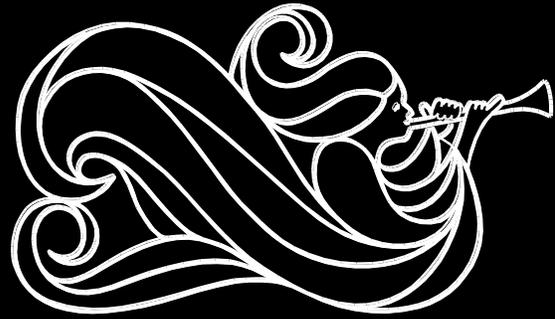


There's
Life
Here!



CHRIST
CHURCH
DEER PARK

ANGLICAN

2017

Annual Vestry Report

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To the Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners
My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am joined with the Area Bishops in bringing you greetings and assurance of our prayers as you gather in the annual Vestry Meeting to set parish priorities and budget and choose churchwardens and officers to lead your ministry together. I am so grateful for the commitment and contributions that these people make to the life of the Church and the mission of Christ in the community you serve. Thank you, especially, to those who are finishing their terms of office or moving into different responsibilities. My prayers are offered for those of you who are taking on new ministries today.

Today, as has been the custom for several years, I ask you to consider a Vestry motion advocating for affordable housing and dealing with homelessness. We, as a church, have a long and effective history of providing both temporary and emergency housing, long term housing projects and counselling and support for the under housed. These programs are vital for providing relief on a day-to-day basis for many who do not have access to affordable housing. However, any effort to address the long-term needs underlying this crisis requires more resources than churches and community agencies can provide alone. The church has an advocacy role as well as providing front-line service. The two go together; both make a difference. Whatever you decide to do today, I think it is important that we discuss in our meetings to conduct the "business" of our parishes, the issues that affect the well-being of our whole community.

A key priority in our diocesan strategic plan, Growing in Christ, is leadership development and formation. In my Charge to Synod, I asked every parish to participate in at least one intentional formation programme during the year. May I invite you to join me this Lent in Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John. Resources are available on-line and can be used by individuals and groups. I commend several other programmes - some developed in the Diocese - that will help you to be more intentional and confident in your Christian discipleship. Suggestions will be also available on-line.

I will retire at the end of this year. It has been an incredible honour to have served for some fifteen years as your bishop and over forty years in ordained ministry in this diocese. What a joy it has been to be invited into people's lives at the most profound level - at moments of deep joy or sorrow, at times of vocational discernment, at times of challenging crisis or productive stability. In all this, to witness the faith and compassion and engagement of Anglicans has strengthened my faith, expanded my horizons and confirmed my love of Christ and his Church. This June, Synod will choose a coadjutor bishop who will automatically succeed me on my retirement, becoming the 12th Bishop of Toronto. I posed some questions at Synod for people to consider in preparation for the election:

- From your own experience of bishop(s), what are two qualities you have admired in a bishop?
- What are two critical issues affecting the life and mission of this Diocese today?
- Considering that, what two qualities (maybe the same or different from #1) does the next bishop need to have to lead this Diocese in its mission into the next decade?

Please pray for the members of Synod that they may discern wisely and faithfully for this challenging and complex role of leading the largest and most diverse diocese in North America.

I hope to have the opportunity over this year to thank you for entrusting me with this awesome responsibility.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name "Colin R. Johnson" in a cursive script.

The Most Rev'd Colin R. Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto

January 18, 2018

The Feast of the Confession of St. Peter

Dear friends in York-Scarborough,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 1:2)

I recently marked the first anniversary of my consecration as a bishop. In reflecting on the past twelve months, I am reminded of the tremendous privilege of serving as your area bishop. I am pleased to say that I have now visited most of the 58 parishes and missions in York-Scarborough. These visits have included being with you for Sunday morning worship, ordinations, confirmations, celebrations of new ministry, anniversaries, and meetings with parish leadership. Thank you for your warm welcome as I have travelled across the area. I have been grateful for your prayers and good wishes, and your desire to be co-workers together, for the glory of God and the extension of God's reign.

One of the priorities I identified a year ago was getting to know the clergy and people in my episcopal area. I am pleased to say that I have now met with all the active clergy, including our deacons, and many lay leaders as well. I have heard your hopes and concerns, and have tried to offer words of encouragement and guidance in these rapidly changing times. In spite of the challenges around us and within, I see signs of life and growth everywhere I go. There are renewed efforts to engage our neighbours and share the good news of God in Christ. I see clergy and lay people recommitting themselves to study and Christian formation in order to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Anglicans are mobilizing and collaborating with people of other faiths and traditions to feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, often doing more with less. These are all signs of the Kingdom of God in our midst. We are also now being guided by our diocesan strategic plan, Growing in Christ, which I hope will set the stage for healthy and more dynamic ministries across the area. You may be interested to know that 25% of the parishes in the Diocese of Toronto are growing, and many of them are right here in York-Scarborough.

The past year was a time of change in the York-Scarborough episcopal office. We said farewell to Karen Isaacs, who had briefly served as my Administrative Assistant. Karen left last spring in order to respond to a call to ordained ministry. We then welcomed Sue Willoughby as the new Administrative Assistant, and she has been tremendous. Sue does a great job of managing my calendar and correspondence, and ensuring that I am able to stay on top of 58 very different and dynamic communities. Sue works closely with our exceptionally capable synod office staff, who are always just a phone call or email away!

I want to acknowledge the excellent work of our five Regional Deans: the Reverend Ian LaFleur (Eglinton), the Reverend Greg Carpenter (Scarborough), the Reverend Sherman Hesselgrave (St. James), the Reverend Shelley McVea (Toronto East) and the Reverend Heather Gwynne-Timothy (York Mills). Along with our area liturgical officers - the Reverend Geoffrey Sangwine and the Reverend Greg Carpenter - they are excellent resources for parishes, and provide me with invaluable advice.



Our area is also blessed with many youth ministers, who are ably led by our two York-Scarborough Youth Facilitators, Jillian Ruch and Ian Physick. In the fall of 2017, we made the decision to increase their time in that ministry, and we are already seeing the fruits of that decision. Just a few weeks ago, I attended the York-Scarborough Youth Leaders' Summit, where those involved in this important ministry were able to share ideas and strategies for ministry with our youth.

One of the joys of being a bishop in the Diocese of Toronto is our College of Bishops, with whom the joys and burdens of episcopal ministry are shared. I am grateful to work alongside wonderful colleagues: Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Peter Fenty (York-Simcoe), Bishop Riscylla Walsh-Shaw (Trent Durham), Bishop Jenny Andison (York-Credit Valley), and Canon Mary Conliffe (Diocesan Executive Assistant).

As we look ahead to a new year, we face significant change. Archbishop Colin Johnson has announced his intention to retire at the end of this year. His leadership over the past few decades has left an indelible mark on our Diocese and on the wider Church. He has provided wise, steady and faithful leadership in a time of immense change, and we look forward to opportunities to express our thanks to Archbishop Colin and Ellen in the coming months. On June 9, we will elect a coadjutor bishop, who will become the new diocesan bishop at the beginning of 2019. Please keep this process and the candidates in your prayers.

In the coming months, a number of events will be of interest to the clergy and people of our area. Firstly, I am teaching a Lenten course called Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, which comes to us from the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Boston, and was recommended by the Archbishop at our recent synod. The clergy of the Church of the Resurrection will join me in leading this study, which runs for five Monday evenings, beginning on February 26. On Saturday, March 3, I invite all of you to a York-Scarborough Visioning Day at St. Andrew, Scarborough, where we will share ideas and develop strategies for mission and growth in York-Scarborough. On April 30 and May 1, I will be gathering the area clergy together for an overnight retreat for the purposes of study and mutual support. We haven't done this in many years, and I look forward to restoring this annual time away.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to all of you, and especially those who exercise leadership in your own parishes. Whether you are stepping down from a particular ministry, or continuing on, or taking up a new role at this annual Vestry meeting, thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. You are a blessing to the Church in our Diocese.

I am writing this letter on the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter. As our Church celebrates Peter's claim that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16:16), may we have boldness in our own proclamation, so that others may come to the knowledge and love of God in Christ.

Yours faithfully,



The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson
Area Bishop of York Scarborough
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

Christ Church Deer Park

Annual Vestry Meeting (2016)
Sunday, February 26, 2017

MINUTES

1. Appointment by lay members of vestry of Genevieve Chornenki as vestry clerk.
2. Motion to adopt agenda.
Moved: Lizzie Nyebourg
Seconded: George Lewis
Motion carried.
3. Motion to adopt minutes of Annual Vestry meeting of Sunday, February 28, 2016.
Moved: James Cowan
Seconded: Clayton Scott
Motion carried.
4. Motion to accept 2016 Annual Vestry Report subject to the following corrections:
Moved: William Jackson
Seconded: Wendy Finlay
Motion carried.
5. Financial Report for 2016. The Treasurer made a report on parish finances that highlighted what had been presented at the Financial Forum two weeks previously, and he responded to questions from members of vestry.
6. Motion to accept the December 31, 2016, financial statements as audited by Maureen A. Parry, CPA, CA.
Moved: Rick Varkey
Seconded: David Moore
Motion carried.
7. Motion to appoint Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation as auditor for the 2017 fiscal year.
Moved: Rick Varkey
Seconded: Carolyn Kearns
Motion carried.
8. Operating Budget for 2017. The Treasurer introduced the operating budget for 2016, highlighting what had been presented at the Financial Forum two weeks previously, and he responded to questions from members of vestry.
9. Motion to accept the 2017 Operating Budget as presented in the 2017 Narrative Budget
Moved: Rick Varkey
Seconded: Bob Hutchison
Motion carried.
10. Appointment by the Interim-Priest-in-Charge, Andrea Christensen, of Barbara Johnston as Rector's Warden, Barbara's bio having been circulated to vestry.
11. Ratification by vestry of management team's appointment of Rick Varkey as Treasurer.
12. Motion to close nominations for People's Warden, Andrew Van Nostrand having been nominated for the position, and Andrew's bio having been circulated to vestry.
Moved: Bob Shea

Seconded: Elizabeth Joy

Motion carried.

Election by acclamation of Andrew Van Nostrand as People's Warden.

13. Motion to close nominations for Deputy Warden, Mervyn Chung having been nominated for the position, and Mervyn's bio having been circulated to vestry.

Moved: Clayton Scott

Seconded: Bob Shea

Motion carried. Mervyn Chung as Deputy Warden.

14. Pursuant to Canon 15, section 5, subsection 1, appointment by the Interim-Priest-in-Charge, Andrea Christensen, of George Lewis as Deputy Warden, George's bio having been circulated to vestry.

15. Motion to close nominations for Lay Members of Synod, William Jackson and Jeremy Hogg having been nominated for the positions, and their bios having been circulated to vestry.

Moved: Bob Shea

Seconded: James Cowan

Motion carried.

Election by acclamation of William Jackson and Jeremy Hogg as Lay Members of Synod.

16. Motion to close nominations for Alternate Lay Members of Synod, Jill Aitken having been nominated for the positions, and her bio having been circulated to vestry.

Moved: Bob Shea

Seconded: Wendy Finlay

Motion carried.

Election by acclamation of Jill Aitken as Alternate Lay Members of Synod.

17. The following motion *Christ Church Deer Park Social Justice Vestry Motion 2017— Continuing Call for Reconciliation* was presented to vestry, the motion having been published in print and electronic format on the parish website at least two weeks prior to vestry:

***Whereas** over the course of many years, Indigenous communities in Canada have engaged the government, the Anglican Church, and other Christian denominations in a process of reconciliation'*

***And whereas** the reconciliation process has included official apologies from many denominations for their participation in the Indian Residential School system, as well as participation in the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC),*

***And whereas** the final report (Report) of the TRC included 94 Calls to Action aimed at addressing the ongoing marginalization of Indigenous peoples in all aspects of Canadian life,*

***And whereas** the Government of Canada has committed to implement all of the recommendations of the TRC,*

***And whereas** the Anglican Church of Canada has apologized for its complicity in the treatment of Indigenous peoples in the Indian Residential School system,*

***And whereas** we, the vestry of Christ Church Deer Park, wish to support efforts towards full reconciliation,*

- 1. call on the Government of Canada to promptly implement the 94 Calls to Action in the Report and do what is necessary to support the dignity of Indigenous communities in Canada and improve their quality of life; and*
- 2. collectively and individually commit to more fully informing ourselves about the Report, its recommendations, and its ongoing implementation in order to more fully live up to our responsibilities as Christians, by using the Addendum provided.*

Moved: Emily Chatten

Seconded: Mervyn Chung

Motion defeated.

18. The *Social Justice Vestry Motion 2017— Continuing Call for Reconciliation* prepared and published by the Diocese of Toronto (text attached at page 4) was then made.

Moved: Phyllis Creighton

Seconded: Lizzie Nyebourg

Following discussion, motion to defer the above diocesan social justice motion and to ask a self-identifying group of interested members of vestry to reflect on the issue and bring back a suggestion for consideration at a subsequent vestry meeting within six months.

Moved: Elsa Jones

Seconded: William Jackson

Motion (to defer) carried.

19. Report entitled “There’s Life Here” made by the Interim-Priest-in-Charge, Andrea Christensen.
20. Appointment by the Interim-Priest-in-Charge, Andrea Christensen, of William Jackson as Chair of the Congregational Care Team, a copy of William’s bio having been circulated to vestry.
21. Recognition and thanks extended to the many clergy and staff persons, parish volunteers, and groups that work together to contribute to the life of the parish.
22. Motion to adjourn the meeting.
Moved: Bob Shea
Seconded: Wendy Finlay
Motion carried.

Rector

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.” (1 Corinthians: 6-9)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Faith. Commitment. Resilience. Calm.

A mere six weeks into my incumbency and already I have encountered a parish with a strong faith and love of worship, deep commitment to ministry, an unswerving resilience, and a stable, calm demeanour. (Before I arrived, The Rev. David Howells described CCDP to me as a “peculiarly sane and balanced congregation”. When one has served in as many parishes as David and I have, that statement is high praise!) For a full year Christ Church has been without a rector – and today I join you as the fourth rector in fifteen years – yet, surprisingly, there is little to no anxiety here. The organization is running smoothly, the finances are relatively sound, engaging and unconventional worship occurs (Jazz Vespers, Church on Tap), music on Sunday morning is superb, with an appealing interweaving of classical and contemporary, Church school programming is fun, interesting and varied, hospitality is wonderfully over-the-top, the staff is able and kind, the wardens and treasurer are proficient and hard-working, there are a host of behind-the-scenes people who do outreach, and this healthy community is chock-full of joyous, generous, welcoming people. I am truly blessed to be walking with you into the future.

OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

The wonderful thing about being healthy is that we are energized. The healthier you are, the more you can do; the more you can do, the healthier you are. Therefore, we have a future that is full, because dedicated Christians know there is always work to be done for the building up of the kingdom. Stability is not to make us comfortable but make us hungry for more challenges... hungry for a deeper faith, compassion and generosity. The Kingdom of God is never about ‘good enough’ or even satisfaction, but instead about continually living and spreading the gospel with passion.

We must therefore continue to make this place a welcoming and hospitable parish to which others will be attracted – wherein they may find an engaging spiritual home. Can we “notch up our game” in worship and ministry? Do you have ideas of how we may do this? How would you like to celebrate ministry at Christ Church Deer Park? Speak to me. Speak to the wardens. Get involved in building up our parish. Let us have fun and spread joy this year. Your participation will inspire others to join our community of Christ as we boldly move forward in this new phase of our history.

And my commitment is to support you in the many ministries of CCDP, as well as work with the Management Team on very specific issues to make our parish run even more smoothly. Particularly, this year you will see the reconstitution of an Advisory Board (a synodical/diocesan requirement) to support decision-making in the parish and provide a place for the development of parish leaders. As well, two critical staff appointments will be made in the first half of 2018: a permanent, full-time clergy associate (as The Rev. Robert returns to retirement) and a part-time director for children and youth ministry (as Hilary Keachie goes on maternity leave and then becomes a stay-at-home Mom for the time being.) This year I also plan to focus on adult Christian formation with a new small group discipleship programme known as *Revive*. Its purpose is to equip lay leaders to describe their

spiritual experiences and grow in intimacy with God as a follower of Christ. “In ten months, this small-group programme can help transform leaders of practical church ministry into confident spiritual leaders who desire to find new life in service and ministry.” (From *Revive, A Ministry of Forward Movement*)

However, for ministry to be excellent and of high quality, we not only need your creativity, we need your active contributions. Therefore, this year we will continue to participate in Growing Healthy Stewards. And of course, you know that this is not only about money. Besides finances, it is important to note that stewardship is a much fuller component of the Christian life. It is the grateful and responsible use of all the gifts God has given us, to do the work God is calling us to do. Stewardship is lived out in several ways and CCDP is committed to all of them for the building up of God’s kingdom:

- Living and telling the Good News of Christ
- Hearing and responding to God’s command to seek justice and peace, and respect the dignity of all
- Wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships
- Sharing the financial resources we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion
- Providing for future generations by sharing in the life and worship of the Church and of its mission

A great year is ahead of us and so I entreat you to keep your eyes on the prize which is our life in Christ and our ministry of compassion to each other, “for we are God’s servants, working together... God’s field, God’s building.” The year ahead demands that we focus our minds and hearts on ministry and faithful worship. Thus, continue to do what you do so well – maybe even with more fervour: care for the sick, visit the lonely, encourage one another to attend worship, send cards, provide transportation, call each other, offer help, settle your differences, give time, talent and money for the many programmes in our community, bring your friends and family to church. Continue to be open, welcoming and inclusive, honour diversity, engage one another in thoughtful, mutually respectful discussion of the important issues that affect us, and be open to the Holy Spirit doing new and wondrous things.

I look forward to our lives together in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Cheryl Palmer
Rector

Management Team

The 2017 year was a very different one for Christ Church Deer Park. As a Management Team, our efforts focussed on providing stability to the church organization and to the variety of Interim-Priests-In-Charge while the Parish Selection Committee sought a new Rector. We are proud that we could serve the church faithfully and through these efforts could help bring God's word to many people.

With the election, consecration and induction of our rector, the Right Reverend **Kevin Robertson**, as an Area Bishop for the Diocese of Toronto, our former associate priest, **Andrea Christensen**, became our Interim Priest-in-Charge. We enjoyed working with Andrea – her strong management skills, cheerfulness and her deep faith, made her an absolute pleasure to work with. We were sad that she left CCDP, but wished her well in her new Ministry as the rector of St Timothy's Agincourt.

During this time, Reverend **Robert Gorham** had been working as our Interim Associate Priest. With Andrea's departure, the Bishop asked Robert to lead us over the summer. Management Team was pleased to work with Robert and were grateful for the steady continuity only he could provide. His calm, kind, competent demeanor was instrumental to our summer programming and ongoing pastoral care.

In September, Reverend **David Howells** was appointed as our Interim Priest-in-Charge and provided leadership to the parish through Advent to the end of December. During this time, David was able to problem-solve, negotiate issues as well as provide guidance as we prepared for the arrival of our new Incumbent. David's experience in interim assignments was most beneficial and the impartial insights into our parish will be invaluable as we move forward under Cheryl's leadership.... We were doubly blessed during this time to continue to have Robert's assistance, again as Interim Associate Priest, which he continues to this day. He has indicated his interest in returning to his role as Honourary Assistant and, under Cheryl's leadership, we will soon start the search for a permanent Associate Priest.

In September the Parish Selection Committee announced The Reverend Canon **Cheryl Palmer** will be our new incumbent on January 1st, 2018. We are SUPER excited to be working with Cheryl and are excited by the prospect of charting the future of our parish under her leadership.

So over the course of this time we have worked with 5 incumbents (Kevin, Andrea, Robert, David, Cheryl) and can honestly say that we, as a management team and as a parish, have greatly benefitted from the insight of so many church leaders. And it is a testament to our incredible congregation and amazing staff that we were able to continue all our weekly worship services, the building remained intact, we served our outreach communities, our many ministries continued their work and we are ready to begin a long term relationship with our new Rector.

Some 2017 successes included:

Reaching Out into Our Community

We worked closely with Matthew House, a Faithworks charity in the Toronto Diocese which supports refugees coming to Toronto. By forming a "Circle of Support", we supported two Eritrean girls by helping them find housing, medical care, navigate high school and college applications and generally be available for friendship and advice. And our Syrian family continues to do very well and kindly came to church in December and presented a beautiful gift to thank the parish for our support.

Many of our Ministries continue their work in sharing the kindness and message of Jesus. Vacation Bible Camp, Congregational Care Team, Saturday morning Breakfast Program, Spring and Fall Rummage Sales, Holy and Holly Community Christmas Festival, Churches-on-the-hill Food Bank,

Sporting Life 10k Cheering Station, and concerts by our choir allow us to play an important role in our neighbourhood.

Sharing the Liturgy

We continued to offer a range of services with different liturgies. Every Sunday morning at 8:00 and 10:00; weekly Wednesday morning services; bi-weekly Jazz Vespers on Sundays at 4:00; monthly Church on Tap; annual Blessing of the Animals.

We applied for and were successful in receiving a diocesan grant for developing the elements of a Christian Formation program, so we can develop parishioners to be spiritual leaders. We have learned that our approach to adult Christian Education was not meeting the needs of our parish family. Our NCD results show that we have a spiritual hunger to know Christ. There is a strong yearning for basic Christian formation to have a real ownership of faith so that we can fully participate as disciples of God. Providing the right opportunities for people to learn about their faith in a setting that works best for them can also address our NCD challenges of passionate spirituality, needs-based evangelism and the building of loving relationships. In addition, the results from the survey recently conducted by our Parish Selection Committee indicate that our parishioners want to explore their spiritual journey with Jesus Christ. We thank Alison Juurinen and Mary Tooley for their work and our clergy team for their direction and guidance.

Growing as Stewards

We worked closely with the Stewardship team in continuing the Growing Healthy Stewards program. We are pleased to report that congregational giving did not fall during this interim period. The annual Discovery Fair was held in September so parishioners could discover the various ministry and volunteer opportunities at CCDP which require leadership.

Improving Parish Operations

Under the continued leadership of Paul Marritt, our Director of Parish Operations, our IT modernization plans continued to move forward. Our primary goal is to expand our ability to support our stewardship program. As well, the IT modernization plans will support an increased focus on volunteer management providing a means to record and track all of our volunteers and their contributions across the many activities of our parish. It is our goal to not only have a better understanding of the contributions of our volunteers but also to allow us to better manage the succession planning for these roles to ensure that we have a ready pool of volunteers to take on the important work of our parish. In September of 2017 the Management Team requested a Special Meeting of Vestry to approve the transfer of funds from the 1870 fund. These funds were requested to address both expected and unplanned capital expenditures. Vestry doesn't plan or pass an annual capital budget, as such capital repairs and maintenance are funded using the funds available through the 1870 fund. In 2017 the Property Committee put forward a recommendation for a number of critical items. These recommendations, combined with unanticipated repairs to the space rented to the Oriole Preschool and a general failure of the Church sound system, necessitated a Special Vestry to approve the usage of 1870 funds to address these issues.

Parish Selection Committee and Parish Profile – Highlighting CCDP's Strengths

Under the leadership of Carolyn Kearns as Chair, the Parish Selection Committee (PSC) was successful in working with Bishop Kevin to secure an excellent new rector in Cheryl. But the benefits of this process did not stop there. The PSC worked with the parish to develop a well-written profile highlighting the various ministries and key strengths of CCDP including the excellence of our youth ministry under the direction of Hilary Keachie and our choir and music, under the leadership of Matthew Otto. We encourage you to read the parish profile and use it to “evangelize” your friends who may be looking for a new spiritual home.

Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Following the motion at last year's vestry meeting to defer consideration of the diocesan motion on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and encourage interested members of vestry to consider the matter further, the Management Team established a committee of those members to do so. We encourage you to read their report included in these materials and recommendation for this year's motions.

In conclusion, we can say it has been quite a year! We have done our best to orient and support all incoming clergy and provide the direction and continuity to run the church Corporation. We hope we have met your expectations and thank all of you for your support.

Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Johnston Andrew Van Nostrand George Lewis Meryn Chung Rick Varkey

Diocesan Synod

The 157th Regular Session of Synod for the Diocese of Toronto was held in Richmond Hill on November 24 and 25, 2017. William Jackson, and Jeremy Hogg attended on behalf of the parish as lay members, and Reverend Robert Gorham attended as clerical member. Canon Phyllis Creighton, a parish member also attended.

The theme of this year's synod was "Growing in Christ"

The Assembly passed motions with respect to the Diocesan budget and assessment rates.. Bishop Colin Johnson announced his retirement in 2018, and as a result Synod passed a motion to elect a coadjutor bishop to assist the Bishop in the last months of his tenure.

A motion to require a different level of support in the election of bishops was defeated. Recognition was made of the contribution of the Church on the issue of nuclear disarmament and the fact that ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) received the Nobel Peace prize in 2017

At intervals throughout the business parts of the meetings, we were inspired by —Missional Moments where we learned about the good works that various parishes are carrying out in their communities to meet the real needs of their friends and neighbours. The parishes conducted the activities on their own initiative or through a combination of FaithWorks or other grants. Two that stood out for me were a parish in the Haliburton area that took on a Syrian refugee family of 12, and two Toronto parishes that accomplished the difficult task of amalgamating.

As the Marriage Canon would be coming up for consideration at the General Synod of 2019, the working committee asked for and received comments on it, issues of concern , ways to proceed etc. to be considered by the diocese in upcoming discussions.

*Respectfully submitted,
William Jackson
Lay member of synod*

Interim Associate Priest

I began my new position as Interim Associate Priest here at Christ Church Deer Park on January 1, 2016.

As I reflect back on this past year I am grateful that I have had this opportunity to share in the ministry of this church.

I began in my associate role under the leadership of the Rev. Andrea Christensen. I had thought when I took on this role that she and I would continue in the interim positions until our new Rector was appointed.

Andrea gave great leadership in six months that she was the Interim Priest here at Christ Church. It was a joy to work with her. She knew the church and the staff so well .

One of the highlights for me during the time we worked together was the Prayer Workshop that we led. Together we lead the Sunday worship services, the mid-week services, a wedding and funerals. During Holy Week of this past year Andrea working with the clergy of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, Calvin Park Presbyterian Church, Deer Park United Church and Christ Church Deer Park, came together for joint services on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week. Thursday of that week we hosted the other churches and they joined with us in our Maundy Thursday Liturgy. Canon Palmer and I have met with the clergy of these three churches and plans are underway to do similar services in Holy Week 2018

I would also like to say thank you to The Rev. Dorothy Lancaster for leading our Lenten Bible Study on Tuesdays and on Sundays after church in 2017.

Andrea accepted a call to be the Rector of St. Timothy's Agincourt in the spring of this year. I had very mixed feeling about this news but also knew that after a great deal of prayer and discernment Andrea truly felt called to make this change at this time in her life. I know not only I but the whole parish was sad that she was leaving but we wished her well and I feel St. Timothy's is very blessed to have such a deeply committed person as their Rector.

During the months of July and August I was on my own. July especially was a busy month with a number of funerals. August was not as hectic.

I am very grateful to the Wardens and the staff of CCDP for their support during those months that I was on my own. I would like to thank the Rev. Peter Slater, The Rev. Dorothy Lancaster and the Rev. Karen Hamilton for their assistance over the summer months and for taking part in the services and sharing the preaching .

In September The Rev. David Howells was appointed Interim Priest in Charge and I continued on as Associate Priest. David was with us for four months and what fun it was to have him with us. He came with a tremendous amount of experience in Interim ministry. He gave great leadership to the staff and worked hard to pave the way for our new Rector.

In the fall of this year we were all excited when it was announced by the Bishop and search committee that The Rev. Canon Cheryl Palmer would be our new Rector and would begin her ministry here in January 2018.

I continue to enjoy leading and taking part in Sunday worship and being part of the mid-week service.

I look forward each month to taking the monthly service at Belmont House in the west wing on the fourth floor. I help out as a volunteer at the Community Breakfast two or three times a month. I am part of the Pastoral Care Team under the leadership of Willian Jackson.

It is a delight to serve with our ministry team, Paul, Hilary, Matthew, Alison, Elizabeth, Niveen and now Amanda as we continue to carry out our ministry in this place.

Thank you to Denis and the custodians for the wonderful job they do keeping our church clean and ready for our services and all the other events that take place in our church during the week.

Thank you to our Warden and the Management Team who have been a wonderful support during this Interim year.

Thank you to our Lay readers at 8.00 .am., our sub-deacons, chalice bearers, chancel guild members, usher, greeters, readers, and intercessors who so willingly give of their time and talents.

Thank you to Debbie Wilkinson and her team of volunteers that made sure that there are always refreshments available in Elliott Hall after the 10 a.m. service or lemonade available on the lawn in the summer months.

Thank you to Jayne Miles Simpson for organizing the Shove Tuesday Pancake Supper and for organizing the Parish BBQ at the end of June.

What an exciting time it is here at Christ Church Deer Park. Our new Rector is now in place and has been inducted by Bishop Kevin. I feel a wonderful spirit of joy and excitement throughout the congregation now that Cheryl is amongst us. Cheryl brings so many wonderful gifts and experiences with her as she takes on this new ministry.

I look forward to sharing in ministry with her over the next few months till our new associate priest is appointed.

I know that under her leadership we all will grow in our relationship with one another and grow into the kind of authentic and loving community that God longs for us to be.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Gorham

Interim Associate Priest.

Choir Director and Organist

At Christ Church Deer Park, music is an integral part of our liturgies. I am continually humbled by music's important place in the life of our parish community. As Choir Director & Organist, I am blest to facilitate our music program, building on the rich musical tradition at CCDP.

Throughout 2017, the Choir of Christ Church Deer Park sang at more than **45 liturgies**, including two concerts, collectively dedicating over **4480 hours** to their ministry. With a volunteer core of 22 members, plus the support of **six professional singers**, our choir continues to reach new levels of ministry, stewardship and musical excellence.

Here are some highlights from our ministry activities in 2017:

1. Choir Membership:

Throughout 2017 our membership grew significantly with **six new volunteers** joining the choir. This brings our total membership to **28 choristers**, which represents a diverse age range and level of experience. Their dedication to this ministry demonstrates their love of music-making and commitment to the CCDP community.

2. Concerts & Outreach:

Throughout 2017, The Choir of CCDP collaborated with the Choirs of Grace Church on-the-Hill and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church to present two concerts.

- a. In June 2017, our combined choirs, along with the Northdale Concert Band, performed at TEMC's hugely successful "*The Last Night of the Proms*" with over 500 people in attendance. We were pleased to receive a \$500 honorarium for our participation in this event and look forward to performing in this year's concert.
- b. On November 12, 2017, Beth Tzedec Congregation hosted our combined choirs for an Interfaith Remembrance Day concert in which we sang alongside our colleagues from Beth Tzedec in their stunning sanctuary. The event welcomed an audience of over 250 people with proceeds of \$1880.40 being split between the *COTH Food Bank* and the *Jewish War Veterans of Canada*.

I look forward to strengthening this ecumenical partnership through future collaborations, and to exploring further concert opportunities at CCDP.

3. Professional Singers:

CCDP boasts an exceptional team of professional singers, who exhibit superb vocal skills coupled with excellent musicality, strong musical leadership, and a deep commitment to collaboration. Additional professional singers are engaged from time to time, depending on the complexity of the repertoire and the attendance of our volunteer choristers.

I wish to thank and acknowledge our outstanding professionals, all of whom have Master degrees in voice performance and boast busy performing careers: Kelsey Taylor, Lauren Crowther (currently on leave), Sonya Harper Nyby, Julia Barber, Conrad Siebert, Bradley Christensen and Michael Uloth.

4. Pedagogy:

As an educator, I am deeply committed to developing the gifts of our singers through music education and faith-formation. The overall choral tone continues to benefit from increased attention to voice pedagogy within the rehearsal context. Choristers are taught healthy vocalism (developing their own resonance and voice placement), musicianship, sight-reading, and aural skills. The rehearsals also strive to educate choristers in the role of music in the liturgical context.

The music program at CCDP is now strengthened by a **Chorister Formation Program** providing two young parishioners the opportunity to sing in the choir and privately study voice with our professional singers.

5. Repertoire:

Remaining firmly rooted in the rich treasury of Anglican choral repertoire, we have also incorporated contemporary sacred choral music and hymnody. In an attempt to strengthen and animate congregational song, we have incorporated new mass settings, eclectic psalm settings, and contemporary hymns. The choir has also added over fifteen new works to its repertoire, including choral masterworks, motets, spirituals, and masses in a variety of styles.

6. Music Library:

Since numbers in the choir have increased, additional copies of music have been purchased to ensure the library has at least 30 copies of each title.

7. Planning:

Music repertoire lists are available to our choristers by liturgical season. Our choristers are encouraged to take home their music and practice independently. I have been impressed with their openness and commitment to learn new repertoire, dedicating time outside of the rehearsal context to this ministry.

8. Community:

I am struck by the growth and depth of community within our ministry. Choir members are extremely thoughtful, compassionate and prayerful. This spirit of service transcends the choir community and enlivens our parish at coffee hour, or the many other parish ministries and activities in which choristers are involved. I encourage all parishioners to reach out to our choir members, as some of them are both new to the choir and to the CCDP community.

On a personal note, I wish to extend my profound gratitude to the members of the choir for their constant collaboration, tireless dedication and deep enthusiasm. I also wish to thank the Pastoral and Management Teams, and the CCDP community for their continued support of our music ministry.

I look forward to continuing to serve and further enhance the congregational life at CCDP!

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Otto
Director

Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Every Sunday morning, 10 to 25 kids between the ages of 5 and 15 gathered together in the Chapel of St. Nicholas for Bible stories, creative play, songs and drama. The kids and teens have developed impressive Biblical literacy, asked challenging and thoughtful questions and created a strong sense of community.

From January to April 2017, Alison Juurinen led our children and youth ministry as Hilary Keachie was away doing her 3-month Masters of Divinity internship. Alison had gotten to know the kids of CCDP well through Vacation Bible Camp the past two summers, and they welcomed her with enthusiasm. She taught them the stories of our faith in very creative and engaging ways including building the walls of Jericho with pound cake and icing, making their very own sling shots like young David and having Jesse Billett dress up as a Monk to teach the kids about early monastic practices. The kids had a ton of fun, and learned a lot too!

Over the summer months, we continued our partnership with our neighbour and gardening friend Ed Grady, and created an even bigger and more bountiful vegetable garden. We expanded the plot by a couple of feet, and cultivated another plot in the West Lawn. The kids had a great time getting their hands dirty and planting all sort of vegetables including kale, lettuce, broccoli, peppers, tomatoes, eggplants and much more. By early August, we were harvesting every week, and shared our produce with all the members of the congregation. The growing season was extra long this year, and we ended up doing our final harvest on October 29th. This has been such a wonderful and fun learning experience for all of us – from dumping and digging for potatoes to seeing the different colours of the vegetables as they mature. A huge thank you to Ed for his patience, dedication and enthusiasm! We are so grateful to work with you on this project.

In August 2017, Christ Church Deer Park hosted our fourth annual Vacation Bible Camp. We took over 35 kids back to the Ancient Roman Empire where they met Saul and learned about the persecution of early Christians. Throughout the week, they had many adventures including being thrown into prison, witnessing Saul's dramatic conversion, helping him escape Damascus in a basket and being shipwrecked on the Island of Malta. It was a memorable and adventure-filled week, and we are so grateful to all our wonderful leaders who helped make this camp possible. A special thank you to Mary Tooley, Alison Juurinen and Lester Keachie for their creative and dedicated effort to transform Elliott Hall into Ancient Rome complete with pillars, statues, and a larger than life aqueduct!

Young Anglican Leaders continued to be our youth leadership programme for teens in middle and high school. Throughout the winter, they learned about homelessness in Toronto and made blessing backpacks which they took down to Yonge and Dundas and gave out to people in need. In the spring, we did painting meditations and went rock climbing. In the fall, I decided to split the group into junior and senior YAL because of the large number of younger teens, many of whom were younger siblings, moving up into grade 6 and 7. Each group meets every other week, Junior YAL from 9-9:45 for breakfast and to explore superheroes, and Senior YAL from 11:30-12:30 for lunch and to explore ways to get involved and help our community. We also have joint social nights including movies, games nights and Master Chef cook-offs. Our ongoing social outreach opportunity is hosting a monthly hot breakfast for people in need in our community (last Saturday of the month). This has been a wonderful way to engage friends of our YAL families and we hope that they continue to serve with us on bright and early Saturday mornings!

The teens also continued to demonstrate incredible maturity and dedication by regularly volunteering in PromiseLand and the Nest, serving as crucifer, acolytes and/or readers and taking on leadership roles with the Christmas Pageant and Vacation Bible Camp. Two of our oldest teens,

Jeremy and Sydney, also joined the church choir in September, and have been learning a lot and singing beautifully! Jeremy also took on significant leadership roles within the parish in 2017 including serving as one of the Synod delegates and playing the trumpet at several different services throughout the year.

Our nursery programme, The Nest, continued to be available for babies and toddlers throughout 2017. But sadly, our wonderful and dedicated nursery supervisor, Tuta Shurdha, had to take medical leave starting in October of 2017. She is undergoing treatment and we pray that she will be able to recover fully. In the meantime, our Nest is being run by volunteers every week, and we thank those who have stepped up and offered to assist with this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Keachie

Director

Minister of Adult Education and Discipleship

As minister of Adult Education and Discipleship, my job is to come up with something engaging to help foster engagement with our Christian faith, and then try to entice people to come and try it out. I thought the best way to tackle this sort of project was to find out what it was exactly that people were looking for, and so began my project this year with the rather ambitious goal of meeting everyone in the parish and convincing them to talk to me about their spiritual lives. This turned out to be a mountainous task – but one that was so completely enjoyable and thoroughly fascinating that I wish I could just keep doing it all the time. Over countless cups of warm caffeinated liquid, I discovered that this church is absolutely filled with thoughtful, caring people who are seeking a deeper relationship with God. They are also creative, tender-hearted and vastly concerned with the welfare of others. Often, they are life-long Anglicans and so it appears that the mysterious and profound liturgy of the historical Anglican Church resonates deeply and wordlessly with many who attend here. Although there may be changes to this liturgy here and there, the Eucharist is really what it's all about for CCDP. (Well – that and the *music!*)

This fall, in an effort to draw out some of the creative and contemplative types, I began a project called “Making Icons”, where we learned a little about the theological background and history of icons, and then dove headfirst into making some. Instead of painting as one might have traditionally, we made mosaics from coloured paper, and they turned out beautifully! (The final process of coating them in resin has been slightly delayed by my broken elbow.) I am hoping to experiment with a few more creative approaches to prayer in the months to come.

For a long while, my plan had been to run a program called Alpha here – a program which helps people sort out their own thoughts about God and draws new people into the church. Unfortunately, the temporary instability of the church due to the changing of the rectors made this a less than optimal time to run this program, and so I eschewed it in favour of a different project, Revive, which is starting as this document goes to print. My hope is that this program will draw our lovely congregants together, and renew their faith and their spirits. I look forward to working with all of you in 2018!

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Juurinen

Director

St. Andrew's Group

We participated in the World Day of Prayer. We participated in the Spring and Fall Rummage Sales. We worked in advance to price articles, and worked on the day of the sales. We worked in the Holy and Holly Christmas Festival, helping to set-up and sell on the day of the festival. Bridge took place every Tuesday afternoon and was enjoyed by those who attended. A Lenten series was guided by the Reverend Dorothy Lancaster and the subject was "Walking the Walk in Today's World. We also helped with Funeral Receptions.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Le Feuvre, Joan Huycke
Co-Presidents*

Memorials Committee

The Memorials Committee assists the Rector and Corporation in the design and purchase of memorials in the parish. There were no memorials in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Huycke
Chair*

Chancel Guild

Even with diminishing numbers the members of the Chancel Guild have kept the linens, brass and silver in excellent condition. The flower arrangers have also continued to produce beautiful arrangements for memorials, special occasions and our Sunday services. We thank all members for their faithful service during the year. We hope that other parishioners will be encouraged to join the Guild and spend quiet time in the peace of the Chancel.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maggie Symons
Chair*

Sides Duty

Every Sunday four of the parishioners participating in this Ministry, they greet Service attendees and welcome newcomers, and, during the Service present Offerings and manage the flow of those taking Communion.

The number of participants in this Ministry appears to be gradually decreasing and now numbers approximately 20.

We are always ready to recruit those who may wish to serve in this Ministry of welcoming

Respectfully submitted,

*Al Rands
Chair*

Spiritus

It takes a parish to create a newsletter and we can all take credit for the one that we enjoy. *Spiritus*, is a collaborative effort, written by the members of the parish and produced with the assistance of volunteers and staff. It publishes ministry and committee reports, opinion pieces, educational notes, book reviews, and other items submitted by contributors who bring different voices and spiritual attitudes to the publication. By being open to diversity, *Spiritus* is a living example of the “spaciousness” for which Christ Church Deer Park is known. Genevieve Chornenki is the editor, and Henry Zaluski volunteers his professional skills in design and layout.

In 2017, there were three regular issues of *Spiritus*—Lent, September, and Advent—plus a special December issue containing an interview with Canon Cheryl Palmer, our new incumbent. Three regular issues are also planned for 2018, and all members of the parish are invited to write for the newsletter.

On behalf of the parish, I once again recognize and thank all those who have contributed to the production of *Spiritus* including,

- Those who wrote for *Spiritus* and/or agreed to be written about. Developing an article and participating in the editing process take time—a lot of it. Being published also entails vulnerability. I admire the contributors’ willingness to expose their innermost thoughts to our scrutiny.
- Canon Cheryl Palmer for making herself available to be interviewed in the busy month of December 2017, for graciously answering the editor’s extensive questions, and, above all, for modelling such openness and honesty in her answers.
- Henry Zaluski who makes each issue of *Spiritus* look professional and appealing.
- Those involved in physical production—Paul Marritt, our director of parish operations, and the volunteers who assist him—whose work includes printing, stapling, folding as well as posting the newsletter on the Christ Church Deer Park website.
- Church Mouse for continuing to be a repository of questions about parish life and the concerns of parishioners.
- Those who read *Spiritus*, including parishioners who are unable to attend worship services due to ill health or other reasons. Your encouraging and positive feedback means a lot to us and makes us want to continue.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the editor of *Spiritus*.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Chornenki
Publisher

Congregational Care Team

A dedicated team of volunteers met 7 times in the past year to discuss how to best serve the needs of parish members who were unable to fully participate in the life of the congregation, either through illness or circumstance.

During the year we have been in touch regularly with over 30 parishioners offering friendship, church news, shopping, transportation, counseling and spiritual support. We worked closely with Andrea Christensen and Robert Gorham to exchange information on those of our parish in need. Our work is done on a totally confidential basis, which is the cornerstone of our work and our ability to carry it out.

We were pleased to have Dorothy Lancaster join us this year, complementing our team of Anne Larkin, Edna Quammie, Maggie Symons, Bob Reeves, Margo Bowen, Walter Blackwell, and David Moore.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if this area of ministry interests you please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

William Jackson
Chair

Challenging Christianity

Challenging Christianity is an adult discussion group, averaging eight to ten regular attenders, which meets at noon, on the second Friday of each month, September to June, exploring challenges to traditional Christianity, from contemporary culture, and to modern culture, from mainline Christian positions, inviting all present to share their personal doubts and beliefs on whatever basis is persuasive to them. Co-chairs for 2018 are Ward Lindsey and Dorothy Lancaster.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Slater
Chair

Reading Theology

The Reading Theology group met several times this year to discuss works of theology as well as fiction and poetry that engage Christian theological questions or themes. The group met after the 10:00 service in the Chapel. We explored together John Howard Griffin's *Black Like Me* on March 5, 2017, and on Sunday, April 30 to discuss Flannery O'Connor's *A Prayer Journal*.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Wells-Jopling
Coordinator

Natural Church Development

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a process by which a parish can assess the quality and health of its church experience and identify opportunities for growth and development. The ultimate objective of NCD is to guide churches through a long-term process of reflection and growth by focusing on the quality of the church experience.

The foundation of NCD is the NCD survey of parishioners. The purpose of the survey is to identify the relative presence or absence, in our church experience, of the eight NCD quality characteristics that are common to healthy, growing churches. Based on the results of the survey, the least well-developed quality characteristic – referred to as the Minimum Factor – becomes the focus for growth and development initiatives going forward.

At CCDP, we have been engaged with NCD since the fall of 2015. Over that time, we have taken two NCD surveys, most recently in December 2016. Based on the results of each survey, our Minimum Factor – our least well-developed quality characteristic – is *Passionate Spirituality*. As a result, we have focused our efforts on growing and developing this quality characteristic. From survey to survey, we have also seen an across-the-board increase in the presence of each of the eight NCD quality characteristics in our church experience. Particularly gratifying were the significant increases in the scores for our least well-developed characteristics – *Passionate spirituality* and *Need-oriented evangelism*.

Over the course of 2017, we continued to work to identify opportunities for growth and development around *Passionate spirituality*. We also met with the Stewardship Committee to explore opportunities to integrate activities and outcomes where possible. Going forward, we will continue our efforts to identify opportunities for growth and development and engage the parish in soliciting ideas and reporting on outcomes.

More information on NCD may be found at www.ncd-canada.com

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris Byers
Chair*

Truth and Reconciliation Committee

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee was established following last year's vestry meeting at which both the Diocesan social justice motion and a related CCDP-generated motion were tabled for further study by interested persons. Those who signed up became, in effect, the founding members of the CCDP Truth and Reconciliation Committee.

The group has met 6 times since last year's vestry meeting and increased our understanding of First Nations and the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada on Residential Schools, including the recommendation that the federal government adopt the United Nations motion calling for "free, prior and informed consent" from indigenous peoples for development of resources, which was the subject of the motions brought forward at last year's vestry. A number of members of the committee have joined a diocesan-wide network, facilitated by the Church of the Redeemer, to promote awareness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work and recommendations. We are planning some educational and engagement activities for the wider parish of CCDP – more on that later in the year.

After study, the CCDP Truth and Reconciliation Committee recommends the adoption of the diocesan motion at this year's vestry, which reads as follows:

“We, the vestry of Christ Church Deer Park commit ourselves to continue to work to implement the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. As part of this effort, we call on the Government of Canada to address Call to Action #43: to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation. In particular, we call on the Government of Canada to immediately develop policies requiring free, prior and informed consent be obtained from Indigenous communities in Canada and abroad with respect to developments affecting their lands and resources, as outlined in Articles 10, 19, and 32 of the *Declaration*. (Note: Article 10 prohibits forced resettlement, Article 19 provides for free, prior and informed consent, and Article 32 guarantees indigenous peoples the right to prioritize the development or use of their resources)

Most members of the committee were persuaded by the original background materials from the diocese in support of the motion, which emphasized the many historical examples, both globally and in Canada, where development had occurred without this type of consultation and without any type of compensation for, or participation by, indigenous peoples. From a practical perspective, it is unlikely that development can occur in Canada any longer on this basis. Further, there are examples of beneficial engagement by Canadian companies and individual First Nations peoples to develop resources and provide opportunities for mutual benefit. While recognizing this progress, all members of the committee believe it important that this policy of free, prior and informed consent be incorporated into law, regulation and practice by the federal government. There are over 600 First Nations in Canada, with varying degrees of interest in the development of their resources, so we recognize the complexity, but also the necessity, of putting this recommendation in place.

Finally, the committee was encouraged in its recommendation by the exhortation of Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada in June 2017: “It is important that I continue to hold these Calls to Action before the Church so that as responsible citizens and as people whose faith is absolutely centred in the reconciling work of God in Christ, we can be proactive in speaking of the Calls and in supporting them.”

The committee does not view its work as finished with this recommendation, but plans to further our members' and the parish's education around and involvement with First Nations issues. As well,

with the support and encouragement of the Management Team, we will play an ongoing role in evaluating and informing the parish on the diocese's social justice motions and overall activity. As part of our work this year, we met with Elin Goulden, Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant for the diocese, to gain further perspective on the diocese's social justice activities which centre around poverty reduction, homelessness and affordable housing, and the environment. She emphasized that individual parishes contribute greatly to the church's voice on these issues by supporting the diocese's recommended motions.

This year's recommendation to parishes relates to the topic of affordable housing and homelessness, which directly impacts indigenous and racialized communities. The motion is primarily directed at the provincial government of Ontario. After studying the motion, as well as the background material available on the diocesan web-site (<http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018-Vestry-motion-background-revised-bookfold-layout.pdf>), we recommend its adoption at this year's vestry meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*George Lewis
Chair*

Refugee Committee

Members of the congregation will recall that during the height of the Syrian refugee crisis in the fall of 2015, CCDP decided to create a Refugee Committee and raise money to bring to Canada the Alkadri family who had been living in a camp in Jordan.

The family arrived in mid-February 2016 and committee members helped them settle in Toronto. The formal financial sponsorship of the family lasted for twelve months, but the support and friendship of members of the Refugee Committee with the Alkadrins continues to this day. The three children are thriving in school and extra-curricular activities. The parents, Suhella and Abdulsattar, have found employment and continue to improve their English. Recently, Suhella came to CCDP to present a beautifully engraved brass plate to the Church in appreciation of our support. Suhella also presented flowers to our new rector to welcome her to CCDP on behalf of the Alkadri family.

In 2017, the Refugee Committee developed a relationship with Matthew House, a Faithworks charity of the Toronto Diocese which welcomes and helps settle refugees in Toronto.

The Committee created a ``Circle of Support`` for two teenage Eritrean girls. Members of the Committee took the two girls into their own homes and offered guidance and support. The Committee will continue to support the Alkadrins and the Eritrean girls, as well as working with Matthew House and looking for other opportunities to welcome refugees to Toronto and the CCDP community.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Godfrey
Chair*

Community Breakfast

As we finish our 9th year of operation, we served over 2000 breakfasts in the Community Hall. Bright and early Saturday mornings, 3-4 times a month, a dedicated group of volunteers gather to serve a hot breakfast of sausages, eggs, oatmeal, fruit and yogurt. Our guests, from all over the city and all circumstances are very grateful for the fellowship provided in a safe, warm and positive setting. Many of our guests are foodbank clients and look out for each other. We provide resources to other agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Larkin
Coordinator*

Churches on the Hill Foodbank

There was a significant increase in the volume of clients in 2017 at the food bank. As of September 2017 the volume had increased 14.5 % higher than the same period last year. The increase was a result of more seniors and new Canadians. Through food drives, generous donations from the churches and concerts and other moneys we were able to sustain them. The XMAS food hamper drive that took place at all the churches rose over \$4000.00.

We continue to provide all the food needed for children 3 and under. We are open 2 times a week and cover an area bordered by Lawrence, Bloor, Bayview and Oakwood. The CIC proves invaluable to our clients where they are referred, proactively to agencies for employment, financial, health, housing, legal, new Canadians and other material (meal programs, furniture and clothing) assistance. Volunteers come 1-2 times a week to once every 4 weeks to serve clients, restock/repackage food, interview or refer to other resources.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura Kuca
Director for Christ Church Deer Park*

Hospitality

Once again, I would like to say thank you to the volunteers who have helped with all aspects of hospitality this past year at Christ Church Deer Park. Your hard work and commitment have been appreciated by the entire congregation. And we are truly grateful for the core team who continue to volunteer serving coffee and refreshments following the 10:00am Sunday Eucharist where fellowship continues to thrive.

Hospitality is defined as the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. I am pleased to report that it continues to be alive and well at Christ Church Deer Park. This year has been celebrated by pancake supper, pot luck lunches, welcome and thank you receptions. We have had so many opportunities to meet, and celebrate together.

This year we are hoping to continue to welcome new people and new ideas into the hospitality ministry and continue to grow our service with Christ Church Deer Park.

“Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

Respectfully submitted,

*Deborah Wilkinson
Coordinator*

Sporting Life 10k Cheer Station

Once again Christ Church Deer Park hosted the “Heat Street Cheer Station” for the Deer Park neighbourhood to come together and cheer on the 27,000 runners that go past our Yonge Street church. Runners, walkers and joggers gave their best to raise money for children with cancer an opportunity to attend summer camp. CCDP runners had a good showing and our Area Bishop, Kevin Robertson, stopped by for a quick hello as he ran the race. Our mascot, CeeCee the churchmouse, was out on the road with high-fives for everyone. And special thanks to the team at the radio station 102.1 The Edge for providing music and energy to keep everyone in motion. Runners appreciate the motivation and distraction we provide as they run up the hill from Davisville. They say we are funny and super encouraging and appreciate all our efforts! We are getting ready for the 2018 race so please mark Sunday May 13th on your calendar and plan to join us at 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Would you consider joining our organizing team? We’d like to talk about expanding our cheer station to include the other Yonge street races.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jill MacRae and Barbara Johnston
Coordinators*

Rummage Sales

The rummage sales of 2017 saw generous donations that included anything that you would find in a household, some of which we saved to sell in the Treasure's room at the Holy and Holly Christmas Festival.

The spring rummage sale consisted of goods donated after the fall rummage sale of 2016 as well as a year of spring/summer clothing donations made after the spring rummage sale of 2016. We sold \$8,829.00. Leftovers from the sale were donated to the Children's wish foundation that weighs the goods and gives us .12 cents a pound for them. This amounted to 1410 lbs or \$169.20.

The fall rummage sale consisted of goods donated after the spring rummage sale of 2017 as well as a year of fall/winter clothing donations made after the fall rummage sale of 2016. Part of the fall's clothing donations, such as winter coats, boots, hats and mittens were given to people who came in off the street needing them. These were not included in the sale. We sold \$6,452.00. Leftovers from the sale went to the Children's Wish Foundation again. They weighed in at 1110 lbs and net \$133.20. Over the months from May 13, 2017 to September 29, 2017 we had fewer donations than we had for the spring rummage sale.

The next rummage sale is April 21, 2018. Of course the rummage sales would not be possible if it weren't for our many generous volunteers who spent hours, pricing, sorting, setting up, dismantling, advertising, providing security, cashier and customer sales and snacks for the sale. Volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura Kuca
Coordinator*

Holy and Holly Christmas Festival

This was the second year of our redesigned Christmas Fair. Last year we implemented a new approach which incorporated a more faith-based Christmas festival with fun activities for children, the chance to experience life in a Bethlehem market, carol singing in the chapel with guest guitarist, nativity story puppet shows, silent auction and the basket raffle draw. The jewellery table, Treasures Room, Christmas rummage, and re-gifting table always draws a crowd of bargain-hunting shoppers. And, as you can imagine, Norma Ross' ever-popular Bake Shoppe was very successful once again. We took a new approach to online advertising that increased attendance from neighbourhood families.

This Festival comes together with hard work from so many people, some sorting rummage all year long, while others get involved in the months leading up to the event. On the day of the Festival 90 volunteers were working in the church to make this event happen and we raised \$14,445 ! Thank you so much to everyone for your energy and helpfulness. Together we accomplished great things! Plans are in the making for next year's fair which is scheduled for Saturday November 17, 2018. Want to join the organizing committee? We'd love to hear from you!

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara Johnston
Coordinator*

The Screening in Faith Ministry

It is the obligation of the church to ensure the welfare and safety of all members and visitors of the parish.

Especially the vulnerable through age, infirmity or particular circumstances of dependency ,this includes children and anyone dealing with finances.

In the year 2016 to 2017 we screened 10 people, this includes members who updated their screening and new members, both staff and volunteers., medium and high risk members.

We still remain in accordance with the Diocese of Toronto requirements for screening in faith.

Thank you Barbara Johnston and Paul Marritt and the ministry leaders for helping to facilitate this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

*Edna M. Quammie
Screening Officer*

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to present to the Management Team and the Vestry meeting its report on activities in 2017. The Committee consists of Caroline van Nostrand, David Moore, Carolyn Kearns and Bob Hutchison (Chair) and works closely with Rick Varkey who, as Treasurer, attends most meetings. Andrea Christensen, Robert Gorham and David Howells in their Interim capacities were also able to assist. Gary Shaw who is our Diocesan-appointed Growing Healthy Stewards (GHS) coach also attends most meetings. The Committee is supported by Paul Marritt and Elisabeth Lunder in the Parish Office.

The Growing Healthy Stewards program (GHS) was introduced at CCDP in 2016 and 2017 was the first full year of its implementation. The basic premise of GHS is that stewardship is a lifestyle and a choice we as Christians can and should make. A healthy steward is a committed Christian who understands his/her faith and acknowledges that his/her blessings and gifts are from God and is thus motivated to share such gifts.

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for implementing the GHS program. In so doing, we were pleased with the response of parishioners to the introduction of GHS in 2016, particularly in regard to increases in givings by those who were prepared to consider and return a commitment form indicating their intention of givings for the following year. The experience is that when parishioners focus on and commit to specific stewardship goals, and become involved, they are more generous and engaged to the benefit of themselves and the whole parish.

2017 was a year of transition and pause at CCDP as we sought a new Rector. Considerable time was spent in the process by the Parish Selection Committee and Management Team in order to develop our Parish Profile. Understandably these circumstances and activities affected the focus and participation of parishioners in various programs including stewardship and GHS. Regardless, we remain committed to GHS as an effective and important stewardship program to assist CCDP in meeting its vision and mission as it goes forward.

In our Report to Vestry last year in respect of 2016, we indicated some specific goals and activities for the Committee for 2017. These goals and activities were based on the assumption that introducing GHS to parishioners who are used to viewing and responding to stewardship in a more traditional way will take time.

Following is an update of activities in 2017:

1. Communications. The introduction of GHS, like any organizational or fundamental change of behaviour, requires repetitive, consistent and informative communications. Accordingly, we have tried to take advantage of existing parish information channels such as the annual Financial Forum, *Spiritus*, Sunday service reports and testimonials, and some direct correspondence to introduce and advance GHS. In a busy parish such as CCDP it is also important to coordinate communications with other initiatives and avoid excessive or confusing messaging.

2. The Discovery Fair was repeated from the previous year and was held on September 24 after the 10:00 am service. The results were modest in terms of new volunteers but attendance was good and the ability to showcase many of the activities and programs at CCDP was important. As a lesson learned for next year, we plan to focus on areas of CCDP where the needs for volunteer support are the greatest.

3. Integration with CCDP Programs. GHS is not just about the traditional formal way in which parishioners are asked to provide financial support to their church. Accordingly, there are many examples of healthy stewardship contributions in our parish life: the choir, Refugee committee, food bank, community breakfast program, St. Andrews group, congregational care team, small group ministry, lenten study groups, liturgical servers and leaders, Promiseland, Young Anglican Leaders and The Nest, to mention some.

4. Commitment Sunday. A specific Sunday service is one of the annual focal points in the GHS program. Ours was held on November 5. This was earlier than in 2016 in order to give parishioners time to receive and consider their GHS commitment before the end of the year. In preparation for that day all parishioners were provided with information on GHS and a commitment form and were asked to complete and return it at the services on Commitment Sunday—or by other means if they were unable to attend. Specific information requested included updated contact coordinates, a financial pledge for 2018, use of pre-authorized giving and other relevant data. Approximately 300 letters were sent and a targeted email follow-up communication was organized. Notably and by intention, the Commitment Forms did not emphasize special year end gifts to address any expected financial deficit in 2017. The reason for this approach is that strong, year round giving is the mark of a healthy parish. There was a provision inviting such gifts but relatively few parishioners gave “top-up” gifts.

5. 2017 Stewardship Financial Results. As indicated above, 2017 was a transitional year and participation in many activities, including stewardship and financial support to the parish, was affected. There was no significant increase in regular congregational givings, but such givings were slightly ahead of the budget for the year. This aided the parish in finishing 2017 without an operating deficit. However, this result was driven largely by decreased expenses by virtue of reduced staffing complements—notably the absence of a full time Rector.

The Committee continues to believe that the Growing Healthy Stewards approach is the right one for CCDP—but it requires discipline and effort by us all collectively and, most importantly, individually. The Committee will soon be planning the next stages of the program for 2018 and beyond. However, we also wish to receive the direction of the Management Team (including the input of our new Rector) to ensure our efforts are coordinated and integrated with the broader plans for the parish. It is expected that priorities will include clearer communications, the establishment of a legacy giving program, increased use of pre-authorized monthly banking arrangements and an improved data base and information technology system to identify our parishioners and roles as healthy stewards. We look forward to growing the number of healthy stewards in 2018 who wish to contribute their time, talent and treasure to the work of CCDP.

One of the key ways in which parishioners can contribute to CCDP is participation in committees and the Stewardship Committee would benefit from new members, energy and ideas. If you are interested in assisting, please let the Management Team know.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bob Hutchison
Co-Chair*

Trust Committee

The CCDP Trust Committee oversees the investments of the various trust funds (see below) held by CCDP. The Committee is composed of five parishioners appointed by Corporation. Throughout 2017, its members were:

Franck Perrin Co-chair
Jill MacRae Co-chair
Robert Morrow
Kathleen Kent
Michael Butler
Rev. Canon Cheryl Palmer, ex-officio
Paul Marritt, Director of Parish Operations, staff support

The responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

1. Engage an Investment Advisor to advise on the management of the Trust Funds in accordance with these Terms of Reference;
2. Evaluate the performance of the Investment Advisor annually. Such evaluation could lead to the replacement of the Investment Advisor;
3. Evaluate the performance of the Trust Funds at least semi-annually;
4. Review the Trust Funds for compliance with these Terms of Reference at least semi-annually;
5. Report to Corporation as requested and at least annually;
6. Report to the annual Vestry meeting;
7. Review these Terms of Reference annually, with any substantive proposed changes first being submitted to Corporation for comment; and
8. Carry out these responsibilities with the diligence, independence and objectivity reasonably expected of a volunteer committee.

The Committee met four times formally, with proper quorum, focussing on matters such as:

1. Reviewing the performance of the portfolio and individual holdings with Bruce Moore CIBC, our financial advisor/stock broker, on a regular basis; and
2. Making any changes deemed necessary to the composition of the portfolio

The Investment Objectives for the Trust Funds are:

1. Preservation of Capital;
2. Provision of secure income for the operations of the Church;
3. Capital appreciation without undue risk;
4. Achieve an annual total rate of return on the funds that exceeds the rate of inflation by 3% over the most recent 4 years period; and
5. Achieve the specific investment policy for each of the Funds (see below).

Description & Balance of the Funds

1. Endowment Fund: \$ 1,452,189

The Endowment Fund was established in 1963 to receive gifts of money which were to be placed in approved investments to be selected and monitored by the Trust Committee. The investment income from the Fund may be used for such purposes as the Corporation sees fit. Such purposes would generally include any operating expenses of the Church. The capital of the Endowment Fund may not be withdrawn. Any investment income not used by the Corporation in any year shall be added to the capital of the Fund and thereafter may not be withdrawn.

Investment Policy: invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

2. 1870 Fund: \$ 158,150

Established by approval of vestry on October 14, 2007. Investment income may be used for the operations of the Church. Any use of the Capital of the Fund above \$35,000 in any calendar year will require prior approval of Vestry. As at December 31, 2012, the 1870 Fund had a loan receivable of \$85,000 from Corporation. The original loan was for \$110,000.

Investment Policy: those funds not required in the current fiscal year should be invested in long-term assets to generate capital growth whilst preserving capital.

3. Woodcock Theological Fund: \$ 69,648

This fund was created with a bequest from Canon Woodcock. No further contributions to this fund will be accepted. As Canon Woodcock did not specify how the funds should be used, vestry determined that income from the funds should be applied to theological education including the continuing education of the ministry staff of Christ Church Deer Park. Capital of the fund may not be withdrawn.

Investment Policy: invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

4. Ministry Funds: \$ 62,712

This fund was created with a donation from a single parishioner. The funds are to be held pending agreement between the Rector and the donor on a suitable expenditure or expenditures.

Investment Policy: Maintain liquidity and preserve capital.

5. Rectory Fund: \$ 1,161,633

This fund was created with the proceeds from the sale of the rectory. The funds are held and invested by the Diocese on behalf of Christ Church Deer Park. Currently the income generated is forwarded to Corporation to meet annual operating/programme expenses.

Investment Policy: invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

6. Re-Imagining Church: \$ 311,709

7.

Performance of the Funds: 01/01/2017 - 12/31/2017

Starting Value	\$ 2,111,096.44
Inflows	\$ 57,149.10
Outflows	\$-133,808.03
Revenues	\$ 54,024.48
Ending Value	\$ 2,173,933.65
Performance – Net	6.723 %

Notes:

1. The income from the Rectory Fund accrues to CCDP. The initial principal was generated through the sale of a residence previously purchased for the use of a previous Minister.
2. It is the policy of the Anglican Church of Canada that it is the ultimate beneficiary of all funds held by or on behalf of CCDP.

Respectfully submitted,

*Franck Perrin and Jill MacRae
Co-Chairs*

Property Committee

The Property Committee is responsible for providing guidance to Management with regard to property issues, and to ensure that approved work is properly implemented.

The current members of the committee are Andrew van Nostrand, Paul Marritt, Arthur Huycke, Yemi Alabi and Walter Blackwell. Kathy Lindsey has decided to retire from the committee, and we thank Kathy for her leadership as chair over the past number of years.

A special Vestry was held in the spring of 2017 to allocate funds from the 1870 Fund to cover some of the necessary property expenses. The projects that were completed in 2017 include:

- 1) Demolition of the original coal storage room under the parking lot on the north side of the church and filling the void with compacted backfill. The asphalt surface will be replaced this spring after the fill has settled further and the frost is out of the ground.
- 2) Painting of the Community Hall and Guild Room.
- 3) Repair of the two fire exit doors on the north side of the nave to ensure easy egress.
- 4) Replacement of the sound system in the nave.
- 5) Repair of issues in the Oriole Nursery identified by city inspectors. These included repair of windows and damaged plaster, and re-caulking to minimize further leaks.
- 6) Installation of handrails in the men's' and women' washrooms in the basement and repair of the handrails to the Community Hall.
- 7) Repairs and maintenance of the elevator.
- 8)

Items that were planned for 2017 but which had to be deferred include:

- 1) Investigation of the weeping tile system around the church building.
- 2) Repair or replacement of the Bell Tower doors including the addition of handicap access.
- 3) Handicap access at the inside Atrium door.
- 4) Decorating and partitions in the main office space.
- 5) Review and maintenance of the slate tile roof. This is normally done annually.
- 6)

The committee is currently identifying the priorities for 2018, and reviewing our progress relative to the 10 Year Capital Plan prepared in 2013. The church, which was built in 1922, requires constant maintenance and the committee is endeavoring to keep ahead of the problems that inevitably arise.

All members of the committee are thanked for their hard work and excellent advice during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Blackwell
Chair

**Christ Church Deer Park
2017 Attendance Statistics**

Service	Total Attendance	Average Weekly (total divided by 52)
8:00 am	1,142 (2016 – 1,247)	22 (2016 -24)
10:00 am	6,379 (2016 – 7,274)	123 (2016 -140)
Afternoon	2,055 (2016 – 2,833)	40 (2016 -54)
TOTAL	9,576 (2016 – 11,354)	185 (2016 – 218)

Number of people in church at Easter Vigil/Easter Day (3 services) = **412** (2016-468)

Number of people in church on Christmas Eve/Day (4 services) = **360** (2016-611)

Average attendance at the Wednesday 7:30 am Eucharist = **17** (2016-17)

Average attendance at Church on Tap = **29** (2016- 39)

Average attendance at Jazz Vespers = **114** (2016-157)

Average Sunday attendance (includes all Sunday services) = 184 (2016-195)

Average weekly attendance (all services except wedding & funerals) = 224 (2016-263)