

SPIRITUS

Dear friends,

Shortly after the announcement of my appointment as rector of Christ Church Deer Park in 2011, but before most of you knew who I was, I came by to check you out! It was a hot, August Sunday morning. There weren't many people in church that day, and the few children in attendance were reading quietly on the steps of the baptismal font as the liturgy unfolded around them. But what I remember most vividly about that day was the warmth of the welcome. Many of you came right up and introduced yourselves, though you didn't know me. I sensed very quickly that I was coming into a community that took seriously the ministry of love, hospitality, and service in the name of Christ.

After five years as your rector, I am preparing to leave this same loving community. It's a bittersweet time for me. On the one hand, I am delighted and honoured to have been elected a bishop in the Church, and I very much look forward to serving as a bishop suffragan in the Diocese of Toronto. On the other hand, I will miss Christ Church Deer Park tremendously. This has become "home", not only for me, but also for my family. In many ways, my stay here has seemed too short, and yet I believe that we have done many good things together and that God is now calling me to a new ministry within the life of our Church.

Transitions can be difficult, so I want to assure you that you are in good hands in the months ahead:

1. Your churchwardens have already begun working on a transition plan, including meeting with the current area bishop and building a Parish Selection Committee (PSC). The members of the PSC will be formally elected at a Special Vestry Meeting on November 20, 2016, at 11:30 am. They will then work with you to develop a parish profile that reflects the rich character and potential of this place.

2. Our Associate Priest, the Reverend Andrea Christensen, will remain on staff on a full-time basis during the interim period, and will continue to engage in the excellent ministry for which she is known and loved. While Hilary Keachie is on "sabbatical" in Rome for the next few months, be assured that her ministry among our children and youth will continue next spring, and that the other gifted members of our staff: Matthew Otto, Paul Marritt, Elisabeth Lunder, Denis Delisle, and our part-time staff and honorary clergy, will continue to exercise their ministries with diligence and faithfulness.

3. Soon after my election in September, I was appointed the Area Bishop of York-Scarborough, the episcopal area in which our parish is located. While I will be kept busy with the oversight of some 55 other parishes in the new year, I remain committed to working closely with the leadership of Christ Church Deer Park to ensure that my successor is not only a gifted priest, but also a good match for this parish.

4. God is faithful. For over 146 years, God has blessed Christ Church Deer Park with strong clergy and lay leaders who have had a vision for growth and vitality. I don't expect that to change anytime soon!

Thank you for your patience and courage in this time of change. Please continue to uphold this process in your prayers. Thank you also for your support as I undertake this new ministry in the Diocese of Toronto and beyond. I look forward to continuing to serve with you in the amazing mission to which we have been called. To God be the glory!

Kevin

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ENTER, REST & PRAY



by Wendy Finlay

Enter, Rest & Pray. These words are at the entrance of St. Alban's Cathedral, my family church in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. In 1911, my maternal grandparents emigrated to Canada from St. Albans, Harts., Hertsfordshire, England, and when they settled in Prince Albert, they joined the St. Alban's community there. I was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Alban's Cathedral. My grandparents and

parents were buried from the cathedral, and I still delight in the continuity of identity over the course of a century.

As a child, I adored Advent and the anticipation of Christmas. It seemed always to be dark and cold, and we shivered with delight at the thought of what was to come—pageants, parties, and lots of presents.

The change of seasons finds me hankering for the pull of Advent with its promise of Christ's birth and renewal of life. Advent comes in a season of small deaths—leaves, flowers, grass, less sunshine, more darkness. Yet Advent is always accompanied by the knowledge of rebirth to come in the spring with Easter and the gift of the renewal of life.

I enter into Advent now as if I were entering St. Alban's Cathedral and passing beneath its welcoming words. I approach Advent as a time of reflection on my thoughts, demeanor, and behaviour toward others, and equally important, I reflect on how I treat myself. I rest in this self-examination by trusting that I am loved and that faith will help overcome my anxiety and fears. I pray with the knowledge that by taking responsibility for my shortcomings and by using Advent as an opportunity of renewal and faith, I need not make the journey alone.

☪ Wendy Finlay is a lay reader and chalice bearer at Christ Church Deer Park.

Transitions

On September 17, 2016, our rector was elected a bishop suffragan in the Diocese of Toronto. Canon Robertson will be leaving our parish at the end of December to take up this new role as the Area Bishop of York-Scarborough.

Some dates to note on this transition:

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Special Vestry Meeting to elect a Parish Selection Committee (after the 10:00 am service)

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Canon Robertson's last regular Sunday at Christ Church Deer Park

Saturday, January 7, 2017

Consecration of the new bishops at St. Paul's Bloor Street (10:30 am)

Sunday, January 8, 2017

First Episcopal visit to Christ Church Deer Park (10:00 am)

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Installation of the new Bishop of York-Scarborough at St. John's York Mills (7:00 pm)

Congregational Care: The Ministry for Me

By William H. Jackson

For the past two years, I have been a member of the Congregational Care Team at Christ Church Deer Park, connecting with parishioners who can no longer attend our worship services or social events on a regular basis. Initially, this ministry involved an interview with the team leader, David Moore, a vulnerable sector workshop, and a police check, none of which is nearly as ominous or difficult as it sounds.

I decided to get involved with congregational care out of a desire to make more connections in our church community and in the hope of contributing something of myself to others. To me, the essence of Christianity is caring for one another, especially for members of our parish community. My hunch was that congregational care would be a good “fit” for someone like me who works best on a one-on-one basis. I wanted to give back to the community, but in a way that would be personal and meaningful to another identified individual. As things transpired, congregational care has turned out to be a wonderful experience.

Over the past year and on a confidential basis, I have visited and spoken with between six and ten individuals who have a connection with Christ Church Deer Park, and in each case, I have come away with a new understanding of that person and a deeper understanding of myself. When connecting with people, I take my cues from them and adapt our interactions and activities to their preferences. If they like golf, I’ll bring along my putter and we’ll hit a few balls. If they follow current affairs, we’ll exchange views. If they’d enjoy a social outing, we’ll arrange to go somewhere nice to enjoy conversation and whatever is happening. And, if they follow sports, well, we’ll agonize together about the Leafs, the Jays or whatever team is being followed. It is fun and rewarding, and I believe that I have actually forged acquaintances—maybe even friendships—with the people that I connect with. Totally worthwhile!

✚ William Jackson is a lay reader and chalice bearer at Christ Church Deer Park.

2016 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
(ADVENT 4)**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Sung Eucharist and Christmas Pageant for Children

11:30 am Celebration of the Ministry of Canon Kevin Robertson and the People of Christ Church Deer Park

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE**

7:00 pm Family Eucharist and Christmas Pageant for Children with Congregation Participation!
All kids are invited to take part – we’ll have lots of costumes – no experience or rehearsals necessary!

10:30 pm Christmas Carol Sing

11:00 pm Traditional Midnight Mass

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Sung Eucharist

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017
(FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY)**

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Meditation on the Nativity of Christ and Sung Eucharist

NEW
THIS
YEAR!

Refugee Sponsorship Committee: Update on the Alkadris



By Jennifer Roblin and Julie Scott

The lovely Alkadri family—Abdl'sattar, Suheila, Moaz, Ammar, and Maysam—have been in our country for seven months now and are settling in to their new life in Toronto.

The mother of the family, Suheila, says with a huge smile that life here is “beautiful!” Although things can be hectic and there is much to get used to, she says, “The idea here is very good. Before, not easy. But now, the future is so beautiful. My children, my husband, are so relaxed. They have friends, school, work, and so much learning.” And, most importantly, now they can enjoy simply being together as a family. Suheila adds, “You are my family too. You can see my heart. Thank you so much at the church for all you have done for us.”

The family loves their apartment in Thorncliffe Park where they can walk and play safely in the park, and the school is close by.

When daughter, Maysam, was asked what she likes best about her life in Canada, she thought for a moment and said, “Everything!” Then she quickly added, “Niagara Falls, Toronto Island, the ROM, the soccer stadium, and ...Go Canada!”

✚ Jennifer Roblin and Julie Scott are Christ Church Deer Park parishioners who are actively and practically involved in the Refugee Support Group.

Where Does The Spirit Go?

by Edna Quammie

With over 50 years nursing experience in the operating room, working closely with surgeons and anaesthetists, I have seen people die, and each time the experience moved me deeply. Often, I could feel their a patient’s spirit leave the body. This was not a figment of my imagination; a profound event was taking place, and I could tell.

When the physical body no longer sustains life, when all vital signs cease to exist, a person is declared dead. *You are dust and to dust you shall return*, scripture tell us. The mortal form returns to the earth, and pain and suffering are over.

What then, did I see taking its leave when a patient died in the operating room? I can only explain it this way. Each of us is unique with our own personality and temperament, our own “spirit.” That spirit is the essence of who we are. It is our identity, where we belong, our failures and successes, our reasoning and emotions. The spirit enables our mind, allows us to be self-aware, have intellect, creativity, and the ability to appreciate beauty. It is also the spiritual parts of us—faith, hope, reverence, and worship. Our spirit is breathed into us when we are born and made into the image of God, and we are given this spirit so that we may know God, each in our own way. When a person dies, what leaves is the unique, vital personality that animated them in life.

What happens to that spirit when it leaves? Is it inherited by our family, given as a gift to our friends, or does it remain in limbo? I do not have the answer and can only offer my personal conviction: when our mortal life is over, our spirit returns to God, the undefinable Source who is the beginning and ending of all.

✚ Edna Quammie is a retired operating room nurse and a member of the Congregational Care Team at Christ Church Deer Park.

JUST WONDERING?

By Tony van Straubenzee

The recent changes at the Diocese of Toronto have been quite dramatic on several fronts, including the amendment of the marriage canon, the reversal of the original vote on the matter, and the election of three very youthful suffragan bishops. Those of us on the sidelines have been reflecting on these changes and asking ourselves a number of questions. Here are my questions, born of a longstanding concern for the welfare of the church and her members.

1. How could there have been such an extraordinary mistake made in the counting of ballots on the sensitive subject of same-sex marriage?
2. Will those who opposed the amendment to the marriage canon for theological or other reasons be able to accept the results of the vote so the church can move on to other subjects, subjects which I personally consider to be more pressing and important? After all, same-sex marriage has dominated the agenda for a long time now.
3. Does the diocese need five bishops when the number of Anglicans is declining?
4. With the election of three bishops in their mid-forties, will they be in office for twenty plus years?

I don't know the answer to question 1.

With regard to question 2, in a world of unparalleled disparity in elections that seem to adopt increasingly low standards, I hope the church can be a rock, standing firm and confident, and coming together without rancor.

On question 3, I am in favour of having five bishops. If we look at the retired bishops of Toronto, it is alarming to witness the toll that the position has taken on their health. Two of them have suffered heart attacks, one has serious diabetes, and another was completely exhausted. Wow!

Bishop Yu, our diocesan bishop, is retiring at the end of this year. We owe him our thanks—we have not been an easy parish to oversee. I believe he is off to Hong Kong to teach, and we wish him well.

As to question 4, I don't know the answer. But what I do know is that while we are unhappy about losing Kevin Robertson, he will bring a much needed energy to the diocese and be able to reflect the views of our younger Anglicans.

Now let me add a fifth question. When Kevin Robertson runs in his next marathon, will he be wearing purple and his mitre? Just wondering.

⊕ *Tony van Straubenzee is a regular contributor to Spiritus. He has been a parishioner of Christ Church Deer Park for fifty years.*

Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank

By Ben Dibben

Just a quick report on something impressive that happened around the Thanksgiving weekend: the Food Bank collection box in the Atrium was filled on several occasions with wonderful donations that were put in mostly after the Sunday services. A total of seventy-one items were deposited in the box in the first half of October, and these bring the current 2016

total to almost 500 items. October's plentiful contributions, like the ones in the photo, surely reflect our reasons for diligently observing Thanksgiving each year. These contributions also prompted sincere thanks from the organizers of the Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank.

⊕ *Ben Dibben is an active and involved parishioner who volunteers at the food bank.*



A Reply to Tony

By Nigel W. Johnson

When I started reading what seemed to me to be a shameless book plug by Tony van Straubenzee, my first reaction was to promote my own book, *Flight of the Seawind*. Reading on, however, I became more altruistic and decided that would be inappropriate for Spiritus. Instead, I want to expand on Tony's sentiments about the people of this parish.

I was a mere lad when I arrived in November 1968 from England. My father was the superintendent at 44 Jackes Avenue, a short walk from the parish. At first I was a little intimidated; we had no sidesmen in grey morning suits back home at St. John's, Tilbury Docks. Fraser Bournes' welcome seemed a little over-ebullient, too, until I realised why: all the servers at the time were Upper Canada College boys who would be away in exotic places at end of term. In me he saw the answer to his prayers for a server for Christmas services!

As I grew in the parish, I met such people as the van Straubenzees, Daltons, Byerses, Saunderses, Simmonses, and of course the ever-lovable, Terence Bredin. Who could forget the image of Stephen Fox-Revett in his ceremonial uniform! As a server, lay reader, and later, sub-deacon, I had the honour of serving such people as future primate Hutchison, and our own beloved Archbishop Clark.

I suppose my feelings were best summed up by the Vicar of Tilbury over sherry during a visit 'over'ome. "I suppose," he said, "the thing you like about Canada is the lack of a class system." So true about Christ Church Deer Park. It extends a warm welcome to all.

⊕ *Nigel Johnson is a Professor at Sheridan College and has been a parishioner of Christ Church Deer Park for almost 50 years.*

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information on Nigel's book, visit <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Flight-Seawind-Nigel-W-Johnson/dp/1782224459>.

International Anglican Outreach

By Elsa A. Jones

OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO, two Anglican bishops and a number of lay people had a dream, a dream of Canadian Christians working with those on a universal path that stretches from Toronto, Canada to the Caribbean. Thus came the birth of the "Canadian Friends To West Indian Christians," a registered charity that I have supported since its creation. We are a group of Anglicans in Toronto with a passion for outreach to Anglicans in the Caribbean, and we support mission projects. In particular, we provide funding for theological training and scholarships for men and women who are called to serve the church. We also support repairs to theological colleges and churches in the Province of the West Indies, and we provide funding for scholarships for needy children there.

Once a year, Canadian Friends To West Indian Christians hold an annual fundraising dinner that

allows us to honour two of our founders, Arthur Brown and Basil Tonks, and to recognize those who continue to sustain the legacy they left behind. I was pleased to be Master of Ceremonies for the 2016 dinner in late October where the guest speaker was Bishop Howard K. Gregory, Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The event was also honoured by the presence of Archbishop Michael Peers, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Colin Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto, and Bishop Peter Fenty, Area Bishop of York-Simcoe who, incidentally, was born in Barbados.

I am proud of the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians for the work being done, and pray God to help us to continue to serve.

⊕ *Elsa A. Jones is a member of the team that reads the Prayers of the People for the 10 am Sunday Eucharist at Christ Church Deer Park.*

Be a Holy & Holly Helper!

WE ARE BUSY PLANNING AN EXCITING CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL THAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016.

We would love to have you join us in helping to make this a successful and fun event.

We need set-up help on Friday, November 18 in the evening, helpers on the day of the event from 10:00 am–2:00 pm, and a clean up crew afterwards from 1:30 pm–3:00 pm. We will also have lawn signs available (see example at right). We would love for you to take one to display on your front lawn and tell all your neighbours about our Christmas festival.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Angela van Straubenzee at 416.485.2802 or garbanzoang@gmail.com.

PUT UP
A LAWN SIGN
AND TELL
ALL YOUR
NEIGHBOURS

HOLY & HOLLY
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
THIS SATURDAY!
10AM - 2PM
CHRIST CHURCH DEER PARK
1570 Yonge St ♦ TheresLifeHere.org



PromiseLand & Young Anglican Leaders (YAL) Report Bethlehem Market & Christmas Pageant

By Hilary Keachie

Advent is such an exciting time of the year. We light special candles, sing familiar hymns, and decorate our homes and schools. We prepare outwardly in all sorts of fun and creative ways that help us prepare inwardly for the wonder and mystery of Christmas. It is a special and holy time indeed.



This year, we are excited to announce the first annual "Bethlehem Market!"

This will be like a mini Vacation Bible Camp, Christmas-themed, on the day of our annual Christmas Community Festival, *Holy and Holly*. We invite everyone—kids, adults, and everybody in between—to come down to Bethlehem (in the transformed Community Hall) for candle making, a spice bazaar, traditional food, face painting, dress up and more! We hope you will invite friends, family, and neighbours to see, taste, hear, and experience the wonder

and holiness of the Christmas story. All are welcome and invited.

We are also trying something a bit different this Christmas. As many of our families are away or have other commitments on Christmas Eve, we have decided that our annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 18, 2016, (Advent 4) during the 10 am service. We have roles for everyone from sparkly angels to furry sheep to backstage set-up and costumes. Rehearsals start on Sunday, November 20, 2016.

But what about Christmas Eve? We also have a special family service planned at 7 pm. We will share the amazing story of Jesus' birth—but in a creative and new way. All children (and any adults that wish) will be invited to dress up and take an active role in the telling of the story—no rehearsals necessary!

I look forward to journeying through Advent and Christmas with all of you.

✉ Hilary Keachie is the Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Christ Church Deer Park. She is also a theology student at Trinity College.

CHRIST CHURCH DEER PARK

HOLY & HOLLY

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL
SAT ♦ NOV 19 ♦ 10AM - 2PM

'TIS THE SEASON FOR
TRADITIONAL FAVOURITES

TREASURES ROOM
JEWELLERY TABLE
SILENT AUCTION
HOMEMADE GIFTS
TEA & LUNCH ROOM
CHRISTMAS CAKES
SHORTBREAD

PLUS FAMILY FUN
AND KID'S ACTIVITIES

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN A
BETHLEHEM MARKET
WITH CRAFTS ♦ DRESS UP PHOTO BOOTH

CAROL SINGING
PUPPET SHOWS AND MORE

Natural Church Development at Christ Church Deer Park

By Chris Byers

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a process recommended by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. It guides churches through a long-term course of reflection and growth by focusing on the quality of the church experience. Churches that participate in NCD show a consistent improvement in the eight quality characteristics of healthy congregations and an overall improvement in congregational health, including congregational size.

At Christ Church Deer Park, we have been engaged in NCD for approximately one year. We took our initial survey, the foundation for NCD, in November 2015 and have since been working on initiatives related to “Passionate spirituality”—our least developed quality characteristic. These initiatives include a workshop to help and support parishioners to pray, intentional gospel preaching of the New Testament highlighting personal experiences with Jesus, and creating opportunities for parishioners to share their experience of faith.

Looking ahead, we are planning another NCD survey in December 2016. This survey will show how evident the quality characteristics are at Christ Church Deer Park and the extent to which we have grown and developed “Passionate spirituality.” Based on the survey, our least developed quality characteristic—our Minimum Factor—will once again become the focus of opportunities for growth and development. The survey will also provide us with strategic direction as we transition to new leadership in the New Year.

The results of the December survey will be shared with the parish, and we will continue to engage with parishioners on initiatives around growing and developing our church experience. Questions may be directed to any member of the NCD team. We would also welcome anyone interested in volunteering to help. More information can be found at www.ncd-canada.com.

On behalf of the NCD team—Chris Byers, Anita Chung, Tony van Straubenzee, Barbara Johnston, Carolyn Kearns, and Canon Kevin Robertson.

✚ *Chris Byers is chair of the Natural Church Development initiative at Christ Church Deer Park.*

The Search is On!

In September, our Rector Kevin Robertson was elected suffragan bishop for the Diocese of Toronto and will begin his duties on January 1, 2017. As a result, the search is underway for Kevin’s replacement and Christ Church Deer Park’s thirteenth rector in our 146-year history.

On November 2, the Management Team (Henry Zaluski, Barbara Johnston, Andrew van Nostrand and Rick Varkey) met with Bishop Patrick Yu to discuss the selection of our next incumbent.

We will be following the requirements for Clerical Appointments as described in Canon 10 of the Diocese of Toronto’s Constitution and Canons. The first task will be the formation of an eight-person Parish Selection Committee made up of the churchwardens and five parishioners.

On Sunday, November 20, 2016, after the 10:00 am service, a special Vestry will take place to elect the Parish Selection Committee. An announcement will also be made regarding the Interim Priest-in-Charge.

By the first week of December, the Parish Selection Committee hopes to meet with Bishop Yu and a diocesan-appointed coach who will guide and support the Committee throughout the process. We will provide regular updates to keep the congregation informed.

Everyone has a role to play in the discernment and selection process. What this will look like is still to be determined, but a critical part is developing our parish profile, which will be shared with all interested candidates.

There will be a celebration of Kevin’s ministry with us on Sunday, December 18, 2016, after the 10:00 am service. We’ll have a chance to thank him for his over five years of guidance and devotion to our parish and wish him well for many more years of leadership as our bishop. Everyone is invited to attend Kevin’s Consecration Service that will take place on Saturday, January 7, 2017, at 10:30 am at St. Paul’s Bloor Street. The very next day, Sunday, January 8, 2017, he will have his first of many Episcopal visits to Christ Church Deer Park at the 10:00 am service.

We are energized by the challenge ahead of us as we go forward, inspired by the words we every say Sunday: *Glory be to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

Your churchwardens,
Henry Zaluski, Barbara Johnston, and Andrew van Nostrand



Commitment Sunday November 27, 2016

THE GROWING HEALTHY STEWARDS PROGRAM has been introduced to the Parish this year and we are pleased that good progress is being made. You will have heard about opportunities to commit time, talent, and treasure from the pulpit, in *Spiritus*, on the website, at the exciting Discovery Fair held on October 16, 2016, and in our letter to the Parish in September. The program has been developed by the Diocese of Toronto and is being successfully implemented at sister parishes such as Grace Church on-the-Hill and St. Clements.

Growing Healthy Stewards is an education program intended to fulfill individual Christian discipleship and to ensure the vibrancy and future of Christ Church Deer Park.

The services at 8 am and 10 am on Sunday, November 27, 2016, will focus on our financial commitment to our parish and our Christian mission. On that day, all parishioners will be asked to confirm their financial commitment by returning the commitment form that everyone will receive.

What You Can Expect
You will receive by mid-November a package from the Stewardship Committee containing the following:

- An explanation of Growing Healthy Stewards and the need for us all to make an appropriate financial commitment to the parish
- A financial snapshot of 2016 parish finances together with our 2016 budget in narrative format
- A commitment form to be completed and returned on November 27—or as soon as convenient.

On November 27, the usual offertory collection will be moved to the Commitment Sunday program (20-30 minutes) at the end of the services when commitment forms will be collected.

Our Goals
The primary purpose of Growing Healthy Stewards is to ensure that we all contribute to our Christian mission according to our resources of time, skill, and money. Commitment Sunday will focus on our financial contribution.

We want to make sure that:

- **We each consider our own contribution and make a financial commitment by the end of the year, and**
- **The parish completes the 2016 financial year without an operating deficit.**

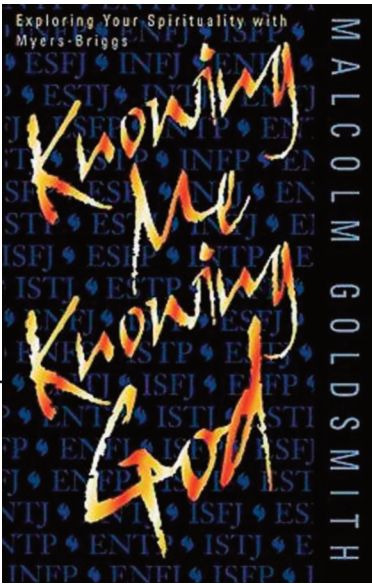
For those who (understandably) will not be able to attend on November 27, or otherwise cannot return their form in time, we will be following up in December up with a call, visit, or other contact to encourage participation. We plan to track our participation rates and results, and make them available to the parish.

For further information or to get involved, please speak to any member of the Management Team, or to Bob Hutchison, the Chair of the Stewardship Committee or Carolyn Kearns, the Vice Chair. Thank you in advance for your consideration regarding this important initiative.

Book Review

by Ward Lindsey

KNOWING ME, KNOWING GOD
Exploring Your Spirituality
with Myers-Briggs
by Malcolm Goldsmith
(Abingdon Press 1997)



Knowing Me, Knowing God was written by the late Reverend Malcolm Goldsmith who was ordained in 1962. He had an initial placement in the Diocese of Birmingham and served as an advisor and board member for various bodies with an emphasis on social responsibility. His interests were many with one specific focus being the exploration of spirituality through the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). MBTI is a recognized tool used to identify personality types, and as a trained MBTI facilitator, Goldsmith connects our personality preferences to our often subliminal expressions of faith, maintaining that growth in the knowledge of self “allows you to become more open to God.”

The book introduces readers to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Over the last 40 years, a great deal has been written about it, but Goldsmith lays out its four main components and includes an easy spirituality questionnaire that asks readers to indicate their preferences in a number of situations. From his point of reference as a priest, Goldsmith then relates personality types to how God is perceived and experienced by different people.

For the balance of the book, he uses well laid out examples to illustrate how differences in personality type point to different interactions with “the world of spirituality.” It becomes quite evident that our spiritual journey and growth as individuals are not based on a cookie cutter formula. Practical implications of our personality type differences are shown to validate and ground our expressions of faith without discounting those of others.

In the epilogue, “Confounded by the Cross,” Malcolm Goldsmith explains how, by knowing his personality type, he interprets the hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. He draws together both personality and spirituality within his statement that God’s love “lies beyond comprehension, and can only be known in our innermost being, and at a level and depth beyond word.”

Knowing Me, Knowing God is just over 100 pages. Its potential to ignite an understanding of yourself is expansive. With regard to our comprehension of spirituality, the pivot point becomes that internal point of reference called *me*.

⊕ *Ward Lindsey is a parishioner and volunteer chorister at Christ Church Deer Park. He is also an avid reader with a wide-ranging curiosity about human beings and how they make sense of the world.*

Dear Church Mouse



Dear Church Mouse,

Shortly after Canon Robertson joined us, we had a fundraising campaign called **Our Faith Our Hope** and raised a lot of money. The money was put towards various individual projects for **In The Works** at Christ Church Deer Park. As a donor, I appreciated the reports we were getting about these projects, but in the last couple of years there’s been no information or updates. (I checked the website.) What’s happened?

Frustrated

Dear *Frustrated*,

You raise a good question, but let me ask one back: why are you putting the question to Church Mouse? The names and telephone numbers of the churchwardens are published in the announcements each week, and the treasurer is at church most Sundays. To this mouse, they all seem to be approachable. Would it not be the thing to do to ask them directly? While I grant you that good reporting is a key part of their management function, these fellow parishioners are volunteers and very busy. Please give them a try and let me know what you find out.

Yours faithfully,
Church Mouse

Music Library Notes

By Emily Chatten

Last Advent’s “Notes from the Music Library” discussed the history of **Veni Emmanuel**, an ancient Advent tune. A more recent seasonal favourite is *Joy to the World*, the text of which was written by Isaac Watts. I started to notice Watts’s name, known to me from *Joy to the World*, all over the place, and it

turns out that he wrote the text of no fewer than thirteen hymns in *The Book of Common Prayer*. So, who was he?

Watts, widely referred to as the “father of English hymnody,” was definitely not a Christmas fanatic of the type we find today. In fact, his text for *Joy to the World* was actually a paraphrase of Psalm 90. Watts lived

from 1674–1748, a period of upheaval in the development of Protestantism in England. He was a Nonconformist—a Protestant Christian who dissented from the established Church of England—and those convictions limited his career and lifestyle, even seeing him imprisoned twice for his religious beliefs. In the same period, however, congregational hymn singing was expanding in Europe where it flourished under the lead of the German Lutherans and John Calvin who used a metrical method. The support of a wealthy

sponsor allowed Watts to write poetry extensively, and, as it happened, England was missing a source of hymn texts at that time. Nonconformist or not, Watts’s poetry fit the bill, and his English verse soon filled English hymn books where many favourites remain with us today.

Take a look for Isaac Watts. Perhaps he wrote the text to one of your favourite hymns!

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



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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

Submissions should be 250 words long and in Word format, and all submissions will be subject to edit. **Copy deadline for the next Lent edition is Friday, February 10, 2017.**

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



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