



NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MATTHEW'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
1600 NORFOLK ST.
WINDSOR, ONTARIO
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Photos on this page:
St. Matthew's Banner
and
Easter Sunday Altar
by
Gordon Drake

The Journey At St. Matthew's

VOLUME IX ISSUE I EASTER 2021

"We are called to share God's love as we welcome and care for our community"



A Message from Our Rector

"We are an Easter people" is a common declaration among Christians. As with other familiar sayings, this one is open to many interpretations. But what do we actually mean by saying that we are an Easter people? One explanation might be that over time Christians have emphasized the importance of the Easter story by extending the celebration to a fifty-day period. These are the Great Fifty Days, during which we sing our Easter hymns and share our joy with others. Try greeting random strangers with the words "Happy Easter" sometime in early May, and you'll likely be met with some puzzled expressions, or even the reply, "wasn't that a while ago?" This would be a perfect opportunity to share with them what being an Easter people is all about!

But let's dig a bit deeper for a moment. It seems to me that the more fitting expression for us to use is, "We are a resurrection people." Now we're getting to the heart of the matter! Resurrection people are those who believe that God's power to give life overcame the death which Jesus suffered on the cross. Resurrection people don't deny the reality of physical death, but they do deny its ultimate power over us. Resurrection people understand that everything that Jesus represented was vindicated by an endlessly loving, life-giving God. And resurrection people trust that this same life-giving presence and power is at work throughout all of creation, bringing a new reality into being: God's realm... God's dominion... God's government... God's household... as the organizing principle of life here on earth. And so, we offer those oft-repeated words of prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven."

We understand that in Christ Jesus, heaven and earth were brought into perfect unity. Similarly, we trust that God's plan for reconciliation extends to us as well. Not only are we meant to look and hope for the coming of God's kingdom, but we are invited to be active participants in the unfolding of God's resurrection plan. We do this best by affirming life in abundance, for all God's creatures.

As followers of Christ we are invited to consider all the life-giving thoughts, words and actions that we recognize in the world around us. How might we add to the goodness that God is already bringing into being? How might we be life-affirming and death-denying in our everyday lives? By attending to this way of living, we'll be sure to experience life as an Easter people... as people of the resurrection.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Andreas†

From Our Parish Council



St. Matthew's Anglican Church

1600 Norfolk Street, Windsor, ON Canada N9E 1H5
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Dear St. Matthew's Parishioners,

By the time you read this, we will have passed the second Easter without the comfort and joy of celebrating the Triduum together. Like the Israelites wandering alone in the desert, we have struggled to keep alive the spirit of St. Matthew's that we love and cherish; but help is on its way. Day by day the influx of life-saving vaccines increases. For us the period of loneliness and isolation will be more like 400 days instead of 40 years!

Meanwhile, Rev'd. Andreas, your Wardens and the Parish Council, are working hard to maintain the Church property and keep our finances in order. Income is down but so are our expenses so that relative to where we were last year at this time, our financial position has remained stable. Thanks to a suspension of payments on our roof loan and government subsidies during the pandemic, we are able to stay afloat. Our favourable financial position will enable us to reopen in due course, and even follow through with our plan to hire a part-time administrative assistant, as approved at the 2020 vestry meeting. Our thanks go out to Jane Patterson for her expert work in maintaining the books and making monthly reports, and to our faithful parishioners who have maintained their level of support during these difficult times.

Most other church activities remain in a state of suspension. Even our plans for an outdoor garden and bake sale this spring had to be abandoned due to the pandemic, and the provincial shut-down that is now in effect. Let us hold fast for a few more weeks until we can once again join together in worship and song. In the meantime:

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10.

Yours in Christ,

Gordon Drake and Ann Hucal,
Wardens.



Our first virtual Vestry meeting was held on Zoom, on February 7, 2021.

The meeting was kept short, but included remembrance of our saints, financial reports, Parish Council membership, and the Rector's reflection.

Our Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:30 PM, currently in a virtual conference format due to the pandemic. For more information, please contact our rector or our wardens.

Symbolism of the Easter Egg

Eggs are natural vessels for dormant new life, so it is not surprising that they were adopted as mystical symbols since ancient times. There is archeological evidence of dyes on eggs in Central Europe, as far back as 4,500 BC.

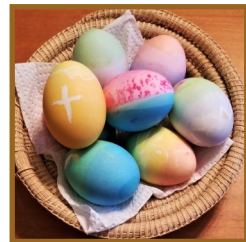
Pysanky is the name for Ukrainian eggs coloured in intricate designs, by means of dyes and beeswax (example in the photo, right). In pre-Christian times, the colours and patterns on them had specific meanings, and the eggs were used to convey messages, for example, blue for good health, or black for respect and remembrance; a spider meant patience, and a butterfly, transformation. In the 10th Century, when Christianity became the official religion of Ukraine, all pagan practices were banned, including *Pysanky*, but people continued this art in secret, and eventually the eggs were adapted and accepted as a Christian symbol, and specifically, to celebrate the Resurrection.



There are a couple of legends in Eastern Christianity regarding Mary Magdalene and eggs; one says that she had brought a basket with cooked eggs to the tomb, which turned red when she saw the risen Christ. For some Christians, cracking Easter eggs symbolizes opening the empty tomb, and Greek Orthodox families stain hard boiled eggs with red dye as a reminder of the blood of Christ. In the photo, right, an example at St. Kosmas Aitolos Greek Orthodox Monastery, Bolton, Ontario, Canada (image licensed for reproduction: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_Paschal_Egg_with_Cross.JPG).



It is believed that in Medieval times in Europe, since eating eggs was not allowed during Lent, they were boiled and decorated, to be offered as gifts and consumed on Easter Sunday. In the photo, right, a basket of hard boiled eggs, decorated for Easter. In The Czech Republic, on Easter Monday, boys use willow branches, braided together and decorated, to whip girls to confer good luck and health; the girls give the boys decorated eggs in return.



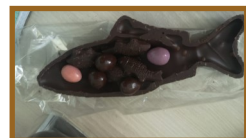
During Victorian times, egg shapes made of cardboard were covered in satin, and filled with gifts for Easter. In France and Germany, chocolate Easter eggs started to appear around the same time, although they were hard and bitter; they evolved in time to the sweet confections - sometimes hollow and hiding surprises inside - that are now enjoyed all around the world. In the photo, right, wrapped Easter eggs with an assortment of creamy fillings.



In France, fish shapes (an early Christian symbol), are also used for Easter chocolate confections, often stuffed with smaller chocolate fish and eggs, as shown in the photos, right.



Refs: <https://www.unian.info/society/2030-famed-ukrainian-easter-eggs-pysanky-have-a-rich-religious-and-cultural-history.html> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_egg
<https://english.radio.cz/czech-easter-tradition-whipping-girls-8164899>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/17597617>



Text, and egg photos (except red) by Irene Savva; French chocolate fish photos by Gabriela Savva

On each Sunday morning from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon, Rev'd. Andreas and/or the Church Wardens will be present in person at the Church to receive cheques and donations. We will adhere to the health guidelines of physical distancing (maintaining a distance of 2 meters between individuals).

Auto-deduction giving – Please consider this option, which helps us meet our monthly financial obligations, **especially during the pandemic**. To learn more about it, change amount (a small increase can make a big difference!) or switch from credit card to bank account, please contact Beth Felet, our envelope secretary, at (519) 969-3035.

The Journey wants to know: Life during and after COVID19

It has been over a year now since the COVID19 pandemic was officially declared by the World Health Organization. *The Journey* asked the congregation: "How has your life changed during this year, both due to temporary restrictions, and in more permanent ways moving forward?" Thank you to all who have responded with their thoughts and stories!

How families are coping with mandatory social distancing:

From Vicky Paraschak: The extended Paraschak family are all doing well and taking care of each other, sometimes by helping out and sometimes by agreeing not to see each other, except at a distance. Like so many other families, we have missed being able to gather the whole gang together for special events like birthdays, Christmas and Easter. We look forward to being able to do that again in the future, but are remaining committed to keeping our bubbles of interaction limited. Very soon, all who qualify for getting a vaccine in our extended family will have done so, which is a way of keeping ourselves and especially those we love and our community as healthy and protected as possible. Irene gets daily visits from her daughters, and continues to enjoy the company of her three cats. Donna watches over Amanda's three children while their parents work. When possible, mid-morning walks in the woods have been occurring, which can include two family dogs, and everyone from Great Grandma Paraschak to Adaline, who is almost 7 months old. We love spending time outdoors in nature and this practice will remain a preferred part of our day from here on in.

From Jane Sparrow (daughter of Helen Jones): I hadn't been able to be physically present since October of last year, but spoke nightly with my 96 year-old mother. It has been like reading a travelogue and not actually being able to experience the location. However, two weeks ago I was classified as an essential caregiver, and coupled with weekly COVID19 testing, authorized to visit in person.

The first chance I got, I surprised my mom. I slowly entered her apartment and quietly announced my presence. We sat together on the sofa for a long time saying nothing. Mom held my arm and then her hand on my knee taking turns gently squeezing. Each time she squeezed she repeated, "you are real, you're not a dream?" I reassured her it was really me. Her eyes now had a twinkle I had missed for so long. We talked about the usual things but it seemed different from our nightly chats. By the time I left she appeared more alert and happier. I sat in my car for a few moments wiping tears away and feeling like I had my mom back.

We still speak nightly but that is accompanied with a personal visit once or twice a week. Our talks are more animated now and she seems to be more energetic. The 'I love you' means more now when it is accompanied by a long gentle hug.

Continue on next page ...

... Cont. ... Life during and after COVID-19

How businesses are managing in-person and travel restrictions:

From Marwan Taqtaq (as told to Irene Savva):

The pandemic has affected everyone's jobs, and for Windsor, the border closure and international travel restrictions have imposed further damage to the local economy, especially for family businesses, as can be attested at the Windsor Tunnel Duty Free Shop, a second generation family owned and operated business serving Windsor-Detroit commuters and travellers since 1986; low traffic at the border has meant dramatically reduced business at the shop. In spite of the great challenges, the Taqtaq family remains respectful of all the safety measures in place, with the hope that the roll-out of the vaccine will allow for the re-opening of the border in the not so distant future. On a personal note, Mr. Taqtaq has received his first shot, and Mrs. Taqtaq was scheduled to receive hers, as this newsletter was being prepared.

<https://www.tunneldutyfree.com/>

From Carol Caverzan

TO ZOOM, OR NOT TO ZOOM? ... THAT IS THE QUESTION

My "cognitive/legal capacity assessment" practice has moved online. In fact, most of my personal and professional engagements have been via Zoom for a year now. I have also just recently agreed to present as part of a webinar (in April) for a Windsor law firm..... a first for me.

It feels as though the motto "Stay Calm and Carry On" (in the face of a pandemic, no less) has prevailed! Yet I can Zoom all I want, but I miss being in the company of those I care about.....those I love.....I miss being in the company of friends and colleagues..... I miss seeing their faces up-close and personal. I don't have their very real physical presence to help me better understand how they are coping.....I miss observing their non-verbals, which tell me how they are **really** feeling. I miss giving them a hug, and I miss receiving theirs.

I have friends who tell me that they now literally become excited with the prospect of an *Amazon.ca* package arriving on their doorstep, **or** they feel a sense of glee when they realize they are out of a grocery item, and need to go out to the store. It's all about connecting with the outside world and I can relate! I have noticed that my routine outing on Thursday evenings to see my physiotherapist actually brings a feeling of excitement to me..... **just to get out**, among a group of socially-distanced, masked, injured people. How desperate is that? (lol)

But, you know, after all is said and done, I still thank God that I live in an era of technology that, although never taking the place of physical, face-to-face encounters and human touch, at least provides a second best.

So, for now, I will take whatever I can, and **keep on Zoomin'!**

Continue on next page ...

How parishioners are adjusting to work and personal life changes:

From: Mike Clark

Life in Limbo

To say that the last year has been a roller coaster is an understatement at best. A year ago when Easter celebrations became one of the first cancellations, the thought was that we would be able to gather together by summer to sing those Alleluias. Well, here we are thirteen months later looking in the eye of another Easter of confinement. One that has followed so many other special days in our lives that just tend to roll one into another. For Shelley and me, it has meant postponements and disappointments in terms of travel, selling our house, evenings with friends, outings to Detroit and seeing both of our kids who live out of town, as often as we would like. However, the upside has been expanded happy hours, re-discovering scrabble and monopoly, long walks, learning to tolerate each other as I work from home (lol), and appreciating the little things that we so often take for granted. Another spring is here. Covid might still be with us, yet the crocuses are blooming, the grass is greening and the days are warming. True signs that God can provide light in even the darkest moments. **We are all so done with this, but we need to hold tight to the hope that a new day is near.**

From: Danielle Richer and Paul Finlayson

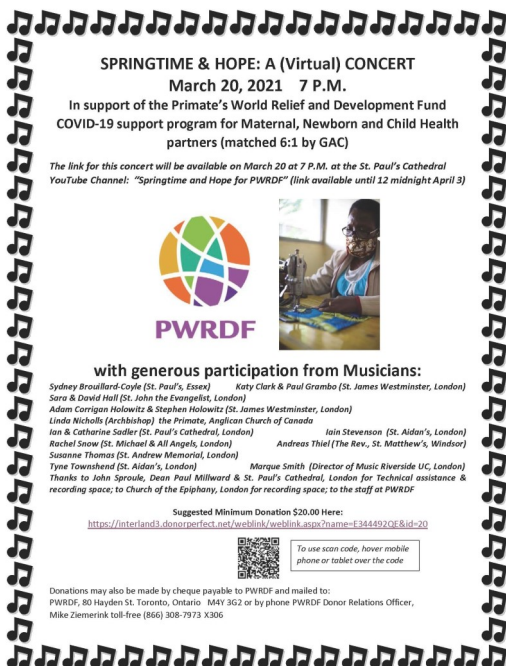
How the pandemic changed our lives

It is a given that the pandemic affected everyone, but not all in the same proportions. My family and I are very fortunate to have been able to navigate this year relatively unscathed until now. Paul was able to get his treatment for prostate cancer before the first lockdown and I retired from teaching just before schools switched to virtual learning. For that reason it would be disingenuous to say that we have suffered. But who can be immune to the pain and grief of others as we watched the news and read the papers? It was hard not to let a daily diet of grim reports get to us. Yet, as we marveled at the steadfast conviction of public figures, first responders, and regular citizens alike, who plodded day in and day out to keep us safe, we strived to follow their examples. **Stay home, wear a mask, wash our hands, and find ways to be of service, these simple words transformed our life.** We sewed masks, made socially distanced visits, video chatted with friends, and supported local shops. Those were easy pivots, because we knew it was for the greater good. More problematic though has been adapting family traditions and special occasions. Fortunately, technology has helped. Where once our children would descend in our home to assemble large batches of pierogis and cabbage rolls for the holidays, this year we sent them the list of ingredients and made them together over a video call. New Year's Eve was a virtual affair on Zoom, complete with a separate room for the kids even. Now, a year later, we notice that we talk to our family more often than before, probably because we know that we are likely to be in our respective houses. With the vaccines comes the promise of resuming activities away from home. While that's a good thing, we hope we don't stop the video calls any time soon. That would be another good thing to come out of this pandemic.



Have you joined our e-mail communication list? It is the fastest and most environmentally friendly way to receive communications from our clergy. Enroll at saintmatthewswindsor@gmail.com

Do you receive "The Journey" by e-mail? You could get your newsletter in PDF in full colour by joining the e-mail distribution list. Request your subscription at irene.savva3691@gmail.com

Our Anglican World




SPRINGTIME & HOPE: A (Virtual) CONCERT
 March 20, 2021 7 P.M.
 In support of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
 COVID-19 support program for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
 partners (matched 6:1 by GAC)
 The link for this concert will be available on March 20 at 7 P.M. at the St. Paul's Cathedral
 YouTube Channel: "Springtime and Hope for PWRDF" (link available until 12 midnight April 3)

with generous participation from Musicians:

Sydney Brouillard-Coyte (St. Paul's, Essex) Katy Clark & Paul Grambo (St. James Westminster, London)
 Sara & David Hall (St. John the Evangelist, London)
 Adam Corrigan Holowitz & Stephen Holowitz (St. James Westminster, London)
 Linda Nicholls (Archbishop) the Primate, Anglican Church of Canada
 Ian & Catherine Soller (St. Paul's Cathedral, London) John Stevenson (St. Aidan's, London)
 Rachel Snow (St. Michael & All Angels, London) Andreas Thiel (The Rev., St. Matthew's, Windsor)
 Susanne Thomas (St. Andrew Memorial, London)
 Tyne Townshend (St. Aidan's, London) Marique Smith (Director of Music Riverside UIC, London)
 Thanks to John Sparole, Deen Paul Millward & St. Paul's Cathedral, London for technical assistance &
 recording space; to Church of the Epiphany, London for recording space; to the staff at PWRDF

Suggested Minimum Donation \$20.00 Here:
<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/webLink/webLink.aspx?name=F344492CF&id=20>



To use scan code, hover mobile
 phone or tablet over the code

Donations may also be made by cheque payable to PWRDF and mailed to:
 PWRDF, 80 Hayden St. Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2 or by phone PWRDF Donor Relations Officer,
 Mike Ziemiernik toll-free (866) 308-7973 X306

On Saturday, March 20 at 7 pm, a virtual concert, featuring musicians from across the Diocese of Huron, was shared on YouTube as a fundraiser to benefit the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

Amongst the talented performers were members of the laity, clergy, and the primate herself, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, as well as our rector, the Rev'd Andreas Thiel; to highlight the theme of the concert "Springtime & Hope", Rev'd Andreas chose two short character pieces for piano, by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg: "To Spring" and "Spring Dance."

Dear St. Matthew's family,

When I travelled to Gaza in 2019, I was able to see with my own eyes the good work that was being done at the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, thanks to a generous bequest that came from a faithful Anglican right here in Windsor, Ontario! Her gift enabled the hospital to purchase equipment to treat kidney stones in children. These stones develop because the drinking water in Gaza is highly polluted and contaminated. By opening the doors of the hospital to all, the staff at Al-Ahli exemplify the Christian call to extend loving care to all our brothers and sisters, regardless of religion or political affiliation.

Although the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund supports 35 projects in 21 countries, we maintain our commitment to the people of Gaza, one of the most troubled spots on the face of the earth. Executive Director, Will Postma shares this news:

"...in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, support for Al-Ahli Hospital as it responds to physical injuries and trauma, providing 24/7 emergency and ambulance care, physical therapy rehabilitation, radiology and laboratory analysis. Specifically, PWRDF's support will be used to purchase a Microdebrider to support and improve the precision of surgery."


Please know that your support is appreciated, and that it makes a difference!

May God richly bless our shared ministry!

Andreas

Congratulations to our rector, the Rev'd Andreas Thiel, for his recent appointment to the Companions of Jerusalem Advisory Council (see details below).

The Anglican Church of Canada



L'Église anglicane du Canada

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The Rev. Andreas Thiel
 By e-mail: revandreas@gmail.com

February 24, 2021


Dear Andreas,

I am delighted to share that the Council of General Synod confirmed your appointment to the Companions of Jerusalem Advisory Council at its meeting on Saturday, February 20th, 2021. We are pleased that you will be joining a committed group of lay and ordained Anglicans from across Canada who are committed to walk alongside the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East as it seeks to sustain Christian presence and witness in the birthplace of our faith.

You have received a copy of the Terms of Reference for the committee and we look forward to your first opportunity to gather with the Committee at its meeting in May. Both the Chair of the Council, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Kirkpatrick, and the Director of Global Relations, Andrea Mann, join me in welcoming you to the Council.

With gratitude for your willingness to serve,

Yours in Christ,



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls,
Primate

cc. The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kirkpatrick, Chair – Advisory Council
 Dr. Andrea Mann, Director of Global Relations

Continue on next page ...

No in-person services since last fall, due to the COVID19 Pandemic



Last fall, we witnessed the rising of the second wave of COVID19, bringing new measures to contain the pandemic, and our last in-person service (already with social distancing) was held on November 29, 2020, the First Sunday of Advent (photo left).

As we remained in the “Red Zone”, our church services did not resume. For Palm Sunday, on March 28, 2021, Our Chancel Guild lovingly crafted fresh palm crosses (such as the one pictured right), and parishioners dropping by church that day were able to collect the crosses to take home for themselves, and to share with other family members or friends.



Photography by
Irene Savva

Currently, the third wave of the pandemic is taking us through a province-wide “Emergency Break” lockdown, so no indoor gatherings are allowed; we are all feeling the burden of such an extended hiatus, but the vaccination roll-out is under way, and the Easter season is here, a time of renewal and joy.

Have a safe and Blessed Easter Season!

What’s buzzing in the religious blogosphere? In this section, we will share links to websites and blogs with diverse points of view about religion, and everything related to it. In this issue, resources during the COVID-19 pandemic from our Diocese of Huron and the Anglican Church of Canada websites:

<https://diohuron.org/covid-19-resource-hub/>

<https://www.anglican.ca/about/departments/cir/digital-resources/>

We have in place different ways of staying in contact with one another:

1. **Our St. Matthew’s Phone Tree** - with leadership from our members of Parish Council, phone calls are being made with parishioners, sharing information and bringing back any concerns you might have.
2. **Sunday morning video postings** - consisting of a brief reflection and prayer, sometimes with music. These can be found on the church website. Here is the link: <http://www.saintmatthewswindsor.ca/newsbulletins>.
3. **A mid-week reflection** - At the same link as above, offered by clergy, on Wednesdays at noon.
4. **St. Matthew’s Facebook** - Updates and relevant articles and information regarding the pandemic. <https://www.facebook.com/saintmatthewswindsor/>

Each and every one of us deals with some level of anxiety, concern or worry in our daily lives. Anxiety is part of the human condition. Most of us know and are familiar with the circumstances that cause us to worry or to become anxious. It goes without saying that for the majority of us, a pandemic and national lockdown are not numbered among such familiar circumstances. Throughout the past year we have experienced something entirely new. We have come face to face with a new fear. What we couldn't see, predict or control was, at the same time, spreading with lightning speed, killing hundreds of thousands of people. We knew that we could very well be next. Being faced with this threat to our lives and the lives of those we love and those we've never met, not to mention our economic well-being, has, over time, resulted in spiritual, emotional, and physical exhaustion. Perhaps, however, in all of it, we have learned something that truly humbles us because, if anything, the pandemic has taught us, and continues to teach us, much about what it means to be truly *human*.

Let's talk about masks for a moment. When we wear them in public, we are really saying that we share in the *vulnerability* of one another.....that we are all in this together. COVID19 doesn't care about an individual's socio-economic status or level of education; it levels the playing field. Now, it is the common good that determines one's sense of well-being. Now, when I think about feeling content or about being in a 'good place', I realize just how much of that is dependent on the common good..... that is to say, for me, when we ALL wear a mask, wash our hands, and maintain an appropriate physical distance, this contributes to my emotional and spiritual well-being, as well as my physical..... I just feel so much better. "Our lives have value because of the value we have in the lives of one another." (*Suzanne White, Ph.D.*)

Speaking of that value, I don't know how you view this, but I have certainly become awakened to my dependence on what society labels as **essential workers**. Because of their courage and determination in the face of danger, I can still get groceries or attend to my pharmacy. While I have felt grateful in the past for those who work to make life easier for me, never before have I been so consciously aware of farmers and truck drivers, and store clerks and medical staff persons. What each of them does to keep us going matters deeply.

I want to share with you also about how I have been enlightened through telephone conversations with seniors who are alone during our lockdowns. They have given me much insight into their experience of being alone, while looking for solutions to ward off loneliness. I call it choosing to be **with** oneself as opposed to being **by** oneself. I have also come to realize even more deeply that we do live in a beautiful world and as I read recently, "If we are always rushing to move **through** it, we are not moving **within** it." I am much more mindful now. It's rare that something needs to be *that* urgent anymore. So..... through this pandemic, my life has really been enhanced by numerous insights. As Og Mandino wrote in his book, *The Greatest Miracle in the World*: "We are more than human beings, we are all human becoming." Insight gained because of having received information is one thing, but becoming aware because of having experienced it, well, that is totally something else. Perhaps it takes a pandemic, a collective experience of fear and lockdowns, to bring home the biblical message that we are all **One in the Lord – no one better than or less than**..... just different and perhaps it takes a pandemic to remind us of our humanity and the truth of what matters.

"Happiness is the new rich; kindness is the new cool; health is the new wealth; inner peace is the new success." (Anthony Hall) Blessings this Easter, *Glenda+*

Rev'd Cathy's Corner

Let me first express my appreciation of the support my sons and I have received from our St. Matthew's family following Kim's death in February. Phone calls, cards, food, flowers, and memorial donations have been signs of love and care of us. We feel loved and cared for.

Marlborough Nutrition Programme: This school year with Covid-19 restrictions has made big changes in our support of the children at the school. At the moment there are 330 students attending the school. Twice a day each child is offered a nutritious snack. We are providing each Tuesday morning 144 muffins (19 cooks from the parish), and then making sure that we have at least enough items for the number of children, such as the following: 240 cheese strings, individually packaged raisins (120+), cheese crackers, chocolate chip granola bars (a real treat I am told, since their supplier only provides apple cinnamon), and fruit snacks. Our contributions to the choices the children have are gratefully and joyfully received by the kids and the staff. We have two buyers, four delivery people, and all those wonderful muffin makers. Even with the changes of where and when things happen and the added stop/start dates, things have gone every smoothly.

I am grateful. All those folks who have baked, delivered, shopped, etc etc., and Danielle, for picking up the reins at the time of Kim's death are truly doing the work of Jesus in the world. **We are Blessed.**

Outreach News

Earlier this year, we were hoping to be able to organize an outdoor plant and bake sale in May. Unfortunately, given the rising COVID-19 case numbers in our region, along with the heightened concern from public health officials, it has become clear that this year is not the right time for such an event. **The sale has been cancelled.**

After a year of restrictions, many of us are feeling sad, disappointed and perhaps even depressed. I know that I am. Living this way is not easy. In the midst of all this, I have been encouraged whenever I hear that someone has picked up the phone to say "hello" to another parishioner. Or has sent a card. Or has delivered food. **There are many ways that we can reach out in love to our brothers and sisters,** and these simple acts of connection will help to sustain us through these challenging times.

In Holy Week we remember that Jesus underwent great suffering, including the suffering of isolation. He knew that at such times, the gravitational pull towards God was the only thing that mattered. And so, we draw closer to Jesus, we draw closer to God, and we draw closer to one another. Here we will find hope and healing.

Our loving God goes before us, preparing our every step.
 Blessings to you,
Andreas+



Our Advent "Virtual Soup Lunches" donations raised **\$1,325.00** in support of the Council of the North.



Photo by Gordon Drake

Celebrating this season

April

3 – Catherine Hillman
 6 – David Paraschak
 6 – Sandra Hall
 7 – Colin Allsop
 7 – Noah Allsop
 7 – Jacob Ritchie
 9 – Andreas Thiel
 9 – Erin Henderson
 9 – Nicole Sussens
 10 – Haylie Hancock
 10 – Michael Chantler
 16 – Ted Clarke
 17 – Mark Goldspink
 18 – Emma Westray
 21 – Tom Dunsmore
 21 – Scott Ritchie
 25 – Collin Patterson
 27 – Ryan Patterson
 30 – Chuck Boyd

Birthdays

May

2 – Caitlin Henderson
 4 – Jane Patterson
 10 – Irene Savva
 15 – Dianne Iannicello
 19 – David Goldspink
 21 – David Hitchcock
 28 – Jane Bayne
 28 – Jeff Wilkinson
 30 – Sharon Ritchie

June

1 – Glenda Fisher
 2 – Don Prodan
 4 – Margaret Jemison
 5 – Benjamin Hahn
 7 – Danielle Richer
 7 – Steve Sussens
 14 – Bill McAdam
 17 – Ted Felet
 20 – Pauline Patterson
 23 – Daryl Hudec
 26 – Louise Davis
 27 – Toni Ligori
 28 – Shawn McDonald
 30 – Sarah Finlayson
 30 – Kevin Patterson

April

23 – Roger Wurdemann & Louise Davis
 25 – Don & Pauline Patterson

Anniversaries

May

8 – Steve & Erin Pidhoresky
 14 – Onorio & Beth Felet
 17 – Chuck & Linda Boyd
 18 – Peter & Pat Lown
 19 – Richard & Ann Hucal
 22 – John Rossi & Patti Weir
 24 – Alan & Sue Trenhaile
 26 – Toni Ligori & Jen McAlpine
 28 – Mark & Sue Bernard

June

6 – Stan & Margaret Goldspink
 8 – Robert & Mary Grace Weir
 10 – Aaron & Melissa Bratt
 10 – Jeff Wilkinson & Sandra Hall
 20 – Donn & Jane Bayne
 21 – Bob & Margaret Kissau
 24 – Shawn & Linda McDonald
 27 – Al & Nicole McCabe
 30 – Brad & Stephania Allsop

Some Cancellations Due to COVID19 Pandemic:

- **Advent Soup Luncheons**, to benefit the Ministry of the Council of the North (See alternative fundraiser on page 10).
- **Lenten Soup Luncheons**, to benefit the PWRDF (See alternative fundraiser on page 7).
- **Outdoor Plant and Bake Sale in May**. Unfortunately, given the rising COVID-19 case numbers in our region, along with the heightened concern from public health officials, it has become clear that this year is not the right time for such an event.
- **Sunday Kidz Church and Coffee Hour**, until further notice, to respect social distancing and safety restrictions.

News from the Pews:

We hope to hear from you soon!



Rev'd Hilton Gomes, Chaplain at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, and St. Matthew's fellow parishioner, presiding over our service of The Baptism of The Lord, on January 12, 2020.

My ordination anniversary - February 7th, 2021.

I was ordained in Ilheus - Bahia - Brazil on February 7th, 1999 in the Roman Catholic Church. I came to Canada on February 26th, 2007 to work with the Italian and Portuguese immigrants in the Roman Catholic Diocese of London. In June of the same year, I was sent to Leamington, Ontario. Arriving to Leamington, I recognized the huge need of the Mexican priest for support in his ministry with Mexican migrant workers; this was a very moving experience for me. In 2010, I decided to leave the Roman Catholic Church, and after almost 2 years of prayers and discernment, I decided to join the Anglican Church. During my process of discernment I had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge in Anglicanism, working with people such as Archdeacon Graham Bland (the first person to pray, listen and talk to me about Anglicanism here in Canada), Archdeacon Kim Van Allen, Rev'd Gordon Maitland, and Rev'd Pat Byrne. Finally, I met Bishop Bob Bennett, a person for whom I have profound respect and admiration. **Now, celebrating 22 years of Priesthood is a joy;** I would choose to be a priest again and again. I would like to thank two important women in my life: The one who generated the love for Jesus in my life, my mother Maura (Maru), and my wife Sandy, who is a great supporter in my life in ministry. I couldn't be the priest that I am without her; with Sandy and our kids (Tyler, Jordin and Kendra), I have been sharing the last 10 years of my life, celebrating our wedding anniversary on February 12.

As the Apostle Paul says: "to God be the glory for ever and ever" - Galatians 1:5. Amen.

A Message from "The Church Nurse"

St. Matthew's has a Church nurse. You are probably saying to yourself, "What is a church nurse?" Well the church nurse is someone first and foremost who is a registered nurse in good standing with a College of Nursing, such as The College of Nurses of Ontario. You can even go online, and check their registry list if you have questions about someone who says she/he is a nurse.

The role of the church nurse is to help and support people of the parish who may have difficulties physically, mentally, and socially. This is based on the definition of the WHO and is used universally. It states that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

I often talk to parishioners during coffee hour. I am willing to meet you in your home if you would like, to help or to observe during a procedure that you are to do at home. I can help any parishioner by explaining medications, test results, or scheduled tests and other procedures. I will also go with a parishioner to a doctor's visit and listen attentively to what is being said and explain afterwards in more detail what was said. This is helpful as our anxiety during a doctor's visit is frequently higher than we think. In the past I have had office hours at the Church. Not many came so that was discontinued.

Last but not least, I am bound by the College of Nurses requirement of confidentiality. Whatever you tell me is not repeated anywhere unless I have your permission.

I Look forward to seeing or to hearing from you. Happy Easter.



Prof. Mary Louise Drake, Nursing Research Consultant at the University of Windsor, and long time St. Matthew's parishioner and church nurse, conducting a demonstration on "how to wash your hands properly"; fellowship hour, March 8, 2020.

Photos on this page by Gordon Drake

Continue on next page ...

From Ann Hucal:

Our first virtual TNT (Theology and Tap) was held on Zoom on Friday, March 5th. There were 12 of us in attendance, some were having dinner, some were not and some supported our local Cramdon's restaurant. It was a very pleasant get-together and gave us all a chance to get caught up with one another.



We normally meet on the first Friday of the month, but for the month of April, that would have been Good Friday, so it was scheduled for the second Friday, April 9, 2021. **The next meeting is scheduled for Friday May 7, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Watch for the Zoom link closer to the date.**

Feel free to “drop in”, even for a few minutes, to say hello, and join us!



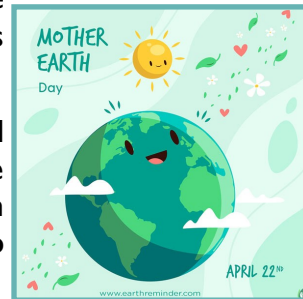
**Thursday,
April 22, 2021**

Facts from:
<https://www.earthday.org>

EARTH DAY 2021 - RESTORE OUR EARTH

Earth Day is a global annual event to support environmental protection. The day is celebrated on 22nd April every year. Originating in 1970, it successfully transitioned to a fully digital event for its 50th anniversary last year, due to the pandemic, with the participation of more than 193 countries across the World.

Earth Day 2021 will be digitally celebrated once again, on Thursday, 22nd April, with the objective of finding ways to **restore our Earth by reducing climate change, and to minimize the impact of COVID-19.**



Special prayers go to our clergy, staff, volunteers, and parishioners who continue to work outside their homes, in the frontlines at hospitals, and providing other essential services.

For other prayer requests, please call the church: (519)969-1510, or our rector: (226)345-5085, or send an e-mail message to: saintmatthewswindsor@gmail.com

Please send your articles, feedback and other contributions to Sue Bernard and Irene Savva to irene.savva3691@gmail.com. Are you celebrating a milestone anniversary soon? **Submit your wedding picture for publication!** Also let us know of any updates needed in the birthday and anniversary announcements; **we apologize for any mistakes or omissions.**

Easter, The Season of New Life



Processional Cross
Photo by Gordon Drake

Jesus said:

*“I am the resurrection
and the life.
The one who believes in me
will live,
even though they die;
and whoever lives
by believing in me
will never die.
Do you believe this?”*

John 11:25-26

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All services cancelled
until further notice.**

Visit our website to stay connected

~~**Sunday Services:**~~

~~8:30 am & 10:00 am~~

~~**Second Wednesday Service:**~~

~~2nd Wednesday of the month 7:00 pm~~

~~**Services at Huron Lodge:**~~

~~**Holy Eucharist:**~~

~~1st Tuesday of the month 11:00 am~~

~~**Praise & Prayer:**~~

~~3rd Sunday of the month 2:00 pm~~

St. Matthew's Church

1600 Norfolk St. Windsor, ON N9E 1H5

Phone: (519)969-1510

E-mail address:

saintmatthewswindsor@gmail.com

Rector:

The Reverend Andreas Thiel

Cellphone (226)345-5085

(Monday is our rector's day off)

Deacons:

The Reverend Cathy MacKendrick

The Reverend Glenda M. Fisher

Visit our website

<http://www.saintmatthewswindsor.ca>

Check out "The Journey" in full colour,
and our Facebook

