
THE COURIER

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THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, NORWAY

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

This will be my last letter to you as your rector. Since May 1993 it has been my privilege to serve the people of St. John's, Norway. Those sixteen years have been some of the best in my life. During that time I have made many friends in this parish and the wider community. At my farewell banquet on October 24th it was gratifying – and humbling – to listen to the testimony to the ways in which my life and yours have touched each other. As I listened I couldn't help reflecting that this is what it means to be the People of God embodied and incarnated as a parish community.

Now I move on to retirement. However, I will not be entirely idle. Bishop Yu has asked me to take on a part-time ministry as Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Epiphany (on Kennedy Road near Eglinton Avenue). And you will have an interim priest, the Rev. Jennifer Matthews, whose appointment was announced recently. I am sure that you will give her and eventually your new incumbent the same kind of support that I have enjoyed. Keep the Parish Selection Committee in your prayers as they do their work.

Our departure marks another milestone, one of which most of you would be unaware. It will be the first time since 1913 that a member of Lorna's family has not lived in the Beach. Her grandparents came here in that year to take up residence at the corner of Woodbine and Dixon. Lorna's aunt Irene continued to live at 292 Woodbine until shortly before we arrived in the community. She is buried in our cemetery. Lorna's uncle Harry went on to become a Baptist minister and her Aunt Chris who recently died at the age of 99 married a Presbyterian minister. Subsequent generations have been no slouches either, producing several clergy and clergy spouses. I am deeply grateful to Lorna who has played an essential role in my own ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Brian

On Sunday, October 25, the Wardens announced that The Bishop has named **The Reverend Jennifer Matthews as the Interim Priest-in-Charge**. She has supplied the following autobiography.

After nineteen years of teaching children in the primary grades I was ordained at St. James Cathedral in 1991. I was the Assistant Curate at St. Margaret-In-The-Pines, West Hill. My first Incumbency was at St. John, Whitby and then I was the Incumbent at St. Matthias, Etobicoke for the last ten years until my retirement in April of this year.

I have two children, Michael and Sarah and three grand daughters, Elizabeth, Catherine and Anastasia. The girls enjoy my pets, Minnie (my dog) and Iris (my cat). I am looking forward to meeting all of you in December as your Interim Priest in Charge.

Jennifer

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WARDENS' REPORT

October has been a bittersweet month this year as we experienced the joy of Thanksgiving and moved toward the departure of Father Brian after sixteen years of ministry with our church family. The Open House held on Saturday, October 24 was a wonderful opportunity for many friends in the community to drop by and say goodbye. It was followed by a dinner and dance held at Ellas Restaurant, attended by family, parishioners, members of the Legion, and Maria Minna, one of our local politicians. There were speeches (some of the most eloquent from our youth), presentations, and good food. Many thanks to Darleen Knowlton for making all the many arrangements necessary to make the evening a success and one we will all remember.

Father Brian's last Sunday with us will be November 15. On Sunday, November 22, we will welcome back the Rev. Catherine Sider Hamilton (former Associate Priest) as our guest celebrant, and on November 29 the Rev. Stanley Isherwood (former Associate Priest) will officiate. Our new Interim, the Rev. Jennifer Matthews, who has recently retired from St. Matthias, Etobicoke, will be joining us on Sunday, December 6, the second Sunday in Advent. Please come out and give her a warm welcome as she starts her ministry with us. Meanwhile, the Parish Selection Committee has met twice to date, once with the Bishop to meet our co-ordinator, John Stevens, from the Church of the Redeemer, and once to elect a Chair, Gordon Stock. In the coming month, we will be working hard to develop our Parish Profile, the first step in the process of looking for a new incumbent.

In parish events, the A.C.W. coordinated a very successful Rummage Sale on October 31, raising a total of \$1,870. Many thanks to all those who donated rummage and turned out to help sort, sell, and clean up. Also, this past Sunday we saw the dedication of the new stained-glass window in the south entrance. The window depicts St. Cecilia and is given in memory of Peter Kite by his family.

In Cemetery news, our new barn has finally been approved by the Committee of Adjustment and is in the process of being constructed on the site of the previous building, which burnt down in June 2008. Also last week, the Cemetery successfully recovered 13 bronze plaques, which had been stolen from our commemorative walls and were being held by police in Vaughan. The thefts were

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committed by an organised group that were targeting cemeteries.

Finally, this is the time of year that our envelope offerings start to show a debit; therefore please take the time to review your annual financial commitment to our parish and make sure that contributions are up-to-date.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Coxon & Jane Roberts

Baptism



November 1

Benjamin William James de Moor-Watts

IN MEMORIAM



October 7	Dennis Steen
October 10	Gertrude Klan
October 14	John Sillers
October 16	James Gibbison

Sunday Flowers

If you would like flowers placed in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved-one, please forward request and payment (suggested donation of \$50) to the office one week in advance.

Christmas Flowers

The Altar Guild will be decorating our church for the Christmas season. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of flowers, please use a special gift envelope and mark it "CHRISTMAS FLOWERS" (suggested donation of \$10). If you wish memorial flowers, please include a note with your donation by **Sunday, December 13**. Thank you.

Deadline for the Next Courier is Sunday, November 29

Please send submissions to
admin@stjohnsnorway.org or place them
in the mail rack outside the office.

FROM THE CHURCH CALENDAR

by John Wilkinson

November 18

Hilda – Abbess of Whitby, 680

St. Hilda, known originally as Lady Hild, was related to the Northumbrian King Edwin. Born in AD 614, she became Christian in 627 when Edwin's household was baptised at what is now called York. At the request of Bishop Aidan she became an Abbess first at a Celtic monastery at the mouth of the River Wear, then at Hartlepool. In 657, King Oswy (who had succeeded Edwin) founded a double monastery (for both monks and nuns) on a cliff at Streonshalh (after four name changes it is now known as Whitby) and appointed Hild to be the Abbess.

This was a tumultuous time in England, both in warfare and religion, so it was not surprising that in 664 at her Streonshalh monastery, Hild became involved in what is now known as the Synod of Whitby. This was initiated by the second marriage of King Oswy to a Roman Catholic Queen Eanfled, which caused a disruption of religious practices within the royal household. However the wider issue was the survival of the Celtic Church in England.

At the Synod, Hild was supported by a Bishop Colman and the Roman presentation was led by Agilbert, Bishop of the West Saxons and ably assisted by the eloquent Wilfred, Abbott of Ripon. By means of some argument based upon St. John by Colman and St. Peter by Wilfred it is said that by the flimsiest decision of King Oswy that upon his death he would rather be in the favour of St. Peter, decided against the Celtic tradition, even though it meant that the Pope rather than he, the King, would control the Church. This was therefore the sudden end of the Celtic Church in England.

Bishop Colman quickly retired to Iona and Hild, whose Abbey under her guidance had become one of the greatest centres of learning in the known world, now planned to retire to a new monastery she founded at Hackness (South of Whitby, between the coast and the Yorkshire moors). However she suffered a lengthy illness and died in 680. The night before, a nun at Hackness saw a vision of the roof opening and angels carrying the soul of the now revered St. Hilda into heaven.

What We Sing in the Eucharist

Kyrie Eleison – This prayer dates from the earliest days of Christianity. The Greek words “kyrie eleison” mean “Lord have mercy.” They are found in the psalms and are echoed in the gospels by those who beg healing from Jesus. Taken up by us at the start of every Eucharist; they are the plea of the Church for the mercy of God – or us, for those we love, and for this world.

Gloria – This hymn of the early Church was originally written in Greek and translated into Latin. “Gloria in excelsis” means “Glory be to God on high,” the words of the angels announcing Christ's birth (Luke 2.14). It continues with an act of praise the each person of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia – “Alleluia” or “Hallelujah” means “Praise the Lord,” an expression found in the Old Testament Psalms 111 to 117). In Revelation 19:1-6 it is the song of the saints in heaven. We sing it at every Eucharist to express our joy at hearing the words of Jesus when we read the Holy Gospel, an act that brings his presence into our midst.

Sanctus and Benedictus – “Sanctus” comes from the Latin word for “holy.” The words of this hymn reflect Isaiah's vision of the heavenly hosts worshipping God (Isaiah 6.3). When we sing them we are joining with the worship in heaven. The second part of this hymn begins with the words “Blessed is he who comes.” With these words the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:9).

Agnus Dei – A hymn dating from the 7th century but drawn from the Bible, the words “agnus dei” mean “Lamb of God.” For the ancient Hebrews, the blood of a lamb was the means by which God delivered them from death and rescued them from slavery (see Exodus 12). The Jewish people still remember this event every year at Passover. Christians saw Jesus as the Passover Lamb, the ultimate sign of God's redemption. After the prayer of consecration and before we share in communion, we are invited to adore the Lamb, Jesus our Redeemer, who gave his life so that we might know how much God loves us.

Denying the Unimaginable

by Brian Prideaux

On Sunday evening, November 1st, eighty-five people crowded into the Van-Lane Room to hear a lecture on Holocaust Denial given by Professor Michael Brown of York University. Earlier in the week the Hate Crimes Unit of the Toronto Police Service had called the parish office, responding to a complaint that we were denying the holocaust. Clearly, the complainant had not read further than the title of the lecture and the photograph on the poster, which showed a group of anti-Semitic protestors. The officer was reassured that this was a legitimate Holocaust Education Week event, co-sponsored with the Beach synagogue and that the intent was to counter Holocaust Denial not to support it.

Professor Brown captured the attention of his audience by pointing out that the Holocaust is unique as an event in modern history in that there are some who claim it never happened. Other events may have differing interpretations (e.g. the Armenian Genocide) but both sides do admit that something happened. Holocaust Denial actually began during the Holocaust itself. The Nazis took great pains to conceal what they were doing from the world. For example the bodies of people who had been executed and buried in pits were later exhumed and burned to destroy the evidence and a number of death camps were levelled once the purpose of exterminating local Jews had been accomplished.

He went on to deal with various kinds of Holocaust denial and reminded us that, with some notable exceptions many church leaders turned a blind eye to what was happening in Nazi-occupied Europe. Canada's reputation did not come out unscathed as he recalled an infamous incident in the 1930s when a boatload of Jews fleeing Germany was turned away and sent back to Europe where most of the passengers died in the storm that was about to overtake them. When Frederick Charles Blair, Canada's director of immigration, was asked how many Jews Canada should admit he replied, "None is too many."

Following the lecture the audience – which included members of the Beach synagogue as well as people from St. John's and a large number of visitors – shared fellowship over coffee and refreshments (provided by Tracey Davis). The discussion stimulated by Professor Brown's talk continued during the coffee hour and he himself was surrounded by a lively and interested group.

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All in all a fitting ending to a thought-provoking and informative evening.

Norway Group News

by Bridget North

We are very sad this month to be losing a most valued member of our group, Lorna Prideaux. Lorna brings to our group a quiet distilling of the random ideas that float through the discussions in our meeting and understands so well that often our own personal perspectives get in the way of moving forward with the task in hand. She reaches the kernel of the discussion and will suggest the next step in the most-friendly way. We shall miss your calm, logical reasoning and your friendship, Lorna, and wish you well in your new home and later in retirement.

Once again, I bring to you the commitment of the Norway Group to the charity "Sleeping Children around the World." Each sleeping kit costs \$35 and we would hope that you will also appreciate how many children in the world lack a place to sleep at night and help to whatever extent you can. Be sure to make the cheque out to St. John's for tax purposes but mark the envelope "Sleeping Children" and we shall collect it until Christmas and then forward the amount to the charity.

The Out of the Cold programme has started up again at Eastminster and in the clothing room we were very pleased to receive some warm clothing, jackets, and jeans from the Rummage Sale and also donations in the red basket in the north aisle. We shall need plastic bags for our clients to carry the clothes in and any extra backpacks or duffel bags that are no longer needed; we are trying to encourage the use of reusable bags. Many thanks to all who help us with donations.

Do not forget the craft show on Saturday, November 21 from 9:30am to 2:00 p.m. We shall be selling our now famous almond bark and providing a soup/sandwich lunch while you brows the craft tables for some of your Christmas shopping.

We are considering planning an outing to the Famous People Players dinner theatre in the spring and it would be helpful if you would let us know whether this would be something that the whole parish would be interested in as a parish outing with carpooling. Speak to any member and we will proceed accordingly.

Sunday School and Family Programmes

In Sunday School we are learning about Sharing God's Dream with themes of discipleship – living our faith as individuals and as a church. We learn from biblical characters (such as Bartimaeus, Ruth and Naomi, Hannah, Samuel, Job, and from Jesus) what it means to participate in God's reign. As an outreach to others, the Sunday School has decided to allocate their offering to purchasing items needed for infants in the NICU at Mount Sinai. Parents, please help your child make a difference by sending in loonies or toonies each week for them to put into the Sunday School offering basket.

Bake Sale Saturday, November 21

Our major fundraiser for the Sunday Church School is the bake sale held during the Annual Craft Sale. We are asking for donations of baked goods for the sale. Please drop off the baking at the church on Friday (clearly mark it for the bake sale) or on the Saturday morning. We also need people to help at the sale. Please call Kathryn Kern at (416) 690-8162 if you are available for an hour or so on the Saturday.



Family Advent Event Saturday, November 28 – 6:00 p.m.

Mark the beginning of the Christmas Season at Church. We are planning special activities for the whole family on the Saturday evening starting with a potluck dinner, family activities, and worship. Look for a sign up sheet to be posted on the bulletin board closer to the date. Come and join the fun!



The Hanging of the Greens Saturday, December 19 – 10:00 a.m.–about noon

Our newest annual tradition. Join us for a time of fun, family, and traditions as we prepare our church for Christmas. Light lunch will be provided.



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Christmas Pageant Service Sunday, December 20 – 10:30 a.m.

Join in with us as we re-enact the story that never grows old. To participate (kids & adults) please talk to Kathryn Kern or Brian Fairbrother. Angels, sheep, shepherds, and others needed, talking and non-talking roles available. Practices will take place right after church every week starting November 22 but join in when you can.



Monthly Chuckle

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question: "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist," said a young boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know," he replied, "Our Father who does art in heaven."



One Sunday after church, a mom asked her very young daughter what about the lesson was. The little girl answered, "Don't be scared; you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the mom was perplexed. Later that day the pastor stopped by for tea and the mom asked him about what that morning's Sunday School lesson had been. He said, "Be not afraid; thy comforter is coming."

NEEDED: COURIER ARTICLES

We need your help in filling spaces in the Courier. If you would like to contribute occasionally or regularly (either for the "Church Calendar," "Bible Lore," "Monthly Chuckle," or if you have an idea for a new article), please speak to the Parish Secretary. Also if you attend an event, either inside or outside the parish, consider writing about it.

This is **YOUR** newsletter!!
We want to hear from **YOU**!!

A SEASON TO SHARE

For some people in our community Christmas can be a difficult time. You can make the season brighter by putting a donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Share Christmas." Any amount, large or small, is appreciated. For an income tax receipt include your envelope number or name and address. Money received is used to assist people in our neighbourhood through the Christmas Bureau.

An Advent Service for the Home

This booklet, which includes daily prayers and Bible readings for the season of Advent, is available on the literature table at the north entrance. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 29.

CRAFT SALE

Scarves * Jewellery * Pottery * Hand-Knitting
Fleece Clothing * Christmas Crafts * Floral Designs
Wreaths * Candles * Quilting * Baby Outfits
Paintings * Photography * Baking * Doggy Needs
and Many Unique Gift Items

Soup & Sandwich Combo \$5

Saturday, November 21
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist, Norway



CALENDAR

*Weekly

NOVEMBER

Monday 9 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet
9:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Bible Study*
5:00 p.m. – Kuma Marital Arts*
7:00 p.m. – Guides*
7:00 p.m. – Pathfinders*
7:30 p.m. – Scout Group
8:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous Big
Book Discussion Group *

Tuesday 10 10:00 a.m. – Beaches Fitness*
5:00 p.m. – Boy Choristers*
6:45 p.m. – Girl Choristers*
7:30 p.m. – Wardens' Meeting

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Wednesday 11 9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
6:30 p.m. – Beavers*
7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
7:30 p.m. – Parish Selection
Committee*

Thursday 12 9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group
7:30 p.m. – Adult Choristers*
7:30 p.m. – Norway Group
7:30 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal

Friday 13 **OFFICE CLOSED**
9:00 a.m. – MumNet*
5:00 p.m. – Wedding Rehearsal Dinner
8:00 p.m. – Silver Birch Alcoholics
Anonymous*

Saturday 14 2:30 p.m. – Wedding

Sunday 15 8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist*
10:30 a.m. – Choral Eucharist*
7:30 p.m. – Venturers*

Monday 16 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet

Wednesday 18 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

Thursday 19 4:00 p.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet*

Friday 20 Craft Sale Set up

Saturday 21 9:30 a.m. – Craft Sale

Sunday 22 12:30 p.m. – Pageant Rehearsal*

Tuesday 24 7:30 p.m. – Amnesty International

Wednesday 25 7:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

Thursday 26 1:00 p.m. – St. Anne's Group
7:30 p.m. – Norway Group

Saturday 28 11:00 a.m. – Funeral
6:00 p.m. – Advent Event

Sunday 29 **COURIER DEADLINE**

Monday 30 9:00 a.m. – Little Voices Dancing Feet

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1 6:30 p.m. – Advisory Board

Wednesday 2 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
7:30 p.m. – Seton Area Forum

Thursday 3 9:00 a.m. – MumNet Fundraiser

Saturday 5 11:00 a.m. – Deanery Prayer Meeting

Please inform the office of any errors or omissions. Thank you.

The church office will be closed on Friday, November 13. The answering machine will be monitored. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.