



ST GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL
Congregational Life Report for Vestry 2024
A report on the life of our parish for the year 2023

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AGENDA

St. George's on-the-Hill

2024 Annual Meeting of Vestry

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, 12:00pm

1. Welcome
2. Grace
3. Year in Pictures (to be viewed during lunch)
4. Election of Vestry Clerk
5. Minutes from Vestry Meeting held March 5, 2023
6. Priest-in-Charge Address to Vestry
7. Acceptance of Congregational Life Reports
8. Presentation of the 2023 Financial Report
9. Report from the Wardens
10. Presentation and Approval of 2024 Operating Budget
11. Motion Regarding the Book of Remembrance Fund

It is moved that the entirety of the Book of Remembrance Fund be donated to the Diocese of Toronto's Bishop's Company Fund. In particular, that the monies be directed to the W.R. Kay Bursaries fund. And that upon this transaction the Fund will be closed.

Notes

- *In 1964, St George's Vestry determined that a Fund should be developed to assist in the training of young men and, in time, women who were preparing for ordained ministry, and that the fund be known as The Book of Remembrance Fund.*
- *The Bishop's Company Fund provides a pool of funds that strengthen the Anglican community in the Diocese of Toronto. In addition to providing support to clergy who are in need, the fund administers the W.R. Kay Bursaries, awarded each year to men and women completing religious studies leading to ordination.*

12. Capital Projects
13. Plans for 2024
14. Report from the Parish Selection Committee

15. Diocesan Social Justice Motion

Social Justice Vestry Motion 2024: Protecting and Advancing the Right to Housing

We, the parish of St Georges on-the-Hill, call on all levels of government to take the following measures to protect and advance the human right to housing:

- We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that federal subsidies and incentives are targeted to those developers and projects that demonstrably address housing need and uphold the human right to housing by meeting clear conditions on affordable rents, non-displacement policies and eviction prevention measures.
- We call on the Government of Canada to end the favourable tax treatment of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and tax them at the regular corporate rate, with resulting revenues being directed toward the creation and preservation of affordable housing.
- We call on the Province of Ontario to enact rent controls and vacancy controls on all rental housing and put restrictions on Above Guideline Rent Increases.
- We call on the Province of Ontario to work with municipal governments to enact and enforce restrictions on short-term rentals to protect rental housing stock.

16. Elections and Appointments for 2024

- a. Parish Council
- b. Other Officers

17. New Business

18. Motion to Adjourn

SLATE FOR PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2024

Slate for Advisory Council

	Elected	Appointed
Lay Member to Synod	Veronica Kitchen	
Alternate Lay Member to Synod	Todd Matty	
Acolytes	Pam Irvine	
Cemetery		Michael Weir
Chancel Guild	Stephanie Grattan	
Community, Hospitality and Newcomers Team (CHANT)	Ruth Snowden	
Heritage and Archives		Ted Rouse
Outreach		Suzanne Advani
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Natalie Quinton	
Sidespersons	Cal Irvine	
Youth		James Noronha
Members at Large		Jeff Herold David Dougall Keith Spurrell

Slate for Parish Corporation

PARISH CORPORATION	Elected	Appointed
Rector's Warden		Tony Brathwaite
Deputy Rector's Warden		Brian Danby
People's Warden	Janet Kincaid	
Deputy People's Warden	Ruth Snowden	
FINANCE		
Church Investment Advisory (CIA)	Linda Javorski	Jeff Herold
	Michael Weir	John Matthews
Treasurer		Linda Javorski

MINUTES OF 2023 VESTRY MEETING

St. George's on-the-Hill

2023 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 5th, 2023, 12:00pm

19. Welcome

20. The Grace

Father Michelle opened with the Grace at 12:12pm.

21. The Year in Pictures

Due to technical difficulties, the Year in Pictures was not available.

22. Election of Vestry Clerk

Motion to elect Fran McBride as Vestry Clerk.

Moved by: Max Maréchaux
Seconded by: Janet Maréchaux
Motion was passed.

23. Review and Acceptance Minutes from Vestry held on March 6, 2022.

The minutes were reviewed and accepted with no changes.

Moved by: Bill Jones
Seconded by: Mary Bartle
Motion was passed.

24. Acceptance of Congregational Life Reports

Motion to accept the Congregational Life Report, which was distributed prior to the meeting and is available to all.

Moved by: Max Maréchaux
Seconded by: Janet Maréchaux
Motion was passed.

25. Presentation of the 2022 Financial Report

Donations to general operations were up almost 3 per cent thanks to seasonal appeal and specific outreach initiatives. Regular donations continue to decline. This is consistent with other churches throughout the pandemic.

The church ended the year with an operating surplus of \$37,710 before a transfer of \$35,000 to Capital for a net operating surplus of \$2,710.

Thanks to continued strong support for Outreach, the church was able to distribute \$30,335 in financial assistance and donated goods.

Due to a drop in both fixed income and equity markets, the church experienced unrealized losses of \$123,338 vs unrealized gains in 2021 of \$59,662. However, we have accumulated net unrealized gains of \$143,982 in total investments with a market value of \$1,462,689 split fairly evenly between the church and cemetery.

Funds at the church are split into three categories – operating, restricted funds and capital improvements. The closing balance for all funds at the church was \$2,705,117. Distribution of the funds was pretty much the same as last year.

Question: Could you clarify the amount set aside in the capital fund (\$35,000 and \$25,000 set aside).
Answer: There is \$140,000 set aside for renovations.

David Dougall questioned this amount and Linda Javorski corrected her comment to say that, after the transfer of \$35,000, that the amount available in the Capital Fund to be spent is \$175,000 and change.

A motion was made to approve the financial report for 2022.

Moved by: David Dougall
Seconded by: Veronica Kitchen
Motion was passed.

26. Presentation of the 2023 Operating Budget

Facilities expenses were \$223,451 last year and the plan for 2023 is to increase that to \$237,676.

Recovery costs from KCS was \$201,321 and is budgeted at \$214,124 in 2023.

Total church facilities expense for last year was \$93,246 and will increase to \$100,792 for 2023. The increase is partially due to an increase in cleaning because of issues hiring people to clean as well as other increased costs due to full time usage and inflation.

Total Parish expenditures are going from \$576,741 to \$612,717.

Every July the rent from KCS goes up based on inflation. A portion is set aside for capital because we are in an aging building.

Donations have been going down about \$5,000 a year because of reduced numbers due to our aging parishioners. The good news is that we have a number of new parishioners through the Youth Group, Pints of View and Messy Church.

Expecting \$13,000 through targeted Outreach activities.

We are looking at a balanced budget by the end of the year.

27. Acceptance of the 2023 Operating Budget

Motion to accept the 2023 Budget as presented.

Moved by: Tony Brathwaite
Seconded by: Max Maréchaux
Motion was passed.

28. Capital Projects

The church is 180 years old and we have an obligation to keep it maintained. Last year, six church flat roofs were replaced; St. Hilda's Room and the Godly Play Room were renovated and new furniture purchased; the Sacristy was completed and a deposit made on a Vestment Cabinet which is expected to be delivered and installed next week; completed waterproofing for the basement of the Rectory; and undertook a Conditions Study of the facilities to determine anticipated repairs for the next 10 years.

29. Plans for 2023

Capital projects for the coming year include exterior painting and repairs as needed to all of the sills under the stained-glass windows; upgrading the landscaping on the south side of the sanctuary (for which money was left to the church); and updating and re-costing renovation plans for Luxton Hall Kitchen and washrooms.

Janet Kincaid provided an update for Outreach. She talked about how proud she was to fill a full pallet last fall with food donations from the church to the Food Bank. Out of the Cold dinners were fully supported at St. Margaret's and All Saints'.

There was a reminder that Lenten Shoe Bags of Toiletries for Jean Tweed Centre have to be handed in by the last Sunday of March.

She mentioned how successful the Prayer Shawl, Mitten Tree and Pints of View have been.

There was a reminder that volunteering at Brands for Canada (Mary and Martha) is taking place this month.

Dorothy Ley Hospice is looking at trying to support the homeless community in addition to its existing services. It has started an ambulatory clinic to serve the homeless. The executive director at the Hospice is looking at ways to partner with long-term care facilities and other groups to expand palliative services in our community. Three upcoming events include Hike in May, Healing Cycle and 70s Night in September.

Question: Mary-Anne Rodgers suggested that when the Parish is involved in Outreach activities, it would be a good idea to enhance their promotion at the start of the service. She recommended that rather than the Wardens saying something, the church have the people directly connected with the organization or those organizing the Outreach activity do the promotion, such as Ted Rouse talking about the Scout's Christmas tree sales.

Answer: Duly noted. Rousing applause from the Vestry attendees.

Upcoming activities:

Seniors Easter Eucharist and Luncheon on April 12

Spring Concert – May 7

Doors Open – May 27 and May 28

Church Picnic – June 11

Welcome BBQ - September 10

Talent Auction in early November – the date TBD

Max Maréchaux mentioned he had a Talent Auction folder that covered a number of years of Auctions. The last one netted about \$15,000. Under Linda’s budget, there was zero indicated for fundraising. Max said, “Imagine the difference we could make by adding \$15,000.” The event is proposed for November when KCS is on a school break. The idea is to involve all sections of the church such as Youth Group, Pints of View, Wednesday morning and night groups etc. Max asked for a show of hands for those who are interested in such an event. There was strong support for the event. Max then asked for volunteers who would help organize the event.

30. Election and Appointments for 2023 Parish Advisory Council.

Motion to accept nominated slates as presented for **2023 Parish Advisory Council.**

Slate for Advisory Council

	Elected	Appointed
Lay Members to Synod	Veronica Kitchen	
Alternate Lay Member to Synod	Todd Matty	
Acolytes	Pam Irvine	
Cemetery		Michael Weir
Chancel Guild	Stephanie Grattan	
Community, Hospitality and Newcomers Team (CHANT)	Ruth Snowden	
Heritage and Archives		Ted Rouse
Outreach		Suzanne Advani
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Natalie Quinton	
Sidespersons	Cal Irvine	
Youth		James Noronha
Members at Large		Jeff Herold David Dougall Keith Spurrell

Moved by: Max Maréchaux
 Seconded by: Janet Maréchaux
 Motion was passed.

Motion to accept nominated slates as presented for **2023 Parish Corporation.**

Slate for Parish Corporation

PARISH CORPORATION	Elected	Appointed
Rector’s Warden		Tony Brathwaite
Deputy Rector’s Warden		Brian Danby
People’s Warden	Janet Kincaid	
Deputy People’s Warden	Ruth Snowden	

Moved by: Max Maréchaux
 Seconded by: Linda Javorski
 Motion was passed.

FINANCE

Church Investment Advisory (CIA)

Linda Javorski

Jeff Herold

Michael Weir

John Matthews

Treasurer

Linda Javorski

Moved by: Mary-Anne Rodgers
Seconded by: Ruth Snowden
Motion was passed.

31. New Business

Mary-Anne Rodgers talked about how we have been through a number of rough years through COVID. She complimented the ministry and church leadership for holding everyone together and keeping us going.

Mary Bartle complimented the music at the church.

32. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Max Maréchaux
Seconded by: Veronica Kitchen
Motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER TO VESTRIES 2024

To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto,

Dear friends,

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Simple and elegant. These few words capture the essence of a Vision that we have been pursuing and discerning throughout the Cast the Net process, a visioning exercise that began while we were still in pandemic mode. Over the course of several consultations, we listened to one another, and for the leading of the Holy Spirit. With time, sifting and testing, 20 Calls were revealed at Synod, which were supported with enthusiasm. A final version of the Calls will be received by Synod Council in February. We continue to be grateful to the Steering Committee and consultants, who have led our work together over the past 18 months. And now the work begins to incorporate these Calls into the life and ministry of the whole Diocese. This is the time for parishes large and small, missions, ministries, committees and Synod Council to animate the Calls in our own contexts. It is almost impossible for one community to embrace all twenty, but by serving together from Mississauga to Brighton, Midland to Minden, and all points in between, we can!

We begin this journey with a Season of Spiritual Renewal. We embrace the Call to deepen our walk together as communities by immersing ourselves in prayer, reading and reflection on scripture, worship and sharing our stories of faith with one another. As we promised in our baptism: we will “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers”. This Season will be supported by the Rev. Canon Dr Judy Paulsen, members of a steering committee and the College of Bishops. We hope that you will be able to join us for Diocesan worship events, learning opportunities, programs and fellowship that entice us all to walk more closely in the footsteps of Jesus.

We are delighted to reach across our borders to deepen our friendship with the Diocese of Brasilia. Brasilia is a relatively new diocese, birthed in 1985, with a small number of parishes, missions and ministries. We were delighted to welcome their Bishop Mauricio Andrade and his wife Sandra to our Diocesan Synod in November. We will learn from, grow with, and support one another as we strive to serve Christ in our unique circumstances. And we look forward to opportunities for delegations of our clergy and laity to visit back and forth, both in-person and online, as we deepen our affection for one another.

We are proud of and amazed at the ministry taking place across our Diocese, especially in the areas of youth, ecumenism, creation care, diversity, and faith formation. We encourage you to consider this year's Diocesan Social Justice motion on housing, and to prayerfully support our Church's advocacy for every person's right to adequate shelter. We are convinced that the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us, and challenging us to bravely find new ways to work and worship together, to increase in courage, to share our passion for the Good News of Jesus, and to seek and find new meaning as followers of Christ in the 21st century, where we are confronted with emerging economic and social challenges. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all who make up our dynamic community of faith – lay people, deacons, priests – all helping to give a glimpse of the Reign of God as it unfolds in our midst.

As your bishops, we know the joy and privilege of serving the Church in this Diocese. We thank all those who have joined us in giving leadership over the past year. We have recently celebrated one year of our new diocesan leadership model, and we are immensely grateful to our new Territorial Archdeacons and Canon Administrator for stepping into their roles so effectively and with such faithfulness. The five of them have helped to ease the bishops' administrative load, allowing us to focus on some of the other work to which we have been called and ordained.

Whether your work is changing this year, whether you are stepping out of your role at this Vestry meeting, or stepping into a new ministry, or continuing on in your good work, please know that we are here to support you in every way we can. We want to encourage you in Gospel ministry, in the initiatives and relationships that you are building, as you cast your nets ever wider in a world that is hungry for Christ - for meaning, connection and belonging.

Our mission statement is simple and elegant. And it invites us, like the dismissal at the close of the Eucharist, to action. We invite you to incorporate these words in your liturgies on Sunday morning:

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Thanks be to God!

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE'S REPORT

First of all, I must name that for the entirety of 2023 I was an Associate Priest here at St George's and over the year was in the process of scaling back the time I spent in that role. Well, so much for scaling back! Nonetheless, I do write this in the context of 2023 and in the role of Associate.

Looking back, I am grateful. I am grateful to Fr Michelle and the Churchwardens for according me the opportunity to serve again in 2023, and especially grateful for supporting me when I needed to take time off from St George's to do some Godly Play travel and to enjoy some rest and refreshment.

I am also grateful to my ministry colleagues, Sarah, Ran, Janet and James, who have been a great support to me and who tirelessly and creatively contribute their gifts and skills to the programmes and ministries of this church. I am grateful to Anatoli, Vince, Carmen, and Miguel who ensure that the offices and the church at large continue to be a safe, clean space to come to and do my work. I am grateful to Michael and Linda who ensure that things get paid for in a timely manner, and to Dirk for his support of grieving families. And I am most grateful for the significant time and energy so many parishioners put in to ensure that St George's continues to make a difference in the lives of many. Whether independently or alongside me, it is the work of volunteers that truly drives the mission and ministry of this place. Thank you!

A few highlights:

Liturgy and Worship

2023 was the first year since 2019 when we were able to worship in person for the entirety of the year. How wonderful it was to be able to experience that again! And so, many thanks to all who contribute to that experience: to Stephanie and the Chancel Guild; to Ran and the choir; to the acolytes, readers, and intercessors; and to the sidespeople.

Notwithstanding that we were in-person again, I also celebrate the fact that, as a result of the pandemic, we now have the technology to bring our Sunday celebrations into people's homes. As such, I want to extend my deep gratitude to all of those who continued to show up and to pitch in to provide worship in this new way. In this respect special, thanks goes out to James and his tech team who are invaluable in helping us all navigate this new world.

Faith Formation

Ministry to children and families continued with Godly Play most Sundays and Messy Church, now called Family Fridays, once a month.

In 2023, we continued to do online faith formation on Wednesday mornings transitioning to in-person gatherings in the autumn. These sessions were preceded by a service of Holy Communion in the choir loft. Thank you to Michelle and Janet for filling in when I was unavailable.

This past year was also the occasion for 'Pints of View' to move back into the pub! This continues to be a well-attended opportunity for the men of the parish to gather for fellowship and faith formation on a monthly basis. Many thanks to Keith Grattan who stepped in to provide leadership when I was away.

And Mary and Martha's Kitchen again proved an opportunity for the women of the parish to gather for community, conversation, and learning. Thank you to Heather Bacon and Janna Adair for their efforts.

Pastoral Care

This past year, I joined a host of others who have faithfully and dutifully nurtured connections within the parish through visits, phone calls, dropping off food, providing rides, going for walks, and so much more.

Another way in which the church has been present is through our ministry to Senior's Homes in the area. For many years each month I have visited Kingsway Retirement Home and Delmanor Prince Edward for a service of Holy Communion. Sadly, the Delmanor service discontinued due to a lack of attendees, but the staff are monitoring things there with a mind to recommencing.

It has also been a privilege to support a small group of parishioners who regularly pray for the programmes and people of St George's. This group continues to uphold us all in their prayers, both individually and as a group. If you desire prayer for yourself or another, I encourage you to email your request to prayer@stgeorgesonthehill.ca.

Again, thank you to all who have partnered with me in ministry this past year. I will share my thoughts on 2024 and the way forward at our annual meeting of Vestry.

Your friend in Christ,
Andrew+

CEMETERY REPORT

Burials During 2023

Leonard EVERARD
Henry FLOYD
Kirk HOWARD
Robert LAWRIE
Elizabeth LEON
Carl STRYCHALUK
Kenneth AGG
Justin EDWARDS
Zdzislaw GALAZKA
Margaret HAMILTON
Elizabeth HARKER

James JONES
Mary LAMONT
Daisy McILVEEN
Sally MOORE
Linda NATIONWHYTE
Earl PATTON
Chris PAYNE
Marjorie PITCHFORD
Walter SOKOL
Evelyn STEVENS
Robert WINSHIP

SALES

The cemetery sold two casket burial plots and three cremation plots for a total of \$41,000, of which 40 percent or \$16,400 was deposited into the Perpetual Care Fund.

OUTLOOK

The cemetery has a limited number of full burial and cremation plots remaining for purchase. If you are interested in purchasing a plot or have any questions regarding the cemetery, please call me at the office at 416 239 2341 or email me at cemetery@stgeorgesonthehill.ca.

Respectfully submitted by

Dirk Albishausen

Cemetery Manager

CHANCEL GUILD REPORT

The Chancel Guild of St. George's on-the-Hill is a group of twenty or so dedicated parishioners who, under the direction of the clergy, prepare the church for weekly worship services which include Sunday, and Wednesday morning and evening services as well as special events such as funerals and weddings. The duties include: setting up the Eucharist, changing the hangings, care of the candles and linens, polishing the brass, and arranging the memorial flowers. The Chancel Guild also decorates the church for the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations.

Some of our members have been with the group for decades and very kindly lend their expertise to new members. During 2023, we welcomed Avril Barkley and Irene Burgs to our Chancel Guild. Thank you to Margaret Markham who left the group after many years of dedicated service.

Last year we said goodbye to two very dear, long-standing members who passed away. Marjorie Pitchford and Linda Whyte were Chancel members for decades and shared their knowledge to many newcomers. A very special thank you to Marjorie and Linda for their many, many years of service. They are missed but their spirit lives on in the legacy they left to all who had the pleasure of working with them.

During 2023, we introduced a change to the Sunday 8:30 service whereby the clergy are now performing the Eucharist on the portable altar which is placed at the bottom of the steps in front of the pews. This has been very well received by the 8:30 group as the service has become more intimate for the regular parishioners. The main altar is still used for all other services.

Thank you to David and Arlene Dougall for their expertise in the design and installation of a custom-made cabinet in the Vestry for the vestments and hangings. The spacious drawers help to keep these items safe and wrinkle-free and make it so much easier for Chancel when the hangings need changing.

The Chancel Guild relies on the support and guidance of our clergy. We would like to thank Reverend Michelle Childs-Ward for everything she did for our group over her years as Incumbent. We look forward to working with all members of our clergy in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by

Stephanie Grattan

President

COMMUNITY, HOSPITALITY AND NEWCOMERS TEAM (CHANT)

It was wonderful to be back in full swing this year, with new faces and old friends coming together for a few special events.

At the end of April, Father Michelle elected to hold a “**Casual Church**” service in place of our normal 10:30 Sung Eucharist. What fun! Following a short, casual service we continued the event in the sanctuary, forming into three-person teams for a scavenger hunt, meeting new people and competing to complete the contest in time for a **pizza lunch** downstairs in Luxton Hall.

Through the generosity of one of our parishioners we were able to rent a huge white tent on June 10th where we celebrated the coming summer with a fun-filled **Potluck Picnic**. The food was delicious and, as usual, we shared plenty of salads and mains and desserts. Bingo under the big tent and old-fashioned kids’ games created lots of laughs and rounded out the day.

With September, our luck held and a record crowd attended our annual **Welcome BBQ** in perfect weather (and no tent!). This year, because we have many new members, we tried something new with a little “**Open House**” in the parking lot. Many of our ministries hosted a table and willing helpers explained their work: the Choir, Sidespeople, Youth Group, Acolytes.

As new members join our parish it is becoming increasingly important to create opportunities such as these to engage everyone in activities that make them feel welcome and help them get to know each other.

If I started to thank everyone who made these events so successful, I’d soon run out of room in this report. So, to everyone who prepared and brought food; helped in the kitchen; schlepped tables and chairs; organized games for young and old; made name-tags; barbecued; updated the website and created social media content; and helped tidy up . . . THANK YOU! Many willing hands make work so light.

Respectfully submitted by
Ruth Snowden

FACILITIES REPORT

For the year 2023, the Facilities team continued to manage church properties and structures, providing a safe space for our church community and the surrounding local community. We also provided our services to our tenants: Kingsway College School and the Rectory.

This would not be possible without the amazing team of dedicated contractors we have established over the years during my time here at St. George’s, as well as the leadership of our beloved friend, Anatoli Guelfgat, who dedicated 15 years of outstanding service as our Facility Manager. Anatoli moved on to retirement in October 2023. I have some big shoes to fill, but I know I will do well because I was taught by my Mentor, Friend, Comrade, my Big Brother.

Projects in 2023 and 2024

The following projects mentioned in this report are just a few things of the many projects, repairs and replacements from 2023. I am planning to provide a comprehensive list at a later date.

Our major project at KCS this year was renovating the Art room. Our team of contractors on this project were: Altech Electrical, B&H Renovations (structural), D&D Mechanical (plumbing), and GL Industries (Mill Workers).

We are constantly evaluating and renegotiating our contracts and trades relationships for the benefits of quality and cost. This is why we brought in Oltion Qejvani, an electrician from Altech. I can't say enough about him – dedicated and true to his word, always there when you need him.

Two years ago, we hired CDW Engineering to inspect our properties, and have since managed to repair or replaced many deficiencies at Kingsway College School, St. Georges Church, and the Rectory. In 2024, we hope to tackle the electrical panels both in the church and school. We have a total of six outdated panels that need to be replaced. This is where our electrician Oltion comes into play. He is working on quotes to help us through this tactical procedure.

We had B&H Renovation Inc. remove the old wooden windowsills from the church and replace them with concrete sills, and all the stained-glass windows were caulked.

St. George's has a new community garden. This has been a long time coming! To all that were involved in this project - thank you! Special thanks to the people that donated to this project. And thank you to Brian Danby and our contractor, Dimitri Lange from Landscape Link Inc., for making this happen.

In the next few years, we are looking forward to working with David Dougall on the kitchen, Luxton Hall and washroom renovations.

Once again, we have applied for the Canada Summer Jobs Program that is funded by the Federal Government. This funding will support three young individuals, and the experience gained will play a vital role in their future endeavors. We provide training for each student to help them through the working world. We are still waiting for approval from the government and should hear from them sometime in April.

Thank You

Thank you to Miguel Nobre who officially started with us in July 2023 and has taken over my previous position. Miguel brings a wealth of computer knowledge and skill, bringing us up to date with today's changing world of technology. Miguel previously worked four years as captain of our summer students in our Canada Summer Jobs Program.

I would like to mention that Father Michelle Childs Ward is no longer with the Parish. It has been a privilege to work with Father Michelle. I wish her and her husband John all the best in their future endeavors.

I also wish to mention I&B, our cleaning company, Boris Horciak, and his amazing crew. When unexpected situations arise, they react without any hesitation. They keep our school and church spotless.

I would like to thank everyone that was involved in maintaining this beautiful property of 4600 Dundas St West.

Respectfully submitted by

Vince Marrella

Facilities Manager

1ST ETOBICOKE SCOUTS REPORT

In the 2023 season, 1st Etobicoke enjoyed continued growth in our membership and now has an expanded Scout group with first, second and third-year Scouts for the first time in several years. 2023 brought healthy membership numbers, with more opportunities to focus on skills development at all ages, in addition to new camping experiences and our usual fundraising initiatives.

In total, 1st Etobicoke had over 50 registered youth, broken down by the following:

- Beavers had 16 registered youth who enjoyed their first campfires in which new skits and songs were taught; completed a night hike along the Humber; and enjoyed their first camp experience at Blue Springs.
- Cubs had 19 registered youth who enjoyed hikes along the Humber; completed several badges; and enjoyed an end-of-year camp at Blue Springs.
- Scouts had 12 registered youth who elevated their skills for knife use, fire permits as well as axe introductions. They completed their first winter camping experience followed by their first portage trip this past September. Many of the Scouts participated in Fort George Camp again in September as well.

Our annual fundraisers, Apple Day (October 2023) and the Tree Lot (December 2023), were successful once again. These two initiatives are very sustaining for our weekly program, for badges and equipment, events, volunteer First Aid training, and camping excursion expenses. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the local community, as every year we hear of many "returning" and loyal customers.

Finally, the volunteers and youth participants of 1st Etobicoke Scouts extend their thanks to St. George's on-the-Hill for their ongoing support. We appreciate the work of the church and the school administration for arranging meeting spaces inside KCS.

Respectfully submitted by
Diana Oliver
1st Etobicoke Scouts Leader

HERITAGE & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

We are saddened by the passing of Linda Whyte and Marjorie Pitchford, former members of the committee. We are greatly indebted to both for their hard work over many years on the Heritage and Archives Committee. They will be a hard act to follow.

During the year, Mary-Anne Rodgers, Keith Grattan and Cathy Chayko joined us. Welcome to the Committee!

In February, we placed memorial flowers on the altar in memory of Archdeacon Harry St. Clair Hilchey, former Associate Priest and founder of the Heritage and Archives committee. In April, in celebration of St. George's Day (April 23), we laid out a display of past photos and other memorabilia at coffee hour following the St. George's Sunday services. The Committee also put out a display at the September Welcome BBQ.

At the end of May, our parish took part in Doors Open Toronto. A large team of volunteers provided tours of the church, its stained-glass windows, our unique organ and centuries-old cemetery for hundreds of visitors. The choir performed a short, free concert following the Sunday service.

Our committee meets on a regular basis to sort, label and organize dozens of pictures and other notable nuggets of information reflecting our heritage for future generations.

Respectfully submitted by

Ted Rouse

on behalf of Jay and Terry Brown, Cathy Chayko, Keith Grattan and Mary-Anne Rodgers

KINGSWAY COLLEGE SCHOOL (KCS) REPORT

9 February 2024

Dear St. George's on-the-Hill Community,

Please find our KCS Annual Report for our 2022/23 school year on our school's website: <https://kcsorca.finalsite.com/about-us/publications>. We believe it will provide you with a comprehensive overview of what happened at KCS during the last school year.

The 2022/23 school year started with a bit of trepidation. Would COVID-19 disrupt in-person learning when all the students returned? Thankfully, this gave way to the more usual rhythms of school life returning, with hallways busy with energetic and happy students back at school. KCS was back to normal with clubs, teams, trips, electives, assemblies, the musical, fun fairs, and so much more. Our students enjoyed their first full year of learning and being part of the KCS community since the start of the pandemic. It seems so far away now, but it really did take a toll on everyone in our community, and I want to express gratitude and a deep sense of appreciation to the St. George's on-the-Hill community for your support throughout those years.

We continued to focus on identifying opportunities for deeper learning within the curriculum through projects and intentional programming that fosters friendships and connections across grades and subjects. Whether it's through our signature small-group literacy and numeracy classes that provide more time for students to engage directly with our experienced and knowledgeable faculty or our specialized learning spaces such as our newly renovated Art Room, every student at KCS is embraced and provided with an environment necessary to reach their ultimate potential. Special guests also enriched our learning throughout the year. Our younger students enjoyed dance and drumming workshops, and author and scientist visits. Faculty and students engaged in workshops about identity and belonging, project-based learning, cross-curricular and cross-campus programming. Our students continued to represent KCS with confidence in math contests, robotics tournaments, and athletic competitions.

The opening of the doors of our new Senior School campus this year was an incredible milestone and the fulfillment of a dream. It is also reflective of the continuous work and support of many in our community. Program enhancements, like our new campus and the renovation of our Junior School Art Room are two exciting and important investments in our school that will benefit KCS students now and for generations to come.

Construction of the Senior School continued until mid-January 2023, when 23,000 sq. ft. were fully opened for use at 2183 Lake Shore Blvd West. This included a large Market Place at the heart of the school, four standard classrooms, a Science Lab, a multi-purpose area, an Art Room, a Fitness Room, multiple meeting rooms, offices and a staff workspace. It is a beautiful interior that earned a first place Metamorphosis Award for interior design this past summer. Most importantly, the school is designed to support learning and gatherings of all kinds. Grade 6-8 students joined their older schoolmates in various activities. The Senior School was also host to the KCS Gala in May.

New partnerships included The Boulevard Club and the Argonaut Rowing Club as offsite facilities to support our physical education program. We also secured a dedicated KCS bus that supports our place-based learning and serves as a daily shuttle for students commuting to and from the Junior School or subway.

The KCS Path Program continued, with every student playing a lead role in their learning on the topic of their choosing. Our other distinct co-curricular program, KCS By Design, had all students engaged in a committee of their choosing and playing a lead role in shaping the school experience in academics, arts, athletics, citizenship, and spirit.

Once again, on behalf of the entire school community, we thank Father Michelle, Father Andrew, Ran Kim and the members of the Corporation, including Janet Kincaid, for continuing to work to promote a positive relationship between KCS and St. George's on-the-Hill.

After 34 years of continuous growth and strength in our educational programming and school campuses, we are preparing to mark our 35th year during the 2023/24 school year. We are excited for you to be a part of it as we look forward to the final phase of the Senior School construction that will begin in the spring of 2024, renovations to the JK-Grade 3 outdoor playground in the summer of 2025, and new technology and instruments. On behalf of KCS, we wish all members of St. George's on-the-Hill a happy and healthy 2024.

With respect and appreciation,

Derek Logan

Head of School

LAY READERS REPORT

A heartfelt thank you to the following parishioners who contributed their talents and time to the Lay Reading ministry in 2023:

Mary Bartle
Jonathan Chevreau
Mary Coppard
Ceceile Dennis-Arthurs
Wendy Dimmock
Nancy-Lou Farrell
Keith Grattan
Michael Hartley

Melanie Hutcheson
Marlene Hutzul-Reesor
Bob James
Linda Javorski
Janet Kincaid
Janice Knowles
John Knowles
Max Maréchaux

Joy Maye
Fran McBride
Mary-Anne Rodgers
Ted Rouse
Charlotte Rouse
Noel Semple
Ruth Snowden
Mike Weir

In addition to reading the lessons each Sunday, the Lay Readers started doing the Prayers of the People.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to John Knowles who provided me with lots of guidance, helping to make the transition go so smoothly as I took over a role he filled with exceptional care for so many years.

Respectfully submitted by
Fran McBride

MARY & MARTHA'S KITCHEN REPORT

Welcome to Mary & Martha's Kitchen.

Our goal:

"To enrich women's lives intellectually, emotionally and spiritually through activities focused on women in our church and community"

This group has been meeting since 2020 and continues to grow and reach out.

2023 was a very successful year with a variety of speakers and activities:

Tim Carroll, artistic director of Shaw Festival; Ally Kirk – Paracise; Montgomery's Inn Tour and Tea; Haven Boutique; Carols in the Tavern at Montgomery's Inn; Beth Pollock, writer; Dr. Louie Mavrogiannis – Dorothy Ley Hospice; and Charlotte Rouse – floral design.

We are grateful for the women in our community meeting us in *Mary and Martha's Kitchen*.

Respectfully submitted by
Janna Adair and Heather Bacon

MUSIC & CHOIR REPORT

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
Serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.
Psalm 100*

Music at Regular and Special Worship Services

2023 was a year of consolidation, growth, hope, and gratitude for normal life.

The chancel choir added a couple of new volunteers, with two new section leads. Opportunities to "come before his presence with a song" are a weekly blessing for St. George's choir.

Occasional instrumentalists enhanced worship through regular and special services. During the year, we welcomed:

- ◆ Good Friday: András Weber, cello
- ◆ Easter Sunday and Remembrance Sunday: Elias Doyle, trumpet
- ◆ All Saint's Sunday: Collen Allen, saxophone; Marie Goudy, trumpet; Fern Lindzon, piano; and Bennett Young, double bass
- ◆ Christmas Eve: Christopher Verrette, violin; Tatsuki Shimoda, recorder; John Edwards, theorbo; and András Weber, cello



We also welcomed from our congregation:

- ◆ Keith Spurrell, guitar
- ◆ Megan Jones, clarinet
- ◆ Max Maréchaux, piano

Young piano players from my studio who played the prelude and postlude at various services were: Hector G., Charlie M., Nyna N.

If you or your child have a musical skill that you wish to contribute to worship services, please let me know (rankim@stgoth.ca)!

I am confident that a creative, exuberant musical life will continue to be an integral part of St. George's future.

Concert Series

May 7/23: Classical Awakenings

December 3/23: Joy to the World: a Christmas medley of words & song



We invite you to come and support our upcoming concerts in 2024:

May 5, 4:00pm – A Season of Growth: Canadian Sinfonietta Youth Orchestra & Chancel Choir

May 25-26 – Doors Open mini-concerts celebrating our 180th year
Dec 15 – Lessons and Carols Concert

Thank You

My sincere thanks and gratitude go out to Fr. Michelle and Fr. Andrew, as well as to James and Sarah, for their ongoing support. Fr. Michelle's last Sunday with us was Dec 31, 2023. We wish her all the best in the future.

Thank you to the other clergy, wardens, and to you, the parishioners, for your prayers and support of the music ministry at St. George's.

Last but not least, a very special thank you to our Chancel Choir for their continued hard work, enthusiasm and dedication.

The power of music can speak to people in a way that words alone cannot. ~ anon.

Respectfully submitted by

Ran Kim

Director of Music Ministry



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Our Parish Advisory Council (PAC) members are all committed lay leaders, some responsible for specific ministries such as the Chancel Guild, Sidespeople, the Youth Group, Acolytes, and Choir, and some representing their fellow parishioners without a specific portfolio. Other members are church officers, the Wardens, our Treasurer and, of course, our priest. Each member of the PAC contributes to the conversation and takes back information to their constituents. However, the purpose of the PAC is not only to share information on the work of these various groups and to inform everyone on the financial and other key measures of parish life, but to support each other in our work, create energy and enthusiasm and, very importantly, to build community.

We normally meet at 7pm in the Shared Conference Room on the second Tuesday of the month. Since our last Vestry we've met seven times, with only the January 2024 meeting moved to Zoom due to bad weather. We decided not to hold our December meeting as we had such a busy Advent calendar with the Christmas Concert, Seniors' Luncheon, preparation for the Christmas Pageant and Father Michelle's 'Leaving Lunch.'

This year, in addition to all of their other responsibilities, many members of the PAC participated in our parking lot Open House in conjunction with the September 10th Welcome BBQ, the purpose of which was to be visible to the entire congregation and to celebrate all of the work that is carried on – much of it behind the scenes.

As you'll read throughout this Congregational Report, every group and committee at St. George's has contributed magnificently again this year and we give thanks to all of our parish leaders who represent their constituents on the Parish Advisory Council: Suzanne Advani, David Dougall, Stephanie Grattan, Jeff Herold, Cal Irvine, Pam Irvine, Veronica Kitchen, James Noronha, Natalie Quinton, Ted Rouse, Keith Spurrell, and Mike Weir.

We are also very thankful for the hard work and participation of our wardens – Tony Brathwaite, Janet Kincaid, Brian Danby, and Ruth Snowden – and our Treasurer, Linda Javorski, for their active participation in the PAC. And we welcome our Interim Priest-in-Charge Reverend Andrew Sheldon to our PAC.

Respectfully submitted by
Ruth Snowden
Chair

PARISH REGISTER

Attendance

Sunday Attendance Online and in-person: **88**

Weekly Attendance Online and in-person: **111**

Life Events

Baptisms - 7

Scarlett Rose Rodrigues

Theodore William Thomas Bezanson

Kieran Connor Chhabra

Adelaide Kinley Bromley Gilmour

Arjun Luke Patel

Iris Dawn Thompson

Adelyn Rose Yamamura

Marriages – 0

Funerals – 10

Elizabeth “Libby” Leon *

James Jones

Marjorie Pitchford *

J. Kirk Howard

Leonard Everard *

Linda Whyte *

Walter Sokol

Jane Clarke

Margaret Frew

Robert Winship

** Parishioners of St. George’s*

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP REPORT

The Prayer Shawl Group continues to be active within St. George’s and within the Etobicoke community at large. There are approximately 15 women knitting and crocheting shawls. We are pleased to report that we have several new members of the group who were invited to join by parishioners and are now members themselves of the Prayer Shawl Group. Our community reaches beyond the four walls of this building.

Shawls are distributed to the St. George's community and beyond. We continue to donate to The Dorothy Ley Hospice and West Park Long Term Care Facility. We remind our St. George’s family that anyone can request a shawl, and it can also be for a joyous occasion like birth, baptism or marriage.

Our time of fellowship is important to our group. We make decisions based on consensus and everyone is encouraged and welcomed to think of new ways to expand our offerings. We donated mittens and scarves to St. James' Food Basket this year, as well as LAMP Community Health Centre, the Westway Christian Church Food Bank and the Jean Tweed Centre. This year we donated boxes of knitted items in October and November before the cold set in, as well as boxes in January as donations from the Advent Mitten Tree.

Several of our members knit and crochet washcloths and slippers that are included in the Lenten Shoe Bags that are distributed to the Jean Tweed Centre.

The group continues to keep the cost per shawl to less than \$20. This is done by carefully purchasing yarns and other materials on sale or at wholesale prices. We would like to say thank you to the members who donate yarn as well as their time in creating the prayer shawls. Doing so helps to keep our costs down. As well, parishioners have donated yarn when “cleaning house” or when moving. This helps to keep our costs down as well. We are grateful for all the donations this past year.

Respectfully submitted by

Natalie Quinton

Chair

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS AND EASTER EUCHARIST & LUNCHEON

In 2023 we were happy to resume our gatherings of senior members of the parish for Eucharist followed by lunch in Luxton Hall at both Easter and Christmas. Both events were successful gatherings with approximately 50 parishioners, clergy, staff and volunteers participating in Eucharist and enjoying a lunch of delicious homemade sandwiches and sweets accompanied by sherry and tea and coffee. Multi-generational attendees such as Imogene Baker, her son and grandson came from as far away as Brampton and several members of the community also joined us at the Christmas luncheon to enjoy fellowship at a special time of the year.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a success, including those that made sandwiches and sweets, provided rides, phoned invitations, set tables, poured sherry, tea and coffee, and provided kitchen duties. As is our custom, we also delivered goodie bags, carefully prepared by Patricia Humphrey, to those who were unable to make it out to the events.

Thanks also to the clergy for their ongoing support of these gatherings. We look forward to hosting the Easter and Christmas Eucharists and Luncheons in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by
Arlene Dougall

SIDESPERSIONS REPORT

Thank you to the parishioners who provide this necessary service for St. George's on-the-Hill.

The duties of sidespersons are:

- to greet parishioners; hand out order of service; run elevator when needed for parishioners and help them to their pew;
- to bring bread and wine to the altar for communion; take up the collection; and releasing parishioners for communion;
- to check pews for articles left behind (clothing, papers, etc.) following services.

Sidespersons this year include:

Max Maréchaux, Don Weston, Carol & Kerry Johnston, Ted Rouse, Patricia Humphrey, Jon Chevreau, Calvin Irvine, Justin Irvine, Susan MacIntyre, John Knowles, Joan Humphreys, Angelo DeGennaro, Geoffrey Dimmock, Anthony Joseph, Brian Danby, Tony and Margaret Brathwaite, and Ceceile Dennis-Arthurs.

Respectfully submitted by
Calvin Irvine

TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT

St. George's continues to grow, innovate and develop our online presence through broadcasting regular services, concerts and special events, and ensuring access to parishioners both online and offline.

Over the last three years, we have expanded the range of our technology to include a fully functional audio-visual production centre (located in the Vestry), improved cameras that allow us to capture almost every corner of the Church, a sound system, video-switching system and internet services that allow us to broadcast events from every level of the church.

St. George's continues to broadcast simultaneously on Facebook and YouTube, demonstrating that we are truly a parish without walls. We regularly broadcast services on Wednesdays and Sundays online while also making special events & concerts live and allowing families celebrating life events (Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings) to broadcast or engage with family members and guests from around the world.

This would not be possible without our A/V team which includes children, youth, young adults, and parishioners who operate the equipment, produce, direct, and manage the livestream almost every week.

Our A/V team includes Evelyn Sidey, Gwen Sidey, Kathleen Spurrell, Aiden Blair, Elliot Butler, Malcolm Semple, Keira Glasford, Suzanne Advani and James Noronha, as well as the equipment expertise of Malcolm Buchanan and Audio Operations.

Next time you're at St. George's, we would invite you to come into the Vestry and check out the developments as they offer a whole new way for St. George's to present itself to the world.

Respectfully submitted by
James Noronha



WARDENS' REPORT

A Strong and Resilient Community

2023 was another challenging year as the impact of the senseless Russia/Ukraine war continued, and the unrest in the Middle East that led to the Israeli/Hamas war, intensified. This unstable geopolitical climate has resulted in significant loss of life, serious injuries and homelessness to thousands more, and economic hardship and suffering around the globe.

While we at St. George's on-the-Hill are not immune to the global economic challenges, we continue to be a strong and resilient parish. We have been blessed with the resources to maintain and expand our parish ministries and outreach programs, all of which have been made possible through the support and dedication of our parishioners, staff and clergy.

We were all saddened by Father Michelle's resignation as Incumbent of St. George's on-the-Hill, effective December 31, 2023, after serving in this capacity for nine and a half years. We also welcome Father Andrew as our Interim Priest-in-Charge, while the Parish Selection Committee undertakes the process of identifying a new incumbent. We pray that God will guide us throughout this transition and help us to build on the solid foundation that we have had for almost 180 years. "God is with us, we're not afraid."

2023 Activities

Worship

2023 has been the first full year of uninterrupted in-person worship since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020. From January to June and September to December our 10:30 Sunday Services were held in person and livestreamed, as were the Wednesday Church by Candlelight services.

Music remains an integral part of our worship and we are blessed with an excellent Music Ministry here at St. George's on-the-Hill. Under the leadership of Ran Kim, our Director of Music, an amazing church concert was held on May 7th. We were also treated to a wonderful Christmas concert on December 3rd.

A special Jazz Eucharist was held on Sunday, November 5th at the 10:30 service with music provided by Colleen Allen and her jazz ensemble. This was a wonderful service and very positive feedback was provided by those in attendance.

Communities within St. George's Community

We're indeed fortunate and blessed to have many faithful and talented parishioners who participate in communities/groups that contribute immensely to our Outreach Programs by giving of their time, talents and offerings. These groups include the following: Prayer Shawl, Mary and Martha's Kitchen, Faith Formation, Pints of View, Family Friday (formerly Messy Church), Youth Group, Heritage and Archives Committee, Acolytes, Coffee Hour, CHaNT (Community, Hospitality and Newcomers Team) and the Communications Committee. At our Welcome BBQ last September, many of these groups took the opportunity to set up stations informing interested parishioners about the vital volunteer services they provide to the St. George's community.

We also thank Derek Logan, the Head of School at Kingsway College School, the entire school staff and its board of directors for the excellent relationship that we continue to enjoy with them.

2023 and 2024 Initiatives

Capital

- In 2023 we continued to review and develop design requirements for the Luxton Hall level Servery (kitchen) replacement and washroom upgrades. We retained Larkin Architects (Diocese recommended consultants) to review our proposal and provide preliminary drawings for discussion and budgeting. With the help of David Dougall and Anatoli Guelfgat (our facilities manager), we assembled an initial budget for consideration. We look forward in 2024 to evaluating the recommended budget and our immediate servery and washroom needs. This project will require significant capital fundraising which got a kick-start in the fall with the Time, Talents and Treasures auction organized by a group of parishioners led by Max Maréchaux. Approximately \$9,000 was raised from this event. In the meantime, we also appreciate the efforts by Mary-Anne Rodgers in keeping our servery organized and tidy.
- The stained-glass window frames in the church were all painted and caulked, and the sills replaced in summer of 2023.
- Garden update: We established a direction to refresh the garden along the south side of the church, adjacent to the Drennan – Bailey Garden. With the financial assistance of the Drennan bequest, it was decided that we would initiate a Community Garden with a view to addressing and contributing to local food insecurity. A local landscape architect was retained to provide an overall design to re-develop the space. This was presented to the Parish Advisory Council and then issued to trades for quotations. The existing garden was cleaned up, removing old shrubs and weeds, after which we constructed the raised planter bed and added new soil. We trust that by now everyone has seen this progress! For spring 2024, we look forward to establishing a Community Garden Team to develop a strategy for planting and maintaining our new garden. We will also start installing an irrigation system and adjacent proposed garden shrubs.
- Rectory: The gutters at the rectory needed repair and the cost of leaf removal was increasing significantly. As a result, we decided to replace the existing gutters and to install “leaf guards” to reduce maintenance.
Our tenants advised us that the washing machine was not operating properly and caused problems. A new machine was purchased to avoid unnecessary repair bills.

Outreach

Throughout 2023, our parish, parishioners, individuals and the St. George’s Outreach Fund supported many outreach initiatives, as the urgent needs of the most vulnerable groups in our community and beyond continued to increase. The following are some of the recipients of your outreach contributions:

- A \$7,000 donation to St. Margaret New Toronto Anglican Church to assist with repairs to their elevator.
- A \$6,000 donation to the St. James Food Basket.
- Out of The Cold dinners/food donations to All Saints, Kingsway (individual donations).
- Food donations to the Daily Food Bank collected from parishioners.
- Donation of Lenten “shoe bags” prepared by the women of St. George’s to women in need at the Jean Tweed Centre.
- Gifts of blessed Prayer Shawls knitted by the Prayer Shawl Group for those in need of physical and spiritual comfort.
- \$1375 in food vouchers given to those in need.

Thank you to everyone for the donations of your time, talents and tangible gifts. Your generosity is truly appreciated, and we look forward to your continued support in 2024.

Communication

Effective and efficient communication continues to be of paramount importance for us as we embrace and use technology, while still being mindful of those parishioners who prefer traditional methods of communicating.

In late 2023, a communications committee was formed with the goal of reaching a wider audience in our community and beyond. In addition to the use of social media, the committee will also utilize local community news publications to promote special events and services.

We have also engaged the services of our facilities technical specialist, Miguel Nobre, who has a technology background to assist and advise us on IT-related matters on a contract part-time/as-needed basis.

On May 27 and 28, we participated in Doors Open Toronto, an annual event where approximately 150 buildings of architectural, historic and social significance to the city of Toronto open their doors to the public. This gave us the opportunity to showcase St. George's and its historical significance. Special thanks to the Heritage & Archives Committee for making this a success.

Finally, a key component of our communication at St. George's is the interaction among parishioners and others through gatherings such as coffee hour, Contemplative Prayer, Wednesday Faith Formation, pancake dinners, Mary and Martha's Kitchen gatherings, Family Fridays (formerly Messy Church) and Pints of View.

Gratitude

Your churchwardens thank all the St. George's parishioners/community for your support and regular giving in 2023, as well as your donations of time and talent to various outreach and other church initiatives. Through your commitment and unswerving support, St. George's financial situation remains satisfactory.

Thank you to parishioners who contributed their time as organizers, volunteers and participants of: Lay Readers, Acolytes, Lay Anointers, Chancel Guild, Choir, Heritage and Archives, Investment Committee, Cemetery Committee, Sidespeople, Parish Advisory Council, Outreach, Prayer Shawl Group, Gardeners, Children, Youth and Adult Ministries, Coffee Hour hosts, Seniors' Outreach, Community, Hospitality and Newcomers Team, Mary and Martha's Kitchen and Pints of View.

Thank you to our clergy: Father Michelle, who resigned effective December 31st, Father Andrew, Father Pearce and Reverend Janet for their spiritual guidance and leadership. We especially thank Father Michelle for being our Incumbent Priest for the past nine and a half years and wish her all the best and God's blessings for the future.

Thank you to Ran, our Director of Music, and the Sunday choristers as well as Mark and the Wednesday evening Candlelight Service choristers.

Thank you to James, our Director of Youth Ministry for overseeing our youth as they organize and deliver our communication technology operations such as the livestreaming of services in addition to coordinating our other youth programs.

Thank you to our St. George's staff:

- To Sarah, our administrator who consistently continues to go above and beyond.
- To Linda, our volunteer treasurer for ensuring that our financial records and reporting are up to date and accurate and to Michael, our bookkeeper.
- To Dirk, our cemetery manager.
- To Anatoli, our facilities manager, who retired at the end of December. We wish him all the best in his retirement. Anatoli managed all the church and school facilities and the rectory, ensuring all systems and buildings were kept in excellent condition with assistance from Vince, our maintenance assistant who assumed the manager's role on October 1st, and from Carmen, the staff cleaner.
- To Miguel, who joined the facilities team on September 1st as an assistant to Vince.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you, the parishioners at St. George's. It has been a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Your 2023 Churchwardens,

Tony Brathwaite, Janet Kincaid, Ruth Snowden & Brian Danby

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

The Youth Group continues to be a strong and vital force at St. George's. It currently consists of 30+ young people and includes youth between the ages of 11 and 19 with frequent visits by our young adult alumni. Whether it be through social conversation, board games, supporting faith formation or children's programming, our Youth Group has proven its ability to combine fun and exciting recreational activities with service projects, social justice awareness and outreach activities that reach out into our community and beyond.

In the past year, the Youth group continued to be involved in social service projects such as Street Patrol, where youth group members prepared lunches and delivered them on the streets of Toronto to those facing housing and food insecurity. The youth group was also involved in successful food, clothing and hygiene drives for local shelters and support services for women and children.

Within the Parish, you will see the Youth and Children of the parish acting as readers and acolytes on the first Sunday of every month. You will also have seen them involved in the organization of the Welcome BBQ and supporting the delivery of Messy Church (now Family Friday) and Children's Programming.

The Youth Group helped deliver Lenten and Holy Week programming, including this year's Pancake Supper, the Good Friday services, and the Easter Vigil.





The Youth Group was also instrumental in running the annual Easter Egg Hunt which in 2023 saw more than 1000 eggs hidden in the cemetery and around the church. In the fall, the Youth Group and Church Kids family planned Church in the Orchard, which involved a Eucharist and apple picking in a local apple orchard with our families.

Nowhere is the commitment of our Youth, Young Adults, Children and Families on better display than in the Christmas Pageant. In 2023, the Youth Group created a brand-new Christmas pageant from scratch! This year's production was a Christmas pageant called "Into the Multiverse" which combined modern pop culture and music with the Christmas story. The Youth Group, led by James Noronha and Veronica Kitchen, created the new production that included everything from Barbie, Marvel Superheroes, Mario Brothers and Paw Patrol in a retelling of the Christmas Story for all ages. The production included parents, kids, youth, parishioners and volunteers involved as actors, costumers, directors and producers. Altogether, more than 50 people were involved in this year's pageant.

Finally, the Youth of St. George's have been instrumental in ensuring the continuation of online and virtual services. Youth group members have been trained on the use of our audiovisual and streaming equipment and are involved in the weekly production and delivery of church services on Wednesday and Sunday as well as ensuring that special events and concerts are broadcast to our community.



You will also catch Youth Group members in the weekly readings and prayers of the people, and in services such as Remembrance Day, the annual Indigenous Day of Prayer and Pride Celebrations. We are deeply grateful for their continued involvement in ensuring the ongoing success of parish programming.

We would like to thank everyone at St. George's on-the-Hill for their guidance and support. Thanks to you, our youth have become a wonderful example of faith through action, and we give thanks for their continued support and participation in the life of our parish.

Respectfully submitted by
James Noronha

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Clergy and Staff

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew Sheldon
Honourary Associate: The Rev. Janet Sidey
Honourary Associate: The Rev. Dr. Pearce J Carefoote
Director of Music Ministry: Ran Kim
Director of Candlelight Chamber Choir: Mark Wood-Salomon
Director of Youth Ministry: James Noronha
Parish Administrator: Sarah Pascoe
Bookkeeper: Michael Smith
Cemetery Manager: Dirk Albishausen
Facilities Manager: Vince Marrella
Facilities Technical Specialist: Miguel Nobre
Day Porter: Carmen Moscoso Jr.

The Corporation

Janet Kincaid, People's Warden
Ruth Snowden, Deputy People's Warden
Tony Brathwaite, Rector's Warden
Brian Danby, Deputy Rector's Warden
Linda Javorski, Treasurer

Leadership & Staff list current as of February 23, 2024

St. George's on-the-Hill Anglican Church

- Anglican Church of Canada -
Area of York-Credit Valley, Diocese of Toronto

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