



# Wanted: The Difference Christ Makes



By Andrew Harding

LOSE yourself and follow me, says Jesus. It’s one of the most difficult parts of the Gospel. Until I was 16, I sat through at least 300 invitations from Sunday evening gospel preachers to walk to the front of the church and make a decision for Christ, as was done in the Billy Graham rallies. But it seemed to me that less God meant more freedom for me, a zero sum game.

Scroll down 30 years to Easter 2018, when I heard Richard Coles, an English priest, say quite simply that being a Christian means you are sometimes in places and with people you would rather not be with. I was intrigued.

By this point I was attracted to the Anglican communion with its choral tradition and theological breathing space. I could never go back to the form of piety and church I grew up with, which had never connected with me. There were plenty of good ways to make the world better, and for years I pursued them. But in recent years I felt increasingly adrift, and going to the dollar store on Sunday mornings for kids’ arts and crafts things as an activity made me think about walking the extra block to church on Yonge Street. During all this time I had read a good deal from the theologian Stanley Hauerwas. His critique of the “co-opted Christ”—the Christ whom religious leaders, politicians, and others use for their own purposes but who makes no difference to their behaviour—was

an eye-opener. If Jesus is not an instrument for our success, salvation, and well-being, or the ultimate moral example, what is he?

What made a difference for me was the discovery of some of the best current theologians and preachers like N.T. Wright, Rowan Williams, and Samuel Wells. In particular, these three points from their work profoundly influenced me this past year.

**1. Vision.** From N.T. Wright I have a sense that salvation and relationship with Jesus has to be grounded in and transformed by the shape and purpose of Jesus’ life to reveal the kingdom of God in a radically new way. Beliefs do matter, says Rowan Williams, though “not first as an explanation of things, but a world to live in...and a coherent context for human living.”

**2. Power.** I am greatly indebted to Rowan Williams for seeing that the transforming power of the Gospel is about the fulness of life rather than a matter of control. “To be religious is [not] to be subject to another’s will and to be called upon to make dramatic and consistent self-sacrifice. It is a matter of yielding not to an alien will, but prayerfully acknowledging our dependence on God—yielding to an unconditional source of affirmation. To see oneself afresh and learn the grammar of talk about God, belong absolutely together, grounded in the gift of baptism.”

**3. Relationships.** I am good at doing things “for” people as a way to avoid being “with” them. I now see more clearly how my earlier professional and volunteer work dried out. Reflecting on the Gospels, Samuel Wells has said that “in Jesus, God didn’t settle on only doing things for us—but that the power of what God does for us is based in God’s being ‘with’ us. That’s the good news of the gospel—that’s the difference Christ makes, and it is what we live out when we are with people when there is nothing we can do ‘for’ them.”

To borrow from the title of Richard Coles’s book, there are indeed “fathomless riches” to discover in Christianity.

✚ *Andrew Harding and his family joined Christ Church Deer Park in 2019.*

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# Anne Larkin Award: Donation to the Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank

By Bob Hutchison and Carolyn Kearns

IN JUNE, we were surprised, humbled, and mildly embarrassed to be selected as recipients of the Anne Larkin Award, an annual award that recognizes volunteerism at Christ Church Deer Park. The list of previous recipients is impressive, and we are honoured to be among such a dedicated group of parishioners.

The award consists of \$1,000.00 to be given to a charitable organization that supports the work of the Anglican Church and the parish. After some careful thought and a bit of research, we both agreed that the Churches-on-the-Hill (COTH) Food Bank would be an ideal recipient.

We know a bit about the COTH Food Bank because several parishioners are active volunteers and the parish’s weekly bulletins ask for specified food donations. A review of the website (<http://www.cothfoodbank.ca>) and a conversation with its president, Ken Burns, provided us with some further information which we thought might be of interest to the congregation.

- The COTH Food Bank was founded 23 years ago by the Churches-on-the-Hill and is a regional agency of the Daily Bread Food Bank. It is located at Timothy Eaton Church and serves approximately 1,200 clients a month (up 12% from last year).

- The food bank operates as a supplemental food program, providing clients with 3 meals for 3 days, and clients can come up to 3 times a month on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings.

- The food bank’s clients live in the immediate area and 30% have university degrees. Those served include seniors on fixed incomes facing rising costs, students who have graduated and are unable to find meaningful work, and immigrants new to Canada.

- The organization is 100% volunteer staffed by approximately 145 individuals, many of whom work multiple shifts on Mondays and Wednesdays as well as undertaking other responsibilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays (receiving, sorting, stocking food, etc.).

- The COTH Food Bank has 2 main fundraising efforts—the annual Christmas carol service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church and the food drive in April. Christ Church Deer Park is involved in both of these events.

Thanks to the parish for the honour of receiving the Anne Larkin Award. We, in turn, are delighted to support the work of the Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank.

✚ *Bob Hutchison and Carolyn Kearns are active members of Christ Church Deer Park who have, at different times, served as churchwardens.*



# Update: Vision Planning at Christ Church Deer Park



By Carolyn Kearns (on behalf of the Steering Team)

## BACKGROUND

Christ Church Deer Park has been engaging in quite a journey during the past nine months. In the fall of 2018, we embarked on a planning process with five desired outcomes:

- **A vision** of who we want to be and how to get there
- **An increased understanding** of our purpose and relevance to the larger community (the neighbourhood and beyond) in terms of community betterment and attracting new participants
- **Greater engagement** on the part of parishioners in parish activities, including spiritual growth, excitement, and commitment
- **A plan** that will lead to growth in congregational numbers
- **Preparation** for our parish's sesquicentennial.

The steering team, working with a facilitator, Reverend Paul MacLean, and under the overall direction of the management team, provided regular updates and reports during Sunday service announcements, in weekly bulletins, and in *Spiritus* articles.

## PLANNING PROCESS OUTCOMES

The planning process is now complete and we are moving to implement the projects that have emerged from our work. A full report is available from the parish office. Some highlights follow, all of which have been presented in earlier communications. For more details please see the report.

## VISION/MISSION

*As disciples of the risen Christ, we strive to follow his great commandments—to love God and our neighbor. We express that love, deepen our faith and grow our community through worship, caring for one another, and by acts of service to the neighbourhood and the wider world.*

## VALUES (TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS)

- Diversity and inclusion
- Exploration and questioning
- Welcoming— an affirming and safe place
- Joy and celebration, empathy and compassion
- Embracing change grounded in the Anglican tradition

## SUGGESTED INITIATIVES

At the March 2019 sessions, small groups identified these initiatives as possible ways to achieve our vision and mission:

Area of Focus	Ministry Initiatives Identified
Community	1. Faith study/discipleship 2. Theatre arts and coffee house
Worship & Life of Prayer	3. Additional Sunday worship service 4. Prayer group and chain
Teaching & Learning	5. Food for thought (group dinners)
Compassionate Care	6. Connection Team
Sharing our Faith	7. Churches-on-the-Hill information on worship services 8. CCDP open for prayer during the week 9. Mid-week evening service
Gospel in Action	10. Battle climate change (ongoing) 11. Social justice program (ongoing) 12. Community hub

## SHORTLISTED INITIATIVES

A shortlist was developed from the initial suggestions, recognizing that vision planning is based roughly on a five-year timeframe and that parish energy and resources must also be devoted to ongoing work and commitments. So, of the original ideas, the following six projects were identified for immediate attention, taking into account factors such as number of people who expressed an interest.

### 1. Community Hub

To use the church as physical premises as well as a focal point for congregational and community activities, providing a safe haven, acceptance, empowerment, and self-actualization for people.

### 2. Additional Sunday Worship Service

To be "different" from our current Sunday worship services and designed to attract newcomers, using a new liturgy that connects us to our neighbourhood and is open and creative.

### 3. Food for Thought and Faith Study/Discipleship

To introduce people to Jesus, deepen and develop our faith and relationship with Him through activities such as speakers' series and group dinners focused on common discussion themes.

### 4. Churches-on-the-Hill Information on Worship Services

To reach out to people in our existing network of churches through the development of a brochure that would include unique and differentiating features of the services at each parish.

### 5. Connection Team

To live out our Christian values through active communications in church and non-church activities such as by being greeters, readers to shut-ins, or "buddies" for newcomers.

### 6. Prayer Group and Chain

To provide an environment where people feel like full participants in a Christ-centred experience of prayer and worship in informal settings, including church, homes, or places of employment.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

All of the individuals who signed up for initiatives are being asked to complete an implementation planning worksheet to further define the project and what is required to move it forward. This work will include information about the detailed activities, timelines and resources required. It is never too late to get involved if one of these initiatives interests you.

While the planning part of our exercise has come to an end and the work of the steering team is over, realizing our hopes and dreams is ongoing work. To sustain Charting our Future with Christ over the long term, a small team of "vision keepers" will be appointed to keep the process, initiatives, and spirit of the project alive. Their role will include monitoring the progress of the initiatives, representing the progress of the project to the management team and Advisory Board, ensuring evaluation at appropriate times, and communicating with the congregation.

We are pleased and proud of the engagement and work of our parish on this important work, and we are excited about our future progress moving forward.



By Tony van Staubenzee

**It may seem early to contemplate the holiday season,** but there is a date I'd like you to reserve. I am organizing a Christmas Concert—"Glad Tidings"—at Christ Church Deer Park for Sunday, December 1, 2019, at 4 pm featuring the exceptional Incontra Choir led by Matthew Otto. Judy Maddren of CBC fame and founder of Soundportraits will read a Christmas story, and Stuart Hughes, a founding member of Souleppper Theatre and a well-known Canadian actor, will also take part.

It should be a splendid event with tickets at \$35 per person or couples for \$65. It should run for an hour and a half, followed by a reception in Elliott Hall.

The purpose of the concert is to raise \$10,000 for the parish. To that end, I am looking for ten sponsors at \$1,000, and we're off to a good start because some sponsors have already stepped forward. We will require at least twenty people to sell tickets, and I will be contacting many of you to help.

Part of our objective is to bring in people not presently connected to the parish.

I hope you will all help. If you have any questions please call me at 416.994.4811 or Email me at Tonyvan2003@yahoo.ca.

# When You Lose Faith, Where Does It Go?



By Edna Quammie

We say, "keep the faith." Everyone has some type of faith, a religious belief, a commitment to basic human rights, or some other deeply-rooted value or conviction. In our daily lives, religious beliefs and secular beliefs can intersect. The secular world tells us to live in peace. The Bible tells us to put our faith in God, and its Ten Commandments are guidelines to live a good and faithful life. Following the religious beliefs of our religion or the secular beliefs of our society gives us a sense of our place on the planet and influences the way we live.

In our Anglican beliefs we embrace the sacraments of the Gospel, which are believed to be necessary for our salvation. Baptism washes away original sin and actual sin, replacing it with faith and repentance. The Holy Eucharist feeds, nourishes, supports, and strengthens us with the spiritual body and blood of Christ. Confirmation strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Penance, by which we repent and confess our sins, absolves us by the power of Christ. Holy Matrimony is a sacred union. Holy Orders consecrates our ministers, and Unction prepares our souls for our final journey. The sacraments of the church give us faith, which is described as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" Hebrews (11:1-40).

When we fail to practise our Christian doctrines of good intentions, gratitude, wholesome practices, and avoiding temptation, faith begins to slip away and there is room for the enemies of the soul, the world, the flesh and the devil. Or perhaps a letter to Wormwood from Uncle Screwtape arrives in our mailbox. Then, perhaps, it is time for self-examination to regain a religious perspective. A time to repair, confess, atone, and make amends through prayer, fasting, and outward acts of charity. Why? Because faith did not leave. It was pushed aside by our pride, jealousy, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth.

To maintain our faith, a faith that is vigorous as opposed to lacklustre, a faith that God wishes for us, we must recognize our own grievous offences, our misdoings, and what we have done against God and our neighbour. Through confession, we must become contrite, repent, and seek to amend our ways. We must continually seek obedience, confidence in God, and a commitment to his will in spite of circumstances or consequences.

Our Saviour Christ said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). This is how I shall keep faith.

⊕ Edna Quammie is a member of the Congregational Care Team at Christ Church Deer Park.

# Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank



By Ben Dibben

Since the last *Spiritus* article, the food bank's Annual Food Drive was held in April, earlier than in previous years to avoid clashing with drives held by other organizations. A total of 25 volunteers supported that part of the drive involving Christ Church Deer Park activities, and these were parishioners, along with their children and friends.

Hopefully, the good results achieved over recent years will make it attractive for people to come forward as new volunteers in next year's drive. If anyone has any thought of joining us, please call Ben Dibben at 416.485.6527.

Over the months of 2019, Christ Church Deer Park parishioners have continued to generously contribute items to the attractive collection box in the atrium, run by the children of PromiseLand-YAL.

Particular reference has been applied to the "special items" that are identified in each month's bulletin. Their presence helps to glorify the items that regularly contribute to the monthly donations to the COTH Food Bank.

In July, the special item was the CHEERIOS cereal and there were several donations of large, attractive boxes with vivid titles of that item.

In the next two months, the specials will be Kraft Dinners and peanut butter.

Sincere thanks to all who have recently contributed to the COTH Food Bank and to those who have devoted effort and time to what has turned out to be good results.

May we hope and pray that the impressive results of recent months will continue for the rest of this year and into the future.

⊕ Ben Dibben is an active and involved parishioner who volunteers at the Food Bank.

# The Ecology of Luke 16:19

By Genevieve Chornenki

Voiceless souls peer at us  
From everywhere  
Straining, striving, struggling to signal "Repent!"  
But Abraham forbids,  
Sagely saying we won't listen  
Even to a resurrected one.

The parable cannot stand, some say,  
Such blasphemy  
That Lazarus not be let to quench  
the rich one's thirst.  
Compassion should prevail.  
Let us rewrite the tale:  
All forgiven, all get bail.

Me, I'm with the Patriarch.  
The moral tale  
Though harsh and cruel well illustrates  
how humans rule.  
We have our prophets near  
Speaking loud and clear  
Alerts that we won't hear:  
*Laudato si'*  
Retrogressive thaw slump  
Alberta ashes  
California conflagration  
Missing monarchs  
A flooded Ferrari on Simcoe Street south  
and robins that no longer migrate.

⊕ Genevieve Chornenki is the editor of *Spiritus*.



# Notes From the Music Library: Anglican Girl Meets Revivalist Hymn



By Emily Chatten

When I think about church and hymns in summer, I inevitably end up in the same place, Presqu’île Provincial Park. This may seem unlikely to you, but it is central to summer worship in Brighton, Ontario. For over a century, during the summer months there has been an ecumenical service every Sunday in the park under the auspices of the “Church in the Heart of the Park.” The “Church in the Heart of the Park” committee arranges for local ministers to share the pulpit and finds musicians. When I was a child, my family would often go to these services over the summer. My youth group would also camp in the park and take Communion on the shore of Lake Ontario.

In my late teens I worked in the park’s natural heritage interpretation program. During my final summer, the “Church in the Heart of the Park” committee asked me to play for their services. In those days I was known to fill in for organists in local parishes during their vacations. As the service was outside, the church only had a keyboard, but I agreed to play. There was a short songbook of familiar hymns from which ministers were encouraged to pick.

One of the hymns in the booklet was “Shall We Gather At the River.” Let me tell you, I was a good little Anglican girl (only a few months past 19 and just over 5-feet tall), and I was not familiar with evangelical Protestant hymns or with any of the “Great Awakenings” and revivals that took place in American Christianity! Such songs weren’t in any hymn book that I’d ever seen. But people loved “Shall We Gather At the River.”

I later learned that a revivalist period in the United States in the 1850s and 60s saw the birth of the evangelical religious movement. Hundreds of hymns were written during this period but few are still sung.

In 1864, Reverend Robert Lowry sat down in Brooklyn on a hot summer afternoon and wrote “Shall we Gather at the River” as a balm for his congregation. The text draws on the hymn of Revelations 22:1-2. The American Civil War had been dragging on for years and, worse, Brooklyn was in the throes of an outbreak of typhoid fever that, at that time, had a fatality rate of approximately sixty percent. Typhoid fever is contracted by drinking water or eating food that is contaminated.

Like many of the popular Shaker and Shape Note hymns of the time, “Shall We Gather At The River” has become part of a group of hymns known as white spirituals. Robert Lowery was a Baptist Minister with a Doctor of Divinity. He was born in 1826 and died in 1899. He wrote other hymns and hymn tunes, but “Shall We Gather at the River” with its accompanying tune HANSON PLACE are his most famous.

⊕ Emily Chatten is a Christ Church Deer Park chorister who helps to maintain the parish music library.

# WE THE NORTH



By Tony van Straubenzee

The Toronto Raptors won the National Basketball Championship in 2019, and the victory parade was held on Monday, June 17th. I had a doctor’s appointment downtown at 9:30 a.m. and, thinking that the subway would be busy, I left my condo at 8:30.

When I arrived at the subway station at Bloor Street, the stairway to the platform was packed with happy and cheerful people. It was an amazing sight with every race, colour, and age represented. I was unquestionably the oldest man in the lineup.

We inched our way down the stairs only to find the platform seven deep with passengers. We were so jammed together I couldn’t move my arms. There was no panic—in fact everyone was in a good mood and happy to be a part of this very special event. Even the police and TTC officials were smiling.

I wondered if I would ever get on the subway, but it was too late to go back because of the huge crowd behind me.

Beside me stood a very tall African-Canadian man with WE THE NORTH on his shirt and a Raptors ball cap. My guess is that he is 6’8” and probably played basketball. He looked down at me.

“Sir, are you coming downtown?”

“I hope so,” I replied.

“OK,” he said. “Let’s go for it!”

Literally lifting me off my feet and in a loud, authoritative voice, he said to the crowd, “Let this old man through, please!”

The crowd parted and we got on the next car! It was a miracle. I thanked him profusely.

“Yes,” he said, smiling. “It was good for me too, Bro.” He gave me a wink.

I wish I could have taken his picture, but I was pinned up against three other fans, many of whom were shouting “Go Raptors Go.”

I made my doctor’s appointment and felt a part of the exciting spirit in the city that day.

⊕ Tony van Straubenzee is a long-time parishioner of Christ Church Deer Park and a faithful contributor to Spiritus.

# Wellness that Works



By Robert Gorham

This past eight months I have been adjusting to a new life style. In my retirement I decide to get more active and lose some weight. So far, I’ve been successful and have become much more aware of what I eat and the amount of activity I do each day. I have always enjoyed cooking and have found a few recipes that have helped me on my journey that I would like to share.

I do not eat much bread anymore, as I have discovered this easy-to-make recipe for bagels. These easy-bake, homemade bagels are made from scratch with just five ingredients—flour, Greek yogurt, egg, baking powder, and salt. No yeast, no boiling, no fancy mixer. Bake them in the oven.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 cup of unbleached all purpose flour, whole wheat or gluten-free mix.
  - 2 teaspoons baking powder
  - ¾ teaspoon kosher salt (use less if using table salt)
  - 1 cup of non-fat Greek yogurt (not regular yogurt, it will be too sticky)
  - 1 egg white, beaten (whole egg works fine too)
  - (optional toppings: everything bagel seasoning, sesame seeds, poppy seeds, dried garlic flakes, dried onion flakes)

- Instructions:**
- Preheat Oven to 375°F.
- Place parchment paper on a baking sheet, spray with oil. In a medium bowl combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Whisk well.
- Add yogurt and mix with fork or spatula until well combined. It will look like small crumbles.
- Lightly dust flour on a work service and remove dough from the bowl, knead the dough a few times until dough is tacky, but not sticky, about 15 turns.
- Divide into 4 equal balls. Roll each ball into ¾-inch thick ropes and join the ends to form the bagels (or you can make a ball and poke a hole in the center them stretch it slightly).
- Bush top with egg wash and sprinkle with the seasoning of your choice. Bake on the top rack of the oven for 25 minutes.
- Let cool at least 10 minutes before cutting.
- The dough can also be used to make a pizza crust. Sometimes I just roll the dough into four balls and cook them as buns. I often double the batch, as they freeze well.
- Happy baking!

⊕ Robert Gorham served as Interim Associate Priest at Christ Church Deer Park in 2018. He is now an Honourary Assistant and remains an active member of the parish.





## Volunteer Spotlight: Roger Knox

By Deborah Wilkinson

### Roger, when did you first start coming to Christ Church Deer Park?

I started at Christ Church Deer Park in 2010 when joining the choir under Eric Robertson. I learned a lot from him and from our music director Matthew Otto, who has really focused well on the liturgy and the choir's sound. It has been a return to the church for me—as a child we went to St. James United Church in Etobicoke.

### Please tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

I was born in Toronto and early on my mother enrolled us all in piano lessons at the Conservatory. We moved to Vancouver when I was 12. I was interested in academics, summer camp, and hockey as well as music, where I branched out into pop and folk and learned several other instruments. When young I became a classical pianist and won some significant awards. My studies continued in the USA, but, unfortunately, I developed a chronic arm problem. After changing fields to music composition and theory, I received music commissions and CBC radio broadcasts while holding successive post-secondary teaching and research positions. Now it's a spiritual blessing to still have musical outlets like singing and playing harmonica. Church and volunteering help me deal with frustrations and losses. Currently I'm semi-retired, but still enjoy composing music, reading, walks, and meeting friends.

My Dad was a meteorologist who met my Mom in the weather service. These days my brother and sister both have families in Toronto. Since joining Christ Church Deer Park I've noticed greater confidence in assisting people in my life who have significant illnesses or disability—for example, encouraging my mother who is able to walk again after recovering from a serious accident.

### What is your dream vacation?

Scotland—to visit friends and take in some of the Edinburgh Festival.

### Favourite sports team?

North Toronto Hockey—an excellent organization—and its teams in the Greater Toronto Area Hockey League.

### Favourite Tea?

Iced Passion Tea and also rooibos blends.

### What book are you currently reading?

A biography by Gwendolyn Setterfield of Niki Goldschmidt, renowned Toronto-based choral conductor, impresario, and musical ambassador who made a permanent contribution to Canada's musical scene through his far-sighted teaching and extraordinary arts festivals.

### In what ways do you volunteer at Christ Church Deer Park and why is it important for you to do so?

In the Christ Church Deer Park choir, I sing bass and have composed settings of the Kyrie and Agnus Dei. Currently, I go to Challenging Christianity and was on the Prayers of the People roster. Also, I've volunteered with the music director selection committee, art shows, and rummage sale security.

Singing brings me closer to the meaning and spirituality of the liturgy. Having reached semi-retirement, regular activities are important, particularly ones that can align with the church's mission. In the choir, leadership from Matthew Otto and section heads Brad Christensen and Mike Uloth has helped me to sing better, while my previous musical experience contributes to the program.

### How has giving to Christ Church Deer Park had an impact on you?

I have met new people too numerous to name and gotten to know a few parishioners very well. Having something to give as well as to receive in this Christian community contributes to a sense of the presence of God and of Christ's message.

Deborah Wilkinson currently serves as People's Warden at Christ Church Deer Park. If you would like to be interviewed for an upcoming issue or want to offer someone's name, please contact Deborah at [ccdpcoffee@gmail.com](mailto:ccdpcoffee@gmail.com).

## Who Me, an Evangelist?

By Cheryl Palmer and Molly Finlay

There are lots of misconceptions around the term “evangelism” and Anglicans can get a bit freaked out by the term. But actually, this word comes from the Greek word “euangelion” which means Good News! So, really, all Christians can be “euangelion” people, interested in and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. And this is central to the renewal of our community life at Christ Church Deer Park.

### What do we mean by the word “evangelism?”

Evangelism is simply sharing with others your faith as a Christian and inviting them to come to church with you (our new Family Eucharist each month is a great entry point for people who haven't been to church in a while). There are plenty of easy, non-crazy ways to do this. We will learn more about this in our community in the months to come.

### Why does evangelism have such a bad rap?

To many people the word evangelism stirs up some pretty negative images of people trying to aggressively pressure others to agree with a list of propositions about God. To others, the word is associated with religious charlatans who take advantage of vulnerable people on the internet or television.

It's fair to say that this image of evangelism arose from exactly these kinds of abuses. So, yes, evangelism has a bad rap for some very good reasons. But is this what Jesus himself meant by evangelism? No.

### What did Jesus say about evangelism?

Actually, Jesus never used the word! But when Jesus sent out the first Christians to share their faith with others he told them to share good news (Matthew 10:8). This good news was that people could find forgiveness, healing, purpose, and wholeness by turning toward God and by then coming to know and journey with God.

Jesus demonstrated patience with people who were curious about or intrigued by him. He was patient with people who began to follow him. He journeyed with many of his first followers for a full three years, recognizing that it would take time for them to figure out who he was, what he was teaching, why he had come, and what it meant to live as one of his apprentices. Still today, many people become Christians as a result of a journey that takes several years. You may be just one stop on the journey of faith for your friends, neighbours and family—and that's just great!

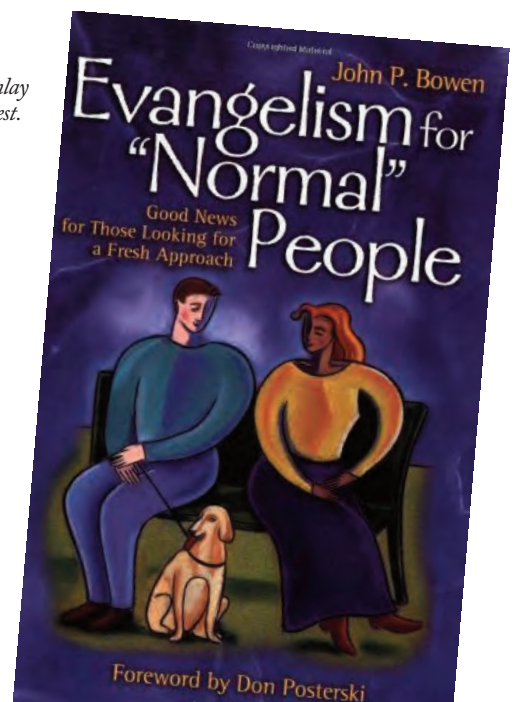
### Why should I, as a Christian, care about evangelism?

In short, because God wants as many people as possible to come to know him, and to know the transformation that comes from that relationship. Jesus' final instruction to his first followers was to go and share with the rest of the world this good news, teaching others how to become and live as his apprentices. Sharing your faith was meant to be a part of every Christian's life. After all, it's “Good News” that's worth sharing!

### Is there anything I can read to further my understanding of evangelism?

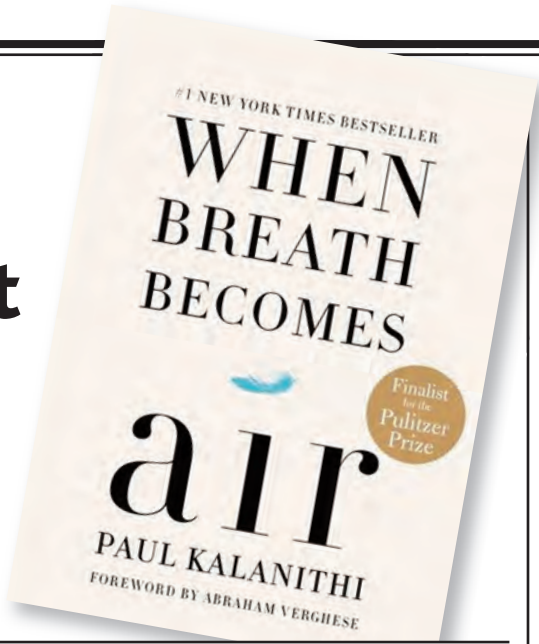
We recommend *Evangelism for “Normal” People*, by John P. Bowen (Augsburg Fortress, 2002).

Cheryl Palmer is the Incumbent at Christ Church Deer Park, and Molly Finlay recently joined the parish as Associate Priest.





# A Book with Significant Impact



By Pat Butler

I wept a little as I finished reading *When Breath Becomes Air*, written by Dr. Paul Kalanithi as he was dying. At the age of 36, he was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer, just as he was qualifying as a neurosurgeon. Surviving only twenty-two months after his diagnosis, Paul’s very first book was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

When I read the trajectory of Paul’s life on the flyleaf (English at Yale, MPhil in History at Cambridge, Medicine at Stanford, cancer), I was a little skeptical. In our society, it’s usually people who abuse their bodies with drugs or alcohol that die so young—not healthy-habited folk like Paul.

I want to capture my reaction to this tragic arc to further embed his goodness into my psyche. His wisdom in the face of death is worth holding on to. Every person ever born will die: we differ only in the length and the cause of our deaths. Ours is a death-averse society and each of us should actively contemplate our mortality so we can inform our families of our wishes and priorities.

When Paul was ten, his family moved to tiny Kingman, Arizona. Its education system was the poorest in the state, so his mother encouraged him to read everything on a college preparatory list, which instilled his love of words. He was torn between becoming a writer or a doctor. Cancer struck as he was finishing his gruelling neurosurgery residency.

Viktor Frankl, an Austrian psychiatrist who survived Auschwitz, wrote *Man’s Search for Meaning*. Frankl’s principal message: when you can’t change a situation that life presents, the only thing you can change is your attitude to that situation. That is clearly what Paul did. When facing premature death, he reached back into his literary education and poured out his experiences in excruciating detail. His legacy is a handbook to help ordinary people—who lack his extensive medical expertise—to face a terminal disease. Any cancer patient will identify with his struggles.

Paul, a practising Christian at the end of his life, refers to science as the basis of medical knowledge, yet writes, “scientific methodology is the product of human hands and thus cannot reach some permanent truth.” Belief in God and Jesus helped him understand love, emotions, and the meaning of life.

Medical schools should assign this book to fourth-year students to help them focus on the humane side of medicine. When preparing to operate on brain tumours, Paul consulted gently with the patient and family: *What makes life worth living for you? Is being alive and watching your children (even though you can’t speak or move and will die sooner) preferable to surgery that allows you to retain your faculties?* Other doctors could internalize the conversations that Paul recounts in detail.

Paul’s writing style gives the impression that he held nothing back. In the epilogue, his wife explains that his laptop became his treasured companion once he stopped working, giving him purpose whether he was waiting to see a specialist or enduring chemotherapy. How heartbreaking that he could not witness the book’s completion and wide public acclaim.

Those who are terminally ill have much to teach us about how to keep our priorities straight. Every day is a gift.

⊕ Pat Butler is a volunteer chorister and regularly prepares flower arrangements for Sunday worship at Christ Church Deer Park.

# Dear Church Mouse



Dear Church Mouse,

From a very young age I have known that the earth travels around the sun and takes one year to complete its orbit. Recently, however, I wondered: does the sun move in an orbit, too? An internet search gave me the answer. The sun orbits the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy and we just tag along. Its average speed is 828,000 km/hr. and it takes 230 million years to complete one orbit. These numbers are beyond comprehension. Some people will say these sun facts are riddled with as many holes as a piece of Swiss cheese. But my physics-based brain colludes with my Christian faith and I have to ask, “Where is Heaven?” Do you have any ideas for those of us living in 2019?

*A Speck-In-Time That Has Value*

Dear *Speck*,

Look around! You’re wallowing in it. Heaven is here and now, and you have the privilege and responsibility of knowing and living it fully.

But don’t take this mouse’s word for it: Read Luke 17:21. “For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” Or, if you prefer the King James Version, “for the kingdom of God is within you.” And while you’re at it, you might want to contemplate the non-canonical sayings in the Gospel of Thomas<sup>1</sup>:

Yeshua said,  
If your leaders tell you, “Look, the kingdom is in heaven,”  
then the birds of heaven will precede you.  
If they say to you, “It’s in the sea,”  
then the fish will proceed you.  
But the kingdom is inside you and it is outside you.  
When you know yourselves, then you will be known,  
and you will understand that you are children of the living father.

<sup>1</sup> See *The Gnostic Bible*, edited by Willis Barnstone and Marvin Meyer (Shambala, 2003)



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**WANTED  
CONTRIBUTORS AND  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
OF ALL AGES AND STAGES.**

**Would you be willing to take on a specific assignment or take pictures?** Is there something you would like to research and write about? Do you have a constructive comment? Or, is there an activity or initiative that you would like others to join? If so, please contact us at [spiritus@christchurchdeerpark.org](mailto:spiritus@christchurchdeerpark.org)

Submissions should be 250 words long and in Word format, and all submissions will be subject to edit. **Copy deadline for the next edition is Tuesday, November 5, 2019.**

A big thanks to all of the contributors for this issue of *SPIRITUS*.



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