse*



THE PROMISED KING

SERMON SERIES
NOVEMBER 30 TO JANUARY 4

Wardens' Words

As 2025 comes to an end, your Warden Team is sincerely thankful for the life of St. Matthew's as a place of worship, learning, and a growing community. We are delighted to welcome many new families and individuals. We look forward to making new and refreshing old friendships.

The year has been full of many opportunities for worship, discussions, and fellowship, all of which are possible due to the dedication of our clergy, staff, volunteers, and parishioners. Thank you everyone!

As has been the case for the entire calendar year of 2025, this Fall season at St. Matthew's has been full of worship services, bible studies, and children's and youth programming. Camp Matt '25 was another successful week for our young people. We were able to enjoy many concerts led by Tyler Versluis, our music director. A very special event was held in June, a Community Concert and Supper, during which we were treated to the many talents of our own parishioners of all ages. 'Well Done' and 'Thank You' to those who shared their gifts with us.

St. Matthew's is able to provide our worship services and concerts online and on YouTube because of our amazing Tech Team. We appreciate and thank them so much for their dedication to this ministry.

In September we welcomed our new tenant, **Newton's Grove School**, who are occupying our lower level.

The school provides education programs for Kindergarten through Grade 3.

On December 7, 2025, we will welcome our Primate, Archbishop Shane Parker, to our worship service. We owe this honour to his presentation of the Anglican Award of Merit to parishioner Nancy Hurn. This is the highest award granted by the Anglican Church of Canada. Nancy, its former Archivist, is being recognized for her work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Congratulations Nancy!

Overseeing the management of our physical properties could not be accomplished without the assistance of our Sexton, Tom Travaglini. Thank you, Tom, for your work. We also wish to acknowledge the support and assistance of Marguerite Locke and Stuart Watt. As you are aware, due to the age of our facilities, our attention must be constant, and repairs attended to on a regular basis.

The Advent and Christmas Offering will be directed towards offsetting the current deficit.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our St. Matthew's family and friends for your generosity and continued financial support.

We give thanks to God for God's continued provision and care for St. Matthew's. Wishing you and your families a blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

Karen Lee, Sharon Shao, Paul Lorimer, Nancy Hurn

Financial Report October 2025

Many thanks to the Parish for your continued financial support to our many ministries and operations of our parish and for all the ways you support our community with your time and talents.

As you will see below, our expenses are below 2025 Budget and 2024 Actual. Our income, while higher than 2024, is below Budget. Your help in addressing this shortfall would be greatly appreciated.

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of October 31, 2025.

Operating Fund	2025 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income	\$ 248,948	241,001	272,450
Expenses	\$ 279,375	282,653	287,100
Net Operations	\$ - 30,427	- 41,652	- 14,650

Give Us Unity in Our Time, O Lord

This year the world watched quietly as the Anglican communion split in half, creating what is the greatest religious breakaway in Church history by population, as large numbers of Anglican dioceses in the Global South broke away from the communion headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Anglicans in the Global South number at about 44 million). Although this breakaway has been preparing to happen since about 2008, the election of Dame Sarah Mullaly to the archbishopry of Canterbury was the deciding factor for many Anglican denominations in the Global South. As much as the news itself was saddening to read, equally as saddening was the response from Canadian Anglican authorities, whose muted reactions leaned more towards barely-contained smugness rather than a poignant reflection on what they themselves had contributed to this vast brokenness in our communion. Many expressed joy that the conservative factions of the global Anglican church had finally broken away.

Division in the church is never good, because Christ calls us to be unified in Him [*Ephesians 4:1-16*]. Unfortunately, Christians rarely take this call seriously. The Scriptures testify that disunity was almost immediately a feature of the early Church. As a child I witnessed the Christian Reformed Church in North America schism as congregations broke away over the issue of female ordination. Children I played with at recess vanished overnight as families pulled out of our denominationally-sponsored school and established their own churches, organisations and schools. Today I now witness liberally theological Reformed friends become increasingly liberal, and conservatively theological Reformed friends become increasingly conservative; both have become runaway trains without the two factions to buffer each other.

Allowing ourselves to be split along politically conservative and progressive lines within our own churches simply violates what Christ calls us to do, which is to unite all parts of a community and “move the ligaments” to become the body of Christ on earth. A body is worthless if it is only eyes, ears or stomachs. This is not just a reference to skills, ability

and gifts, but also personality and philosophy, assuming all these things can be united in Christ. We are called to do this, because this unity prevents us from succumbing to the blind spots that often cloud our spiritual judgment.

Towards our detriment, we have allowed “conservative” and “liberal”, largely 20th century political jargon terms, to define our Christian identity. It is an obvious sign that the Church has relinquished its social authority when it allows itself to simply become a political tool for sovereign justification, as it often does, instead of standing firmly on its own. Referencing our recent celebration of the Reign of Christ, this festival was established to re-affirm the reality that Christ is our King, first and always. And nothing else.

You may not be mourning this loss of unity in the Anglican communion, as these theologically and socially conservative bodies retreat to form their own identity. But here is the reality: conservative retreat is never good. It permits progressives, whatever their intention, to take over establishments, organisations and institutions, which creates a vicious cycle in which conservatives become increasingly anti-establishment and anti-intellectual.

The Anglican Church also needs the Global South and their witness. These are churches and people that are fighting against poverty, corruption and injustice that the Global North and Western world cannot even comprehend; they are Christians that risk oppression and martyrdom from Islamic terrorism, sometimes on a daily basis. The Anglican Church also needs its theologically conservative bishops, theologians and laypeople, or it faces the “runaway train” scenario above.

There is often nothing more challenging than holding together in unity and purpose, but thanks be to God that He also gives us instructions to uphold it: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” [*Ephesians 4:2*].

Tyler Versluis

Christian Foundations

For nine weeks this fall several of us from St. Matthew's took an online course on Christian Foundations. The course was sponsored by the Diocese and given by Judy and Patrick Paulsen. The course was based on a workbook they wrote together with Susan Bell (a former parishioner at St. Matthew's when her husband, Tom Bell, was our Organist and Choir Director, and is now a Bishop of Niagara Diocese).

Judy Paulsen was an excellent leader throughout the course. She recruited online readers for different sections and elaborated frequently during and between different sections. She also answered questions from the 'online Chat.' Pat Paulsen explained several topics.

The theme of the course was "How can I know and serve God." The topics covered included:

- The story of Israel
- Who is Jesus
- How did the church get started
- What do Christians believe
- Why are there so many sorts of Christians
- How can I grow my faith, and
- What is my part in the Kingdom of God.

Most of the topics were based on the bible and, while there was not time for a detailed study of the bible, the course made us familiar with its overall structure. There are 39 books in the Old Testament consisting of 17 historical books, 5 Wisdom books and 17 prophetic books. The historical books can be divided into 5 books of Moses (Torah) and 12 others; the prophetic books can be divided into 5 major prophets (including Lamentations) and 12 minor prophets. The New Testament is mostly letters with 21 epistles, 4 gospels, 1 historical book (Acts) and one book of prophecy (Revelation). I find that knowing what kind of book I am reading is a big help in understanding.

Following each presentation, the St. Matthew's group got together for an online discussion. Much of the discussion concerned reading the bible, e.g. developing a regular habit, which translations are best, helpful study guides, and where to start. We also discussed our individual struggles with living the Christian faith.

The course book was easy to read with lots of exercises which reinforce the points made. The book is available at the church to borrow. Please do not photocopy as Wycliffe College uses the book sales to support future instruction.

Dave Oakden

Men's Bible Study

The men's bible study and potluck dinner continues once a month in participants' homes. Contact Tyler Versluis about dates and locations.

Next meeting date is December 17.

The Chosen

Tuesdays November 18 - December 9 at 7 p.m.

Join us for Season 2, episodes 5-8 to discuss "Becoming Jesus People: Living the Good News"

Attend in person at St. Matthew's or join online.

**For more information on events, worship times and more,
check our website at saintmatts.ca**



Photo courtesy of James Liu

Save the Date: Visioning Day

January 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join us for our visioning day, where together we will look at two great ideas: how God has gifted us, and where he is leading us. Let's move with faith, hope, and love as we listen for God's plan for our St. Matthew's family.

We are also planning on having a youth discussion and a children's program. We would like to hear from everyone.

Chancel Guild

Thanks to everyone who donated produce and fruits to decorate our church for Thanksgiving. Thank you to Sandra Wilson for her expertise in arranging the lovely display of the fruits and vegetables which were donated to needy families.

We also assisted Tyler in setting up for the *Choral Evensong for All Souls*. Thank You to all the Chancel guild members for so diligently attending to their duties.

Pat Currie

Poinsettias

Each year the church is decorated with poinsettias purchased by parishioners in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for something. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please fill in a form in the Narthex or [online](#).

Each poinsettia is \$25. The deadline for ordering is December 12.

Poinsettias are to be taken home after the Christmas Day service or on Sunday, December 28.

Sandra Wilson

Mitten Tree

Each Christmas season, we erect a tree in the Narthex where knitted scarves, hats and mittens donated by parishioners can be hung. The items are then donated to those in need. The tree will be in the Narthex ready to receive donations at the end of November and donations are welcomed up to December 24. Thank you in advance.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thanks to our generous knitters, St. Matthew's prayer shawls are regularly replenished.

Prayer shawls are a tangible reminder of love and support, providing comfort during difficult times.

If you would like to take a prayer shawl to someone, please call the office.

O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away. (*O Come, Divine Messiah*, Hymn #95, Book of Common Praise)

Club Matt

Club Matt has been learning how *God Keeps his Promise* to us. In particular, we have looked at the people He used to help us understand what He gives to us and how He wants us to live our lives. We have looked at Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Jacob, and Moses. This Fall we have looked at the world God created for us and how He cares for His people! Our next focus is preparation for Advent and the Christmas Pageant on December 14.

The regular attendance has grown! We see more children at the Unity Service who look forward to

seeing their friends and hearing new stories. We are most grateful for the work of Dawn who, with Rev. Philip, put together the program and each lesson. The teachers, Mercy, Tatiana, Jenna, and Vanessa, do an amazing job of teaching our children as they are forming their sense of self and how God fits into that picture.

We are always in need of more teachers if you feel this may be a role you are being called to.

Deborah Hurn

Youth Group

Our Youth have had a wonderful and lively Fall! The season has brought everything from bright, sunny days to the excitement of early snow days, and through it all, our Friday nights have been busy and joy-filled. On the last few Friday nights, the Youth have been diving into old-fashioned schoolyard games like Four Square and Sardines, exploring the whole church, and all with a thoughtful scripture twist to help connect fun, friendship, and faith. On Friday nights, we're also journeying through the book of *Acts*, exploring what it means to live out our faith with courage and community. Recently, the Youth created beautiful Christmas ornaments for our Outreach Senior gift bags, and at our next gathering, we'll be baking three dozen cookies to add a sweet touch to each bag.

On Sundays, we follow Rev. Philip's lessons, and we are now heading into Advent.

We're excited to share that the Youth will be hosting a Movie Night on Friday, December 19th, featuring *Holy Night*, a powerful retelling of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Snacks will be provided, and everyone is warmly invited to join us! Friday, December 19 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in St. Matthew's sanctuary.

Tanya Marcon-Moore



**Join us for Movie Night
(The Chosen: Holy Night)
Friday, December 19 @ 7 p.m.**

What's Happening

Wed Dec 3	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Christmas lunch following worship: 11:30 a.m.	In person
Fri Dec 5	Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sat Dec 6	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Sunset Grill, 1510 Dundas Street, Mississauga, contact dave.oakden@gmail.com	In person
Sun Dec 7	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. with Primate's visit and reception	In person & online
	Lessons & Carols: 2:30 p.m.	In person & online
Wed Dec 9	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Blue Christmas: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sat Dec 13	Pageant rehearsal: 10:00 a.m.	In person
Sun Dec 14	Unity Worship with Pageant: 10:30 a.m. (special coffee hour)	In person & online
Wed Dec 17	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Men's Bible Study: 6:00 p.m.	In person
Fri Dec 19	Movie <i>The Chosen: Holy Night</i> hosted by youth: 7:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Dec 21	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Dec 24	Christmas Eve worship: 4:00 p.m.	In person & online
	Christmas Eve worship: 7:00 p.m.	In person & online
	Christmas Eve worship: 10:00 p.m.	In person
Thurs Dec 25	Christmas Day Worship: 10:30 p.m.	In person
Sun Dec 28	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Sun Jan 4	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online

Looking to get more involved at St. Matt's?



In January, as a new year begins, we will seek individuals willing to serve in various capacities for our Church. We have lots of tasks that need willing hands, dedication, and a reasonable, respectful amount of your time. As Nominating Chair, I would ask you to prayerfully consider what time and talents you may be able to offer and are willing to share with our faith community for 2026. Please stay tuned for more details and information after the Christmas celebrations.

Marguerite Locke

St. Matthew, Islington
presents

LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 7, 2:30 PM

A joyous time of singing carols
and listening to scripture
as we look to Christmas

Blue Christmas

December 10, 2025
7 pm

A time to invite Jesus' light
to enter our darkness

Christmas Honours Gift

Are you stumped? WHAT will you give to that Special Person on your Christmas list?

St Matthew's has a wonderful suggestion –
The Honours Gift.

You donate any amount you wish to St. Matthew's, specifying your Gift Recipient's name.

The donation is held in Trust for St. Matthew's Special Projects (e.g., washroom or kitchen upgrade).

An acknowledgement card will be provided to you, the donor, for gifting to your Special Person.

A tax receipt will be provided to you, the donor.

Thank you for supporting
St. Matthew's Special Projects.

The Wardens



Fall Tea & Conversation

Tanya Marcon Moore was the Speaker at the Fall Afternoon Tea, held in the lounge on Wednesday, October 14, 2025. Tanya told us about her introduction to church and about the support which her subsequent faith has provided in her life. We were spellbound.

Tanya is gifted storyteller. We learned this last year when she published her first book and sold it at our fundraiser talent auction: *The Day I Learned to Pump Gas: Finding the Light Through Darkness*. I hope she will write what we heard at the Fall Tea in her second book.

Tanya is also a gifted wife, mother, baker, cook, and Youth Leader. We have a treasure in our midst. Make her acquaintance.

Plan on attending our next Afternoon Tea. You never know...

Kathie Oakden



Coffee Hour

We have a number of volunteers who are providing coffee on Sunday mornings after church. The task is not too onerous! You just need to provide a snack, serve the coffee and tea, and clean up afterwards. This weekly event offers a chance to welcome newcomers, get to know others from St. Matthew's, and catch up from week to week with your friends. There is always need for more help. If you can help out after the 9:30 service, speak with Layla Ho. If you are able to help after the 10:30 and 11:00 services, speak with Nancy Hurn.

Deborah Hurn

The Food Cupboard

Our Food Cupboard is still operating in a very limited way. We currently have only two clients asking for food; they come regularly, and we need to be able to help them.

Currently, we are running low on canned fruit, vegetables and pasta, as well as canned meat, stews, soup, and chunky soup.

We hope you can help with some of this need. Your generous donations, of any amount, whether food or cash, are appreciated.

Noel Martin

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. (*O Come, All Ye Faithful*, Hymn #118, Book of Common Praise)

Farewell to Marilyn and Phil Friedmann

On Sunday November 9 after the 11 a.m. service, we were able to celebrate and share our love for one of the longstanding, wonderful couples at St. Matt's: Phil and Marilyn Friedman. These two have been faithful and loving members of the St. Matt's community for 31 years.

Though the occasion for celebration was bittersweet for us – the Friedmans are leaving their longtime home in Etobicoke to move to Thornbury, Ontario, the area where Marilyn grew up – it wasn't hard to round up many in the congregation, especially those who are relatively new to St. Matt's, to share how Phil and Marilyn have already touched their lives. Many spoke of how Marilyn & Phil made them feel welcome and connected at St. Matt's, often doing the practical, not-on-a-Sunday, behind-the-scenes work of connecting them to resources and tools as they were navigating all one needs to navigate being new to Canada. Among those who shared that day were Mercy Njeteneh, Betty Lee Odur, Jane Mwangi and Florence Thompson. Rev. Philip blessed them with a prayer and recounted their varied service at St. Matt's as their children aged and speaking of Phil's involvement with the Out of the Cold program as leader for the shower/laundry team for 20+ years, pre-pandemic.

Phil and Marilyn gave thanks for the many people in the congregation with whom they'd worked together and grown to love over the years (Sunday School/ Youth Group, Sidespersons, organizing the Parish Weekend Away, Social Justice) and their joy at watching God bring newcomers and new members through the doors of St. Matt's, just as church life slowed down during the pandemic.

Most recently, Marilyn's prayerful spirit shone through as she stepped up to coordinate Sunday's Intercessors, a work she executed with grace and patience. And from my personal

experience with her I am in awe of Marilyn's skill as a coach, encourager, and listener. It was something she gave naturally, intentionally, and carefully. I will not forget how much my own heart was strengthened by her genuine encouragement of us as a family, then new to St. Matt's; her assurance that the Holy Spirit was with us was a lifeline to me – though she wouldn't know it at the time. There are many more personal stories from countless others who have been blessed by Marilyn & Phil's life and ministry at St. Matt's, and even though they won't be with us, I think it's safe to say that the example they've shown – of Christ's presence and witness, of love in action within a community – has sown towards a harvest; now it's our turn to remember, to sow, and to continue ministering in love and faithfulness, inspired by Christ and empowered by His Holy Spirit, for His glory, and our joy.

Thank you and God bless you, Marilyn and Phil!

Michelle Lorimer





Installations - Repairs - Winterization - Exterior Lighting

Jon Harrison

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Messy Church

October Messy Church got messy again!

The theme of Harvest Gratitude found hands being painted to put on our Grateful Hands Tree.

We created pumpkin seed art, played with slime, enjoyed cornmeal in a play pool, and made our own dessert by dipping an apple slice in chocolate and sprinkles. The pictures will show you just how much fun we have.

There is always so much fun and fellowship at a Messy Church.

November 29th Messy Church will give many opportunities to prepare for Advent.

The next Messy Church is January 31.

Linda Dickson



2025-2026

September 27

October 25

November 29

January 31

February 28

March 28

April 25

June 6

SATURDAYS

@ 4 PM

Program free of charge
Donations welcome



FUN!
FOOD!
FAITH!

GAIA String Quartet

As part of our *Music at St. Matthew's* Sunday Concert series, we had the privilege of hosting the GAIA String Quartet on October 19, 2025. These women share a passion for bringing contemporary music to modern audiences. They performed pieces by several American composers, including GAIA's composer-in-residence, Patrick Wu, and our very own Michelle Lorimer. It was very special to have Michelle's piece, "Diptych #1: art as miniature" performed here amongst her own congregation. We were treated to a wonderful blending of instruments: violins, viola, and cello, plus a special percussion on the cello played on a loop - a creative mixing of classical and modern. It was a deeply moving worship experience, immersed in beautiful music, set in a sacred place.

Layla Ho



All Souls Choral Evensong

As part of our *Music at St. Matthew's* Concert Series, we celebrated All Souls Day with a special Choral Evensong. Alongside our regular worship choir, we had visiting to sing with us Damien Macedo, Eddie Norfolk, and Yuting Lin as well as four fantastic soloists: Trisha Dayal, Valeria Kondrashov, Mark Wood-Salomon, and Jason Locke. On the organ we had Michael Pirri, because our own Tyler Versluis was conducting the choir.

The repertoire for the evening included *The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended, I Heard a Voice from Heaven*, an anthem by John Goss, *Funeral Sentences* by Tyler Versluis, *Kontakion of the Departed*, traditional music from the Russian Orthodox funeral liturgy, and the closing hymn *God, that Madest Earth and Heaven*.

The *Funeral Sentences* were composed by our very own Music Director, Tyler Versluis, this occasion being the debut performance of the three movement piece.



The service was sombre and heartfelt. Reverend Phillip sang our first Psalm to begin worship and lit the first candle while the choir sang the *Kontakion*. Many in the congregation lit a candle in remembrance of their own loved ones. The altar received many photographs and mementos which our congregation placed to memorialize those who have moved on from this world. It was such an immense pleasure to have this important service punctuated with the gorgeous music sung by this choir. Tyler and all the voices have set a high bar for next year.

Kimi Jones

MUSIC

AT ST. MATTHEW'S

2 0 2 5 / 2 6

SOUTHERN HARMONY II

FEBRUARY 1, 2:30 PM



Stirring Appalachian hymns and a poignant tribute to mystical songsmith Judee Sill.

**PAY WHAT YOU CAN
\$20 SUGGESTED**

**St. Matthew's Anglican Church | 3962 Bloor St. W.
416.231.4014 | saintmatts.ca**

Church Records

Baptisms

Daniel Chikwadoro Osiriambe Ohanu-Okoroji
October 26, 2025



Friends for Friends

Friends for Friends offer to support to any member or non-member of St. Matthew's. We try to call many parishioners just to let them know we are thinking and praying for them. For some we offer the gift of food... especially those who need to feel the love that a warm bowl of soup may offer. The gift of soup is available to anyone. If you know anyone with a need, please let

Deborah know and we will make sure we offer our support. There is always a supply of frozen soup in the gym kitchen when needed. We are Blessed to have a large team that makes the calls, makes the soup, and welcomes you each Sunday.

Deborah Hurn

Home Communion

Home Communion is available to anyone who would like this Sacrament in their home or wherever they are. If you are unable to make it to Church during the Advent season, or anytime, and would like to receive,

please contact the church office and arrangements will be made.

Deborah Hurn

A festive graphic for Christmas worship. The background is a deep green with a subtle pattern of white stars and a large, stylized white cross. The text is in white and gold.

Christmas
WORSHIP

Christmas Eve
4 pm Family Worship
7 pm Choral Eucharist
10 pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day
10:30 am Eucharist

Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered in person, over the phone, by email or via Zoom. Please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

Partners in Prayer: Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to the church office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. As need requires, renew prayer requests monthly.

Cycle of Prayer: “Beloved, pray for us.” This is Paul’s way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we pray for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names are mentioned in our prayers and we have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our “Cycle of Prayer” please let the office know and we will keep your name off the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew’s. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Casual (in person & online)
followed by Coffee Hour in gym

11:00 a.m. Classic (in person & online)
Followed by Coffee Hour in lounge

10:30 a.m. Unity Worship
Followed by Coffee Hour in lounge
(Generally first Sunday of each month and replaces
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship)
Please check saintmatts.ca

Wednesday Service

10:30 a.m. BCP Service
(Posted on YouTube afterward)

Messy Church

Last Saturday of the month
Next Messy Church is January 31

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Groups

Contact the office for information

The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent

416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Canon Dr. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant

The Rev. James Liu, Visiting Priest

Dr. Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist

Tanya Marcon Moore, Youth Ministry Associate

Tom Travaglini, Sexton

Grant Dunbar, Verger

Lisa Tait, Administrator

Office Hours & Contact Information

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30 - 3:30

Email: office@saintmatts.ca

Telephone: 416-231-4014

Website: www.saintmatts.ca

3962 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, ON, M9B 1M3



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To be removed from the distribution list, please contact the Church at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.