

# COMMON SUPPLICATIONS

PROCLAIM THE LOVE OF CHRIST | ENGAGE AND INVOLVE  
MUSICAL OUTREACH | OPEN DOORS

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## THANK YOU, PARISH CHOIR!

Thank you for a fantastic end-of-season concert! St. John's is fortunate to have a group of so many talented musicians. Kate Wright's "Pop Up" Children's Choir was a joy; it was wonderful to see so many young people in the church!

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# FROM THE RECTOR

WHILE HE SPENT TIME in towns and cities, Jesus was outside walking a lot. He found himself near water and rivers, on mountains, hills and plains, and in wilderness and deserts. Being in the company of fisherman, even though they left their nets to follow him, he spent time on boats, caught in storms, and stilling storms. “Who is this?” they asked, “even the winds and the waves obey him!” All together, Jesus was outside a lot, exposed to the elements, gazing at the stars, and allowing the wild beasts to minister to him.

This is what I associate with summer - being outside. But my being outside is in the privileged position of a recreational activity rather than occupational requirement.

Recognizing that we are experiencing more unseasonable storms, fires and extreme weather conditions, clearly the earth requires our attention, because it’s certainly getting our attention. It is why at our General Synod this summer, a national assembly of the Anglican Church of Canada with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, our Bishop moved a motion to address what is described as one of the most pressing moral issues of our time: the climate emergency.

We all share a responsibility to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions so that Canada can reach a science-based target of global temperature increases at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius. It’s hefty stuff, but in fulfilment of our baptismal promises, you and I can do our part to help fulfill this goal.

Addressing the climate crisis and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples of Canada are pressing moral obligations that we all share as a church. I invite you to take opportunities to learn, reflect and educate yourself on these issues. If you are interested in being involved in some aspect of this at St. John’s, let me know.

There is much to be grateful for at St. John’s Elora, and I feel so privileged to work, pray, learn and worship with you each week. I invite you join me in being a part of God’s work here as we proclaim the love of Christ, reach out with our music program, engage and involve others, and open our doors to the community.

If you would like to receive the weekly Pastoral Letter with reflection and update of events, please let me know. Thank you for your commitment to St. John’s.

God bless and keep you this summer.

Paul+



The Rector will be on holiday from August 1-September 3. Thank you to Rev. John Lockyer for celebrating the liturgies in August.

# PROCLAIM THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Truth and Reconciliation Day

Truth and Reconciliation Day is September 30. St John's will be reaffirming our commitment to reconciliation on Sunday, October 1.

### Portage

A small group of dedicated volunteers lead Bible Studies at Portage on Monday nights. If you would like to be involved, please contact Rod Murray.

### Parish Register Funerals

Joyce Hill  
Mary Catherine Copp  
Philip Graham Dunsmore  
Maureen Reid

### Baptisms

Mason Thomas Dolby Johnson



## Would you like to be a member of the Altar Guild?

The Altar Guild are a group of dedicated people who prepare the vessels for the Eucharist and clear up after services together with laundering linens and changing the frontals on the Altar when required. If you interested to participate contact Pam Gradwell or Susan Hirst via the church office.

## Safe Church

As part of our commitment to Proclaim the Love of Christ, and in accordance with diocesan policy, all volunteers at St. John's are required to sign an acknowledgement of the diocesan Safe Church policy. The policy outlines what constitutes abuse, harassment, and bullying and sets out measures to protect everyone from those behaviours. A copy of the Safe Church policy is available on the diocesan website and in the Parish Centre. You may also access the policy by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone's camera. Between now and October, Thomas will be ensuring that everyone's signed acknowledgement is on file. If you have any concerns, please speak to Thomas Littlewood or the Rector.





# ENGAGE AND INVOLVE

## The Coronation at St John's

BY THOMAS LITTLEWOOD

No one celebrates a coronation like St. John's! And this year, Charles III's coronation gave us two opportunities to celebrate. It coincided with our Patronal Feast, so we were able to have a Coronation Luncheon on May 7, capably organized by Bob Cooper. We had everything all set up to have the luncheon outside, but the weather had other plans. Nevertheless, we squeezed into Thompson Hall and enjoyed a huge spread! The liturgy that morning was filmed by CTV Kitchener, and I was embarrassed to see myself on the 6PM news that evening.



And, of course, Coronation Evensong followed a few weeks later, and we had another occasion to celebrate. The liturgy featured C.H.H. Parry's *I Was Glad*, composed for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 and an inspiring homily from the Rev. Leighton Lee, Rector of St Mark's, Niagara-on-the-Lake. This time, the weather was glorious, and we were able to be on the lawn for a scrumptious Garden Tea organized by Pam Gradwell. Joyce Reimer treated us all to some lovely tunes on the bagpipes.

## Looking ahead

### Men's Group

For the first time since the pandemic, the Men's Group will have dinner on **September 6 at 6:30**. Fred Thompson is the speaker.

Cost: \$30

### All Things Bright and Beautiful

We're hosting a sale of small items (jewellery, scarves, purses, and pictures) on **September 23** at the Parish Centre. For more, speak to Barb Dunsmore. You may drop off items at the Parish Centre on Wednesday mornings



# ENGAGE AND INVOLVE



## Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

BY DORIS M'TIMKULU

Harvest Tea was a good fundraiser for PWRDF, an effective outreach to the community, especially to older folks, and an invigorating partnership with St. James, Fergus. An annual event since 2012, only interrupted by the pandemic, it raised \$16,274 for boat ambulances in Bangladesh; solar suitcases for Mozambique; hand pumps for Kenya; humanitarian relief in the Sahel, Tanzania and South Sudan; safe water for Pikangikum, ON; and small loans for indigenous youth in B.C. However, our PWRDF group concluded this spring that that event has run its course. So we are looking for new ways to engage with PWRDF and its partners. **We invite your feedback about how we can continue this work.**

Recent headlines in the news stimulated the PWRDF group to consider “climate action – creation care”. Wild fires, torrential floods, droughts, tornadoes and hurricanes, killing heat – these were events which we used to associate mainly with the global south – SE Asia, Africa and Latin America. It happened “over there”. Now Canadians have to grapple with the “new norm”: thousands of displaced persons, homes and all belongings lost to fire or water, health-threatening air pollution. These impacts remind us that we all live under the same sun.

**Can we turn this understanding and empathy into action in our lives?** In the fall we plan to ask you to share with all of us what changes, however minute, you have made to mitigate the impact of climate change and care a bit more intentionally for God’s glorious creation. Together we do make a difference, for better or for worse.

In the first half of the year, St. John’s parishioners gifted \$4,895 to PWRDF, with \$1,600 designated to work in Ukraine. PWRDF designated \$100,000 to Hungarian Interchurch Aid after the Kherson dam disaster. Twenty tons of food and hygiene items were distributed within a week of the dam destruction.

This Fall we will welcome two speakers in our midst: Dr. William Ogara is visiting from Kenya. Many of you will remember him from previous visits. Later, a PWRDF staff member will speak to us about creation care in their program focus. Stay tuned for further information.

We would warmly welcome a few more parishioners to our group. Please speak to Nancy at the 9.00 service or to Elaine, Janet or Doris at the 11.00 pm service.

# MUSICAL OUTREACH

## The New Organ

BY JURGEN PETRENKO



Originally built in 1937, our two manual Casavant organ console has served well for almost 90 years. However, in recent years it has been showing its age, and is becoming increasingly less reliable. Furthermore, as the organ has grown, its resources have exceeded the capacity of a two-manual console.

In the fall of 2022, we were able to acquire a three-manual console. This console began its life in the 1990s, as a Rodgers electronic organ. The entire console was stripped down to its keyboards, and new state-of-the-art pipe organ components have been lovingly installed by Derek Verveer and his crew at Oxford Organs. This renovation has been going on for months, and is nearing completion. The work of installing the new console is set to begin on July 26, and is expected to take about four weeks to complete.

This new console will give us greater reliability for the pipe organ part of our instrument, as well as finally allowing us to make full use of the electronic division donated by the estate of David Rogers in 2012. The organ will retain the characteristic sound that we love and enjoy, but with the addition of numerous lower-sounding stops and solo colours to add richness to the ensemble.

## Trinity Bach Concert

TRINITY BACH PROJECT is an eight-voice vocal and instrumental ensemble dedicated to performing J. S. Bach's choral repertoire. This summer, members of the ensemble are touring southern Ontario with Italian violinist Elisa Citterio, former Music Director of Tafelmusik. The one-hour program at will feature instrumental works by Bach and Corelli and Handel's "Gloria" for soprano. The TBP will be at St. John's on **August 6** at **7PM**.



# MUSICAL OUTREACH

## From Patrick Murray

This past year marked many new beginnings for music at St. John's. In addition to finally having a full liturgical season of singing for the Parish Choir again, here are some other highlights:

- Our inaugural **Bach Meditations Series** and re-imagined **Recital and Concert Series** brought in new audiences/listeners, culminating in the Parish Choir's year-end community concert which was our largest attendance at an event this year.
- We relaunched our children's music program in June with the **Pop-Up Choir** under the leadership of Kate Wright. We look forward to the newly inaugurated **Elora Children's Choir** meeting regularly on Mondays in the fall under Kate's direction and singing at several church and community events throughout the year.
- The monthly **Compline** service and choir grew a steady and dedicated membership both from within and outside the church and provided a space for anyone to come and sing at St. John's. Compline will continue in the fall on the first Tuesday of the first full week of each month.
- We announced a three-year **choral commissioning project** that will see the Parish Choir premiere and record new works by composers Andrew Balfour, Sarah Quartel, and Roderick Williams, deepening our commitment to supporting the work of composers who are continuing the living tradition of sacred choral music. More information about ways to support this initiative will follow in the fall.

None of this would have been possible without the talent and dedication of the musicians we retain here at St. John's within the Parish Choir, as well as the support of this entire community and the extra support of those who made targeted donations to these new programs. I'm looking forward to continuing each of these as part of our regular musical offerings next season, as well as continuing to explore new ways of reaching out through the music that we make.

### Note from the Wardens

In 2022, Vestry approved the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Endowment Fund and \$15,000 from internal trusts to pay for the installation of a new organ. We are also installing new microphones in the church to better the livestream and recording capabilities. This was also a budgeted expenditure, and is running well below budget.



# OPEN DOORS

PETER BARR AND COLLEEN MURRAY



This is an exciting time in the life our parish. On June 18th we began a series of updates and conversations about our Open Doors project between the Church and the Parish Centre. The coffee hour after each service included a short update from members of the project organizing committee and the conversation that followed was full of excitement for our future.

Two years ago we approved a Vision for St. John’s with four areas of priority. It was a bold vision: Proclaim the Love of Christ; Engage and Involve; Musical Outreach; and Open Doors.

The Open Doors team has met now several times, and we have broken into three sub-groups: Communications, Community Engagement, and Finances. We are joined by two representatives from the diocese who will lend their wisdom of working on many similar projects.

The Community engagement group has been busy talking with various community groups about their space needs while also sharing our plans. They have found the interest to be very high as there is a shortage of space available for such groups in Centre Wellington. The research has revealed a significant need for public health certified food preparation facilities and hosting space. There is also a need for rentable meeting space for other organizations in town. These needs and our own requirements inform the project plan.

The Finance group is busy working on a budget. They are supported by Marshall Horner from the diocese and are seeking approval from the diocese to use funds from property sales.

**“St. John’s is uniquely situated in a healthy position so that we can imagine, by God’s grace, a ministry that continues to grow on the strengths of our past and create a space for fostering faith and human flourishing in our community for the future.” -Canon Paul Walker (Vision Paper, June 2021)**

## Project Team:

**Peter Barr** (co-chair)  
**Colleen Murray** (co-chair)  
**Terry Charters** (Bishop's  
Advisory Committee on  
Church Buildings)  
**Pam Gradwell**  
**Marshall Horner**  
(Financial Advisory  
Committee)  
**Thomas Littlewood**  
**Jeff Ostic**  
**Catherine Robertson**  
**Chris Rynberk**  
**Rev. Canon Paul Walker**  
**Jon Warland**  
**Kate Wright**



# OPEN DOORS

## Why now?

- Our electric service is at maximum capacity and does not meet the building code.
- Our heating and cooling system is also near its life end. We cannot upgrade that system without more power.
- We have been debating accessibility for decades and we know that we will need to comply with standards for accessibility by 2025. These three items alone account for approximately 60% of the cost the project cost and must be done.
- Our kitchen facilities in Thompson Hall are also in very bad condition and have failed in each of the three parish events this year. Even if repaired they will not meet public health certification requirements.
- We have the resources. There are significant amounts in our endowments from past campaigns to address accessibility that are also available for this project. Barb Watkins said at one of our information sessions:

**“I have known the majority of people who have donated to the Endowment Fund over the years, and I feel strongly that they would absolutely endorse the direction of the Open Doors project.”**

Finally, the organizing committee is overseeing the applications to the municipality approvals. Through the offices of SRM Architects, led by fellow parishioner, Edward Thomas, and with the support of Terry Charters, we have engaged professional writers for both planning and Heritage approvals. Applications have been submitted, and we have received some preliminary feedback from municipal staff that has been encouraging. Neither has come before committee yet, but we hope to hear more shortly. Once these are complete (hopefully by the end of the summer), we will approach the Bereavement Authority of Ontario for our plans to move the columbarium. We will do this in consultation with the families of those buried in the columbarium and those who have purchased niches.

We are excited about the potential for Open Doors within our parish. This is the final step in the realization of our parish vision. It is the path to our future.

If you would like to make a targeted donation to the Open Doors project, please speak with one of the co-Chairs (Peter Barr or Colleen Murray), or the Rector.

# Our Past and Our Future

## St John's in History #21:

Remarks by Reverend Robert Hulse at the celebration of his 20th anniversary at St John's

Submitted by Susan Edwards

"...Elora was then regarded to be in the 'sticks'! The budget was \$5,000, and the Diocese kept this parish going with a substantial mission grant to help meet the needed budget each year. But it was those loyal committed parishioners who kept the place alive. The Parish list had 75 names which included a number of people who never darkened the door. So really there were about 20 individuals and 20 or so families to carry the whole responsibility. I can still clearly see their shining faces for they were always in their pews on Sunday morning, undaunted by weather, adversity or the Rector's feeble efforts to minister to them.

"When I arrived on September 15, 1964 the parishioners said very little. But I'm afraid I gave them good reason to suspect that nothing would ever come of the latest cleric. My absent-mindedness was obvious from the first Sunday. I am sure that someone had warned me that the First and Third Sundays were Holy Communion, but I came down the aisle that morning prepared for Morning Prayer. The poor people must have wondered at the celebrant's bizarre attire of scarf and hood, and the unusually confused sermon which seemed to have no bearing on the Gospel but had strange echoes of the second lesson for Morning Prayer.

"And as though that were not enough I committed the unforgivable sin of putting Harvest Home on the second Sunday in October. Now everyone knows that the beloved festival must be observed no later than the first Sunday else the severe frost will have rendered the gardens from which the essential decorations of the Service are obtained, black and useless. After the service on the First Sunday the head of the Altar Guild dressed me down in no uncertain terms. And sure enough, the following Wednesday the hoary crystals covered everything, reducing the vegetation to dust and ashes.

"For many years thereafter, Harvest Home was on the last Sunday of September, just to be on the safe side."



## Anniversary

In 2025, we celebrate 150 years of worship in the present church building. There will be opportunities to celebrate our witness to the Gospel in this place.

# SUPPORTING ST JOHN'S

## Financial Extract

FROM THE TREASURER

Our income is thus running slightly below budget (approx. \$4,000). Our expenses are approximately \$8,000 above budget, and therefore our 'bottom line' deficit is about \$12,000 higher than we expected to be at this stage in the year. The actual deficit is \$8,867 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$3,574.

In addition to the above offerings, we have received nearly \$5,000 in donations for the PWRDF, including \$1,600 for Ukraine relief.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Wardens invite your intentional giving to the Choir Fund to support the upcoming choral season. If you are away from the parish this summer, please remember that our costs continue, and we depend on your regular generous support.

You can support St John's through:

- **Offering Envelopes** (available from the Parish Office)
- **Pre-Authorized Giving** (forms are available on the website under "Donate" or at the back of the church)
- **E-transfer** treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Contact Thomas Littlewood if you have a question about givings or if you would like to change your PAG givings.

Income	Actual	Budget
Offerings	96,752	100,000
Choir	33,978	35,000
Concert Series	12,196	12,000
Facilities hire	1,925	2,100
Investment Fund	107,950	107,950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252,801</b>	<b>257,050</b>



Elizabeth Litch is this year's recipient of the Florence Nightingale Award for community service. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

The next issue of *Common Supplications* will be published in late October. Please consider submitting a piece to Thomas before October 20.



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