

VESTRY REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2023

Christ Church Deer Park

*O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Annual Vestry Meeting
February 25, 2024

February 25, 2024

AGENDA

10 minutes	Call to Order Opening Prayer Appointment of Vestry Clerk Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of Agenda• Announcements	Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer
10 minutes	2023 Minutes Approval of minutes of March 5, 2023 Business Arising from the Minutes	Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer
	Reports	
5 minutes	Acceptance of written reports	Cheryl Palmer
10 minutes	Rector's Report	Cheryl Palmer
10 minutes	Wardens' Report	Su Laine Varkey
55 minutes	Finance Introduction to 2023 Financial Statements & 2024 Budget Presentation of Audited 2023 Financial Statements & 2024 Budget Adoption of the Audited 2023 Financial Statements Appointment of Auditors for 2024 Adoption of the 2024 Budget Withdrawals from Investment Fund	Stephen Clark Nick Strube Nick Strube Nick Strube Nick Strube Stephen Clark
15 minutes	Election and Appointment of Officers Acknowledgement of outgoing officers Appointment of Rector's Warden Appointment of Treasurer Election of People's Warden Election of Deputy Wardens Election of Members of Synod	Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer Stephen Clark Stephen Clark Stephen Clark Cheryl Palmer
10 minutes	Confirmation of Parish Selection Committee	Stephen Clark
20 minutes	Other Business Items from the floor Service of Commissioning for Lay Ministries Concluding Prayer Adjournment	Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer Cheryl Palmer

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Custodians Denis and Carlos put up the Christmas trees



The ReImagine Rummage Team prepare for the Christmas Sale



Gathering for the Palm Sunday Procession



Rev. Ali's Ordination in February

The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2024



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto:

Dear friends,

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.

Simple and elegant. These few words capture the essence of a Vision that we have been pursuing and discerning throughout the Cast the Net process, a visioning exercise that began while we were still in pandemic mode. Over the course of several consultations, we listened to one another, and for the leading of the Holy Spirit. With time, sifting and testing, 20 Calls were revealed at Synod, which were supported with enthusiasm. A final version of the Calls will be received by Synod Council in February. We continue to be grateful to the Steering Committee and consultants, who have led our work together over the past 18 months. And now the work begins to incorporate these Calls into the life and ministry of the whole Diocese. This is the time for parishes large and small, missions, ministries, committees and Synod Council to animate the Calls in our own contexts. It is almost impossible for one community to embrace all twenty, but by serving together from Mississauga to Brighton, Midland to Minden, and all points in between, we can!

We begin this journey with a Season of Spiritual Renewal. We embrace the Call to deepen our walk together as communities by immersing ourselves in prayer, reading and reflection on scripture, worship and sharing our stories of faith with one another. As we promised in our baptism: we will “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers”. This Season will be supported by the Rev. Canon Dr Judy Paulsen, members of a steering committee and the College of Bishops. We hope that you will be able to join us for Diocesan worship events, learning opportunities, programs and fellowship that entice us all to walk more closely in the footsteps of Jesus.

We are delighted to reach across our borders to deepen our friendship with the Diocese of Brasilia. Brasilia is a relatively new diocese, birthed in 1985, with a small number of parishes, missions and ministries. We were delighted to welcome their Bishop Mauricio Andrade and his wife Sandra to our Diocesan Synod in November. We will learn from, grow with, and support one another as we strive to serve Christ in our unique circumstances. And we look forward to opportunities for delegations of our clergy and laity to visit back and forth, both in-person and online, as we deepen our affection for one another.

We are proud of and amazed at the ministry taking place across our Diocese, especially in the areas of youth, ecumenism, creation care, diversity, and faith formation. We encourage you to consider this year’s Diocesan Social Justice motion on housing, and to prayerfully support our Church’s advocacy for every person’s right to adequate shelter. We are convinced that the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us, and challenging us to bravely find new ways to work and worship together, to increase in courage, to share our passion for the Good News of Jesus, and to seek and find new meaning as followers of Christ in the 21st century, where we are confronted with emerging economic and social challenges. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all who make up our dynamic community of faith – lay people, deacons, priests – all helping to give a glimpse of the Reign of God as it unfolds in our midst.

As your bishops, we know the joy and privilege of serving the Church in this Diocese. We thank all those who have joined us in giving leadership over the past year. We have recently celebrated one year of our new diocesan leadership model, and we are immensely grateful to our new Territorial Archdeacons and Canon Administrator for stepping into their roles so effectively and with such

faithfulness. The five of them have helped to ease the bishops' administrative load, allowing us to focus on some of the other work to which we have been called and ordained.

Whether your work is changing this year, whether you are stepping out of your role at this Vestry meeting, or stepping into a new ministry, or continuing on in your good work, please know that we are here to support you in every way we can. We want to encourage you in Gospel ministry, in the initiatives and relationships that you are building, as you cast your nets ever wider in a world that is hungry for Christ - for meaning, connection and belonging.

Our mission statement is simple and elegant. And it invites us, like the dismissal at the close of the Eucharist, to action. We invite you to incorporate these words in your liturgies on Sunday morning:

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves.
Thanks be to God!

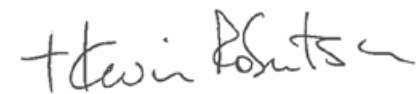
Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Andrew Toronto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Riscylla Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Kevin Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

THE RECTOR'S LETTER TO VESTRY

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves!

2023 was a year of change and excitement. Having been appointed Archdeacon in December of 2022, my responsibilities began in January of 2023, starting with a collation liturgy at St. James Cathedral. Many of you graciously attended, and I was supported by and grateful for your presence. It has been a tremendous honour to work closely with Bishop Kevin Robertson and the clergy of the South Archdeaconry, as well as parishes in transition. This diocesan role takes a load off the shoulders of our bishops and is meaningful work to the new archdeacons.

Continuing to celebrate new beginnings, Christ Church hosted the ordination of Ali McIntosh in early February. The joy and excitement of that event, the support and kindness offered to Ali, showed Christ Church at our best. We affirmed Ali in her vocation. The ordination of new young priests is critical to the life of the Anglican Church. Ali and other newly ordained persons participate with bishops and their fellow clergy in the governance of the church, as well as carry out its missionary and pastoral work and preach the word of God and administer God's holy sacraments.

It was also in February that we had a most contentious vestry meeting that showed us far less than our best. I have no objection to a good argument – conflicts are a part of human nature. However, that meeting was disturbing because there was a refusal to listen to each other, and no attempt at meeting halfway. “My way, or the highway”, was the order of the day. Unfortunately, that troubling meeting reverberated throughout the year with members leaving and others staying but refusing to engage in the fullness of ministry at Christ Church, while still others dug in their heels refusing to consider another stance. This is no way for Christians to conduct ourselves. The issue from which this fight sprang concerned funding of the Saturday breakfast. A year later the concerns have not been settled and tensions still exist. Thankfully this is only among a small group in our parish, and our outreach to vulnerable people continued without a hitch.

The Saturday breakfast is our primary outreach to the wider community and the force behind it – the person who focussed on this ministry week after week – was Anne Larkin. With kindness, humility, and a desire to always care for the vulnerable, Anne committed all her spare time to Christ Church Deer Park and people at risk. It was therefore with tremendous shock, that as I prepared this report to reflect on 2023, I was called to Anne's death bed in late January 2024. The community mourned as we came face to face with the uncertainty of human life. Giving our best efforts to the breakfast ministry, including full financial support, will be a fitting memorial to Anne, one among us who always heeded the Christian call to care for the needy and extend hospitality to strangers.

As churches throughout the city try to renew life after the pandemic, there is recognition that we have all been adversely affected, with respect to attendance. Many people got used to staying home on Sunday mornings and simply have not returned to church. The most glaringly absent groups in our congregation are our young families and our youth. We had a lively group of families with babies and young children attending regularly pre-pandemic, but none of them have returned, even after we have reached out to them. Two families with preteens and teens have returned, totaling three children.

While we certainly wish for more children and youth among us, we are not bereft. A host of new people have come among us and are active and regular members. They are primarily young adults and have fully engaged in the community by attending Sunday worship regularly, engaging in educational programs, assisting with coffee hour, rummage sales and all our fellowship activities. We are blessed by these newcomers among us, who are outstanding participants in the life of our parish.

In December of 2023, the result of months of prayer, conversations and ruminations led to my decision to retire. I made it known to the bishops, staff, wardens, and treasurer that I would be retiring June 1st, 2024. After 6 1/2 fulfilling and life-giving years as your rector, and halfway to my 67th birthday, I knew the time was right to move on to the next phase of life. As I said to the bishops “ordained ministry has been a wild and wonderful ride, but after 39 years, it is time to get off the Ferris wheel... or was it a roller coaster?” I am honoured and blessed to be completing my ministry in this fine, loving community of Christ Church Deer Park. I have loved ministry in our church and will no doubt experience loss as I leave full time work. However, with Danylo's health (good right now, but precarious), having fewer new ideas for parish ministry and a deep desire to see younger and differently talented clergy leading our church, I know the time is now.

A word about the future vision of our diocese:

Nearly two years ago, our diocese embarked on a visioning process to meet the challenges and opportunities for the post-pandemic Church over the next five years. That process came to be known as Cast the Net – a phrase taken from the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel of John. There we find the familiar post-Resurrection story of Jesus’ disciples catching nothing after a long night of fishing. Jesus appears and encourages them to cast their net on the other/right side of the boat. “So, they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.”

“The visioning process engaged in listening to youth, youth leaders, diocesan volunteers, lay leaders in parishes, staff at 135 Adelaide, deacons, priests, bishops and more. Listening takes time. It takes patience and discernment. Our Cast the Net consultants and steering committee took what they heard and wove it into patterns. A *Vision Statement and Calls to the Diocese* have emerged in response to the listening process. The vision has many components; at its heart is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the centre of all we do. In November 2023, Synod members voted to endorse the vision and calls to the Diocese.” (From the *Cast the Net* web page)

As Bishop Andrew stated to us in December, “You’ll be hearing so much more about the Calls in the weeks and months to come, particularly as our newly elected Synod Council comes into formation and frames its work for the next two years on the promptings of these Calls. Stay tuned for more! What we heard again and again in this exercise of listening was the desire to deepen our spiritual lives and our formation as disciples of Jesus. To this end, we invite the whole Diocese to step into a Season of Spiritual Renewal. I am so excited to see how the Holy Spirit will prompt us to fresh discipleship so that we might become revitalized Christians for a new era in the life of our Church.” (Bishop Andrew Asbil, December 2023)

Writing my final report to Vestry was a joy and a challenge because it caused me to consider 39 years of ordained ministry. Thank you for the role you played in this rich ministry and thank you for inviting me into your midst for my last years of full-time service to the Church. The pleasure has been mine.

*Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us.
We thank you for setting us tasks that demand our best efforts,
And for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.
We thank you also for those disappointments and failures
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Amen*

*Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Cheryl C. Palmer*

ASSISTANT CURATE

2023 was such a wonderful and vibrant year at CCDP. Time and time again I have looked around and given thanks to God for the faithfulness, and innovation of this community. This parish is blessed with an abundance of gifts and it has been wonderful to see us all employ resourcefulness in using our many assets. I continue to work with all of our talented lay people to grow their involvement across all of our ministries.

Throughout this past year we continued to provide the community with live-streamed and in-person worship services and I continued to collaborate with the members of our team to plan this hybrid mode of liturgy. It appears that live-streaming and online offerings are here to stay for the Church and CCDP is investing in these programs appropriately to ensure we attract new parishioners. However, in order to cut costs we are growing our base of volunteer technicians who generously donate their time and talent to this program. We still maintain relationships with our paid technicians to make sure we can offer high quality live streams of feast days, weddings, funerals and ordinations. On a regular basis I hear feedback about how important it is that members of our community are able to join us online. Whether they are travelling, sick, or no longer mobile, being able to watch our services online is a real source of comfort and pastoral care.

Church on Tap continues to be a source of vocational joy for me, and a strength of the community, as it attracts newcomers to our church. More specifically it attracts people who may not feel comfortable joining a traditional church setting. The numbers, and financial giving for this service have grown and we have benefitted from a wonderful roster of preachers and collaborators. As always, we are grateful for Deb Whalen's unfailing musical leadership, and support to CCDP as we bring back this service post Covid with new clergy leadership. Church on Tap is an unique service in the diocese of Toronto, and I am honoured to serve in a church that supports me in leading this type of worship.

Much of my time goes into planning for Sunday worship. Planning for the 9:15 service has been a rewarding project for me and, and it is wonderful to see so many new faces come through our doors each week to check out our contemporary service. I am very grateful for the lay leadership of Nick and Liz Gan in developing the music for this service, and their commitment to the community. In September of this year we brought on Edward Cockerton as a piano player, and Sasha Koukarina as another vocalist. This investment in the service has enhanced the music significantly and each Sunday we are blessed with an incredible worshipping experience. The beautiful music, and creative liturgy is proving to be an attraction offering for CCDP and we are thrilled to welcome many newcomers each month to this service.

The 8:00am and 10:30am services continue to be well attended and I enjoy working with our whole team to maintain the beauty of our traditional liturgy, while offering new ways to experience God's presence. We are blessed each Sunday with new people walking in through our doors, and I want to extend a huge thank you to our sides people and hospitality team for welcoming people into our community! There is never a dull moment at Christ Church Deer Park and I thank Jesus every day for the opportunity to serve as one of your priests.

*Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Ali McIntosh*

MANAGEMENT TEAM

2023 has been a year full of excitement and renewal at CCDP. Even with the pandemic still in our rear-view mirror, we have welcomed many new parishioners who have been especially drawn to our 9:15, 10:30 and Church on Tap services. Although our numbers have not returned to the heyday pre-pandemic, it has been delightful to see new faces and to meet new people week after week. It reminds us that we are a welcoming and inclusive place following Jesus together.

We have continued our work on the objectives we established in 2022, namely to:

1. Engage our lay leaders in new expressions of life at CCDP: our record-setting volunteer involvement thanks to the ReImagine Rummage team, ambitious Property Committee targets, fresh ideas around memorial flowers and our archives, and the choir's commitment and professionalism during a challenging season, just to name a few.
2. Deepen our parishioners' engagement with ministries: investment in the music for our 9:15 contemporary service, Christian Education with Rev. Cathy via Zoom, Lenten walks and an off-site retreat, the Community Care Team, and the 20s and 30s groups.
3. Continue to find ways to increase our revenue: through increased rentals, refurbishment of many of our spaces, a renovation of our basement Community Kitchen, and the recent establishment of a property rentals team. We especially thank the Property Committee and custodial staff for all of the extra work that has gone into the transformation of our spaces, both inside and out.

We have been blessed with a dedicated and extraordinary staff team:

- Our clergy: Cheryl Palmer, Ali McIntosh, and Cathy Gibbs
- Our administrative staff: Amanda Jagt and Elisabeth Lunder
- Our custodial team: Denis Delisle, Rikk Scapillato, Carlos Lopez, and new member Roderick Talens replacing Eugene Velasco who recently retired after 20 years of service.
- Our directors of music: Patrick Dewell, (who left us in October), and Stefani Bedin, who joined us in January. In addition, the music ministry of Edward Cockerton, and Liz and Nick Gan (9:15 a.m.), Deb Whalen-Blaize (Church on Tap), and Brian Barlow (Jazz Vespers) continue to deepen our commitment to making a joyful noise unto the Lord!
- And, although we continue our search for a new Children and Youth coordinator, we thank Sharilyn Robinson for her readiness and commitment to provide children with engaging and thoughtful activities every Sunday.

Our Volunteers and Community Ministry

We are blessed with so many parishioners who contribute to making our church a vibrant place for worship and fellowship. We especially thank our greeters and sidespeople, who welcome everyone who comes to our services. We are grateful for the hospitality and coffee hour team, especially Sandra Geddes and Hasan Afshar, who make sure no one leaves our services without refreshment! And we give thanks for our Community Care Team led by Carl Wehniäinen, who ensure that whenever possible, our parishioners have rides to and from church, and anyone sick or needing extra support is considered and prayed for. We thank the Outreach team, especially the late Anne Larkin, Ann Atkins, the scores of volunteers who welcome and serve our Saturday Community Breakfast folk, and prepare snack bags and other essentials for our guests. And we thank Ed Grady for his dedication to keeping our gardens and grounds welcoming and verdant.

As our parish motto declares so well, there is definitely 'life here' at CCDP! That being said, as a community we will have some challenges moving forward this year. Our Parish Selection Committee will be hard at work searching for a new spiritual leader for CCDP; and our wardens will continue to seek innovative ways to meet and rectify the ongoing challenging financial picture, and guide our community on a sustainable financial path moving forward. In all of this work, we ask the congregation for their prayers and support.

On behalf of the wardens and management team, I thank our clergy, employees, musicians, volunteers, and parishioners for their continued dedication and commitment to our parish. There truly is vibrancy and life at the north-west corner of Yonge and Heath!

Respectfully submitted,

Su Laine Varkey, on behalf of the Wardens, Stephen Clark, Paul Kingston, and Katherine MacDonald

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Board met and received reports from the Wardens, the Clergy and the Treasurer on the affairs of the Church; reported on their respective committees and approved the 2024 Budget to be placed before Vestry for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen D.A. Clark

Rector's Warden

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The CCDP Investment Committee (“the Committee”) oversees the pooled investments (the “investments”) of the various funds (the “Funds”) of CCDP. The Committee consists of up to five parishioners appointed by Corporation, and ex-officio members.

The current members are:

Michael Butler, Chair; George Lewis; Bruce Langstaff; David Clark (retiring at Vestry 2023)

Ex officio: The Venerable Cheryl Palmer; Nick Strube, Treasurer; Amanda Jagt, Director of Parish Operations

The Committee is responsible to oversee the management of the CCDP Funds. There are several funds which make up the CCDP Funds: Investment Fund; Ministry Fund; and Re-imagining Church (*a description of each fund is included below*). At Vestry 2020 a motion was approved to reorganize the Endowment Fund and the 1870 Fund. There is a separate Rectory Fund which was established when the rectory was sold, it is managed on the church’s behalf by the Diocese (*more details below*).

Philips Hager & North (“PH&N”), was selected in 2021 as the discretionary manager of the Church’s Funds. PH&N is a leader in discretionary investment management and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Canada.

The Investment objectives of the Funds are:

- a) to preserve the purchasing power of the investments over the long term;
- b) to provide regular cash distribution to the Church; and

- c) to generate a rate of return that exceeds the rate of Canadian CPI inflation by 3% over the most recent 4 year period

PH&N is committed to investments that have adopted adequate environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) principles

The Funds of CCDP

- 1. Investment Fund \$1,670,189

The Investment Fund was established by Vestry in 2021 through the merger of the Endowment Fund and the 1870 Fund. The Investment Fund is to provide funds for the ongoing general operating expenses of the Church as well as expenses related to the acquiring, upgrading and maintenance of the Church’s building. Based on a recommendation of the Investment Committee the Church may withdraw up to 5% of the value of the Investment Fund as of December 31 of the preceding year. The Church can exceed that amount with Vestry approval.

As of December 31, 2022 the balance of the St Andrew’s Group Fund (formerly known as the ACW) was wound up with the funds transferred to the Investment Fund.

- 2. Ministry Fund \$55,919

The Ministry Fund was created with a donation from a parishioner. The donation was designated for youth ministry or other ministry activities outside the usual budgeted operations of the Church. The funds are held and invested for initiatives pending agreement between the Rector and the donor.

- 3. Re-Imagining Church \$204,661

The Diocese conducted the Our Faith –Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign several years ago. CCDP participated in this campaign and funds provided by parishioners are available to the Corporation if they are used for any of the following purposes: i) strengthening local parishes; ii) building the church for tomorrow; iii) revitalizing our inheritance; or iv) giving to others

- 4. Investment Fund performance in 2023

Financial markets rebounded last year following a difficult year in 2022 for both equities and fixed income. North American economic performance was stronger than expected, the long expected recession did not materialize, inflation was trending lower and the central banks indicated that the next move in interest rates was down. At year end the Toronto Stock Exchange was higher by **8.1%**; in the US markets the Dow Jones, S&P 500 and the NASDAQ were all higher by **13.7%**, **24.2%**, and **44.6%** respectively.

During the year the value of the Investment Fund increased to \$1,670,189. The return for the year was **10.3%**; for the last 3 months of 2023, **6.7%**; and since inception with PH&N (May 1,2021) **2.6%**.

The Investment Committee is quite satisfied with the performance of PH&N in difficult equity and debt markets.

The Investment Fund 5% distribution to CCDP in 2023 was **\$82,156**.

In addition, Vestry approved a withdrawal from the Investment Fund of **\$68,100** to cover the 2022 deficit.

5. Rectory Fund \$1,355,034

The Rectory Fund was established with the sales proceeds of the rectory. Under church canons the funds are held and managed by the Diocese on behalf of CCDP. The income generated is forwarded to the Corporation for clergy housing and the general purposes of the Church. The payout is based on a three year moving average. The current payout is 4.25% and is reviewed on an annual basis by the Diocese. In 2021 the Rectory Fund had a return of **14.1%**. The 2023 distribution to CCDP was **\$50,387**.

As of this year's Vestry there will be two vacancies on the Investment Committee. *Any parishioner with investment or finance experience and who is interested in joining the Committee is asked to contact the Investment Committee Chair, the Rector or the church office.*

The Chair would like to thank the members of the Investment Committee for their ongoing support and commitment during the year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Butler, Chair*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. For us as Christians, stewardship refers to our responsibility in maintaining and wisely using the gifts which God has bestowed on each of us. It includes our resources of treasure, time and talent.

It is with these sentiments in mind that the Stewardship Committee at Christ Church Deer Park approaches its responsibility of ensuring that our church has the financial resources to fulfill its important mission and carry out its various core ministries.

As so many of our parishioners make a recurring contribution through pre-authorized debit or credit card, those steady regular financial contributions to the church ensured that congregational givings continue throughout the year. Thank you to all who provide sustaining support through this means.

As the regular contributions of our parishioners have traditionally formed the most substantive pillar of revenue for our church, increasing participation in recurring giving is even more important than ever and we continue to encourage all members of our parish community to participate on a recurring basis, if able to do so.

Additionally, the Stewardship Committee seeks to build awareness of the importance of legacy donations – asking us all to consider Christ Church Deer Park as a core community of support, and an extension of our own faith and personal values, and thus worthy of consideration for a bequest in our individual wills.

Our Stewardship Chair resigned early in 2023 and we are seeking a new Chair for our Stewardship Committee for 2024.

*Respectfully submitted,
Stephen D.A. Clark
Rector's Warden*

ADULT EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

Once again, we have had a very successful year for Adult Education at Christ Church Deer Park. Below please find an overview of the courses that were offered. It continues to be a delight and privilege to work and learn with the people of CCDP.

Community Connection Groups

Four groups continue to meet on a regular basis. The Education Minister provides guiding questions from the Sunday sermon each week to aid in the group discussions.

January 17-February 14

REVIVE part 2 Engaging Scripture

This course was led by various scholars. 32 people were in attendance

Week 1 – An Introduction to the Bible – Rev. Cathy

Week 2 – The Kind and Loving God of the Old Testament – Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat

Week 3 – The Synoptic Gospels; Time and Place – Dr. Christopher Zeichman

Week 4 – John, the Maverick Gospel – Rev. Dr. Scott Lewis

Week 5 – The Apostle Paul-The Man You Love to Hate – Dr. Paul Gooch

February 27-April 7

LENT – Developing the theme of “Encounters”

February 27: Encountering Our History with Our Indigenous Neighbours: Virtual visit to the Mohawk Institute-Anglican Residential School organized by Melissa Walter and Cristina Oke from the Truth and Reconciliation Working Group. 35 people participated.

March 11: Encountering the People at the Cross: Silent Retreat at the Sisters of St. John the Divine led by Rev. Cathy Gibbs. 25 people attended. There was a waiting list for this event

March 12-April 2: Encounters on the Way to the Cross: A Lenten Study led by Rev. Ali McIntosh. Each Sunday participants walked through Mount Pleasant Cemetery reflecting on the assignments. 12 people attended.

April 25-May 16

REVIVE part 3 Discipleship

This is the third and final section of the REVIVE series. We explored what discipleship meant in scripture and what it meant to each person and the gifts that each person brought to their discipleship. There were 22 participants.

June 6 and 13

Book Study: Speaking of Sin by Barbara Taylor

24 people met on line to discuss sin and repentance and redemption as an important part of our faith. Lots of good discussion.

October 17- November 14

Pondering the Psalms

This series included an introduction to the psalms and then studying in more detail the psalms of vengeance (Rev. Cathy), the psalms of lament (Rev. Cheryl) and the psalms of praise and thanksgiving (Rev. Ali). There were 34 participants.

December 5-19

Advent 2023 - Hope is a Verb

Looking through the experiences of Tamar and Rahab and Mary, we explored their lives at they relate to the new kingdom. We tried to make our hope for the Kingdom of God to be a hope of action, of making a change, of making a difference. There were 35 registrants.

*Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Cathy Gibbs
Adult Education Minister*

MUSIC at CCDP

A Note from the Choir

We said farewell to our Director of Music, Patrick Dewell, after one year in mid-October, and we were grateful that Edward Cockerton was able to fill in as Interim Music Director on short notice until the end of the calendar year.

Throughout the year, the choir members supported each other and focused on making glorious music. The whole choir is very much looking forward to settling in with Stefani Bedin, our new Director of Music.

There were many positive developments over the year:

- we were delighted to welcome a number of new choristers into our ranks which was most encouraging. We are active and growing. We currently have an effective core of about 15 volunteers and 4 section leads.
- we continued to benefit from the wonderful work of our section leads and we were truly appreciative of all the extras they undertook to assist us through the transitions this past year. A huge thank you Sonya Harper Nyby, Julia Barber, Peter Warren and Kelsey Taylor. We are grateful for your wonderful leadership and support.
- Our Choir Music Librarian has undertaken substantial work on repairing music and reorganizing the significant CCDP music library so that we will actually know what music we have. Special thanks to Emily Chatten on her faithful dedication to organizing and maintaining our music collection.
- It should be noted that while Emily is the Choir's Music Librarian, she became our *de facto* liaison person with everyone, unofficially taking on numerous additional tasks to keep the choir humming. We thank Emily for taking on this additional work. It was greatly appreciated by the whole choir.

A special thank you to the whole CCDP community for their ongoing support of the choir over the past year.

*Respectfully submitted,
The CCDP Choir*

A Note from the Director of Music

At the time of writing this note, I have only been Christ Church Deer Park's Director of Music for two days, yet I have already experienced the community's warm and welcoming spirit. I would like to thank the interview and audition panel for helping me feel at ease throughout the hiring process, and to express my sincere gratitude to the wardens, staff, clergy, and parishioners who have been so

helpful in getting me settled into my new post and ensuring a smooth transition. It was also very heartening to see over twenty individuals from CCDP come support me as I performed the second of three recital-exams towards the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance at the University of Toronto on January 15th.

Music evidently plays a very important role in the life of CCDP. I seek to build upon the parish's rich tradition of musical excellence, while finding ways to expand the music ministry and engage new members. I believe that music helps facilitate encounters, not only with those who sing alongside us and those who have gone before us in the journey of faith, but also with something far greater than ourselves. It is my hope that when we encounter beauty in the arts, whether it be in the joy we experience when singing a favourite hymn, the delight we find in well-crafted compositions, or simply in witnessing our collective efforts to lift our voices for the glory of God, it may point us towards God, the source of all that is good, true, and beautiful. This desire to help offer listeners glimpses of transcendent beauty inspires my work as a musician.

It is an honour to have this opportunity to lead, serve and grow CCDP's music ministry. I look forward to getting to know the community and seeing what we will be able to accomplish together. Should you be interested in joining the choir, or if you would like to learn more about how you can support music ministry projects, please don't hesitate to reach out at any time.

*Respectfully submitted,
Stefani Bedin
Director of Music*

DIOCESAN SYNOD

We were fortunate to be able to attend the 2023 General Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto this past November 17th-18th. It was an inspiring and thought-provoking two days, especially as Synod was held in person for the first time in four years and we were able to meet and learn from fellow Anglicans from across the diocese.

This year marked the culmination of the multi-year Cast the Net strategic planning initiative. Synod was presented with and endorsed a vision and 20 calls to guide the diocese going forward, with the following statement summing up the vision for the diocese: "Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves!" Top of mind at this year's Synod were the ongoing pressures of financial instability, both for our parishes and the communities we serve, and our role in caring for those without resources such as food or housing. In particular, following significant discussion on the diocese's role in supporting affordable housing, Synod Council was asked to consider how the diocese can address the issue of affordable housing development going forward.

We were also blessed by the attendance of the Bishop of the Diocese of Brasilia, The Rt. Rev. Maurício Jose Araujo De Andrade. As well as speaking at the banquet dinner, Bishop Andrade co-lead a workshop on Portuguese ministry – the diocese of Toronto currently has the only Portuguese-language ministry in Canada. Much more information about Synod can be found in the January 2024 issue of The Anglican, available here:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/the-anglican-jan-2024.pdf>

*Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Walter and Ann Atkins
Lay members of Synod*

I was able to attend the 2023 Synod for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, which was a great experience for me as a youth delegate. The youth were led by our very own Rev. Ali McIntosh. It was a pleasure to be guided by her, since the process and information were new to me, given it was my first time. I was able to hear about the current challenges and opportunities for the church, and I came away with a deeper understanding. Overall, this was an interesting opportunity.

*Respectfully submitted,
Oscar Varkey
Youth Delegate to Synod*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

The Congregational Care Team is a small group that focuses on connecting with parishioners who find it difficult to get to church or can no longer attend in person. The team consists of Carl Wehniainen, William Jackson, Edna Quammie, along with new members this year - Liz Quinlan, Amy Siu Ping, and Bianca Mathews.

Last year we organized a group of dedicated “Drivers” who, on a weekly basis, provide transportation to those who would otherwise not be able to attend our services in person. As this aspect of the program continues to grow, we welcome any help to our current team of “Drivers” to occasionally assist with this ministry.

I believe our greatest strength in Congregational Care is our entire CCDP community. The “ask” of our group, is when you know of a fellow parishioner that may need a call/visit/ride, that you contact us at communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org. In addition, if you would like to explore being a member of our team, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 647-808-5631.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carl Wehniainen
Chair*

SPIRITUS

In the Lent 2023 *Spiritus* issue our editor, Genevieve Chornenki, put forward her intent to resign as editor. The duties of the editor were extensive, both in expertise and time. After a time, no one came forward, and I approached Genevieve and Katherine MacDonald about the prospect of splitting the editorial duties. It was not clear that any one person might have all of the expertise or time available.

Aside from finding volunteers, we also discussed the format of *Spiritus*: should it become entirely electronic or should some copies continue to be printed. It was quickly decided that not all parishioners would access *Spiritus* electronically and some print copies would continue to be necessary.

Our other volunteers were identified in short order: Melissa Walter and Supipi Weerasooriya. Melissa is known to many of you and Supipi is new to CCDP; we are pleased to welcome both of them to the *Spiritus* Team.

We undertook our first *Spiritus* issue over the summer and into the early fall. In the end, issue 28 has 11 articles submitted by eight of our contributors. Many of the contributions are on the theme of Creation. Production may have taken longer than hoped, as we learned the process and how to split the work of one between three. We are very pleased with the final product.

Genevieve provided guidelines, gave us a thorough overview of the process, and continues to provide mentorship. We are grateful for her help as well as her many years as editor. CCDP continues to contract Anders Carlén to create the *Spiritus* layout.

We hope to return to a schedule of producing three issues a year in 2024.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Spiritus Team,
Emily Chatten*

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

CCDP's Truth and Reconciliation Working Group was established in 2017 and has continued to work towards a better relationship between this parish and Indigenous peoples, with a focus on reconciliation as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's reports and calls to action.

In 2023 we hosted a very successful virtual event: a virtual tour of the former Mohawk Institute Residential School, which was run by the Anglican church. Roughly 25 attendees from our community listened in and learned about the abuses students experienced at this school. The fee for our group tour (kindly donated by a CCDP community member) went directly to support the work of the Woodland Cultural Centre, the Indigenous organization that now maintains the former school site and runs educational events and activities there.

We have also continued to provide items for the church bulletin: information about truth and reconciliation work, facts about inequities faced by Indigenous people in Canada, key dates and milestones, and suggested actions or donation opportunities.

We are always happy to hear from you, the parish community. Do you have ideas for events or activities you'd like us to host, or topics you'd like to learn about together? We're also always open to have new members join our planning group. Please reach out to Melissa at melissa.lynne.walter@gmail.com or Cristina at c.oke@alum.utoronto.ca with any ideas or questions.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Walter and Cristina Oke*

REFUGEE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The CCDP Refugee Support Committee ("RSC") again this year is grateful to the CCDP community for welcoming newcomers who arrived in Canada as refugees and are now settling in Toronto.

This report summarizes CCDP's support for newcomers since 2016 and concludes with questions for Vestry about how the CCDP community can build on its track record.

CCDP's varying levels of support

CCDP has a long tradition of supporting refugees, going back to the 1970s when the parish welcomed families forced to flee their homes in Vietnam. More recently and beginning in 2016 CCDP has been a private sponsor¹ of six families.

¹ Canada offers various programs for supporting newcomers. The [Anglican United Refugee Alliance](#) (AURA) helps churches like CCDP to become private sponsors with contractual obligations to support the newcomer family for 12 months.

RSC has taken on varying degrees of responsibility for these newcomers. For some we have been the “Sponsor Group” and “Support Church” and for others we have been the Support Church only, relying on non-CCDP volunteers to form a Sponsor Group (**see Appendix 1**). Whereas a Sponsor Group takes full responsibility for the family, the Support Church is limited to the sole, albeit crucial, task of bookkeeping and reporting on finances.

The difference between the responsibilities of the Sponsor Group and Support Group:

- Sponsor Group: Entails RSC volunteers taking overall responsibility for the financial and physical wellbeing of the newcomers for the first 12 months after they arrive in Toronto (e.g. raising sufficient funds to cover all expenses for the newcomers; assisting them in registering for medical, educational and other services; accompanying them to appointments; providing moral support)
- Support Church: Entails the CCDP parish operations team providing bookkeeping support and reporting, and RSC volunteers providing ad-hoc moral or other support in navigating settlement services and working with an external Sponsor Group.

The RSC, by necessity, was busier and had more active members for the four families for which CCDP was both the Sponsor Group and the Church Support. At its peak the RSC had seven active members; today it has two active members. In addition, the RSC has not needed to actively raise funds for newcomer families since 2019.

Feedback for CCDP from newcomer families

In January 2024 RSC asked the six families to comment on their experience in Toronto to date (**see Appendix 2**). While we cannot draw any definitive conclusions from the families’ comments, they may indicate how they are feeling generally. Based on the verbatim responses to the question “Suggestions for how CCDP could be more supportive” (see page 6 of this report from the verbatim answers to the question), here are some possible takeaways for RSC and the CCDP community:

- All families are extremely grateful for the CCDP community’s support and individuals from RSC who helped with specific tasks during the settlement period.
- Employment can be a long term challenge, especially for women who may not be interested in or capable of finding readily available temporary employment (e.g. uber driving, construction).
- Women in the families may need further support in understanding their rights under Canadian law.

Opportunities for CCDP

With Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada setting a target of welcoming between 72,000 and 76,000 refugees per year between 2024 and 2026, compared to about 24,000 in 2016, the need for private sponsors is expected to grow.

Support from the CCDP community for the RSC’s work appears to be unwavering. However, harnessing support has a few challenges and unknowns:

- The RSC has had limited capacity to train and retain volunteers.
- The RSC is grateful for the non-monetary support of the CCDP congregation, most often during the last three years in the form of furniture donations. However, RSC is often unable

to store donated furniture and to know if and when the newcomers can actually make use of the donated furniture.

- The RSC last asked the congregation for monetary donations in 2019 and is very mindful that any call for donations has to be carefully coordinated with the Wardens.

Two Discussion Questions for Vestry from the RSC

1. Should CCDP increase its work with refugees and newcomers?
2. If CCDP does want to increase its work with refugees and newcomers
 - a. What kind of work should we be doing - acting as Sponsor Group and Support Church? Or just Support Church?
 - b. How do we engage more volunteers to help with this work?
 - c. What is a reasonable amount of funds we can expect to raise from the congregation to support this work?

*Respectfully submitted,
The CCDP Refugee Support Committee*

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE/ ADVOCACY

The Community Breakfast Program is a barrier-free hot breakfast in a friendly, warm environment for forty to forty-five people, served on Saturday morning three to four times a month at our church (and once a month at our ecumenical partner, Calvin Baptist Church). At least eight volunteers or more gather at 7:00am to ensure the smooth and safe delivery of our program, one that ensures a hot meal to people who otherwise may not be able to access a kitchen, afford food, or may simply be seeking community.

The Churches on the Hill Food Bank (COTH), located at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, includes a large number of volunteers, many of whom are our dedicated parishioners who volunteer on various days for a variety of tasks. Our church is also a collection point for food items – we have a permanent pantry cupboard in the Atrium to collect donations, which are given to the COTH Food Bank. Ken Burns, director of the COTH Food Bank, provided details about the Food Bank's operations last year:

“In 2023, in a city as wealthy as Toronto, one in ten people are using Foodbanks, up from one in 20 in 2022. For Churches on the Hill Foodbank, our client numbers for that period have risen 96% and we are currently providing food parcels for up to 1200 people per week. What is even more troubling is for the last half of 2023 the majority of our clients are now families. These families are people who have employment but are having difficulty in paying for both housing and food. A large percentage of our new clients are Ukrainian refugees. During the last few years, the number of babies under three years of age that we support with formula and diapers has risen from 3 to 45. We continue to provide, for some of our elderly or infirm clients, a home delivery programme using volunteer drivers who pick up the food parcels and drop them off at clients' homes. For some of these clients, their drivers are the only people that they see during the week. With escalating food costs and larger client numbers, our food budget in 2023 tripled. We continue to be blessed to have the support from all of the Churches on the Hill community both in actions and financially.”

It is important to make note that my late co-chair of Outreach, our lovely, caring Anne Larkin, was instrumental to both the Community Breakfast and COTH programs. Anne was a founding

member, along with Vicki Grant, of the Community Breakfast Program. The COTH Food Bank started twenty-seven years ago with ten people applying for food assistance. Anne started volunteering there twenty-five years ago, and Ken Burns, President of the COTH Food Bank, said that our Anne went on to make the program what it is today. She realized it wasn't just food people needed, but that other factors were at play, and she did her best every single day to ensure the clients were listened to and connected to other available services.

Our Community Breakfast Program and the COTH Food Bank can always benefit from additional resources and volunteer help. If you are interested in becoming involved in one of these important ministries, please email outreach@christchurchdeerpark.org.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ann Atkins
Co-Chair*



'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'
Mk. 12:30-31



"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." *Matt. 5:3-9*

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."
Matt. 25:34-36

Anne Larkin

In memoriam



The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Gal. 5:22-23



RE-IMAGINE RUMMAGE COMMITTEE

In the past year, the ReImagine Rummage team, who likely would have previously been the ACW committee, held three sales. Our focus is on full Church community involvement, and we have been successful in doing this. We had planned to hold two Rummage sales, one indoors, and one Rummage on the Lawn both indoors and outdoors (including the BBQ and organ recital) as we had done in 2022.

When it was announced that there would be no Holy and Holly Christmas sale, we felt obliged to step up and try our best to create a Christmas Fair. Without Caroline van Nostrand's legendary Silent Auction and Barbara Johnston's vision, creativity and commitment, we planned out an old-fashioned, Parish Christmas Fair.

We brought back the 2022 Gabriel's Café. Dermot Muir and choir members taking turns leading carols, so many ladies making and selling baked goods, Cathy Clark's divine Christmas cake that people rushed in to purchase, Elsa's dreamy Jamaican Rum Cake, most of our Wardens taking shifts to join in the fun, over fifteen teenagers working the Café with Trudy and Jan and Pete d'Angelo's Community Connections zoom group, decorations for resale, a Christmas Wish tree, an opportunity to step away and share a prayer time quietly with our wonderful Ali, and Bob H. and John C. in the office making sure that our finances work out perfectly.... We had such a great few hours together, and imagine, we matched the success of the Holy and Holly Sales. Go team!

We hosted three events (totaling 11 hours of sales), and raised a net total of \$17,104 – that is over \$1,000/hour raised by our team for Christ Church Deer Park.

We are excited to embark on a new year with the experience of 2023 to grow from, and we also hope that we have shown our commitment to building community at CCDP, helping the environment, opening up the church/sharing the good news as well as raising some funds. We hope we have shown a commitment to smart use of space (our intake periods are short and we are storing minimal items now) - we hold meetings and work out of the ACW room extensively. We are grateful for your support and feel we have great momentum now; we are even keen to challenge the REImagine rummage community to see if we can surpass our 2023 income. Let's make the recycle economy part of our mission!

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Bredin, Jayne Miles Simpson
Co-Chairs*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee is responsible for planning and managing all areas of the upkeep of buildings, plant equipment, furnishings and grounds. Committee provides guidance and recommendations to Management on the upkeep of these areas. The role includes oversight of facilities management and utilities.

Current members: Amanda Jagt (ex officio), Brad Lennon, Don Dority, Walter Blackwell, Andrew Harding (chair) and Su Laine Varkey as warden.

The main activities of the property committee in 2023 were as follows:

Works completed:

- The north side of the building was repaved, starting at the north-west corner area near the Oriole playground to drain the rainwater behind the hall and down through the parking area towards the Yonge Street storm drain. The paving in the parts of the parking area were upgraded to direct stormwater away from the building. The uneven paving near the playground was also relaid.
- Three rooms in the basement have been cleared out and refurbished in preparation to be rented out. These are classrooms 2 and 3, and the rainbow room.
- Repairs were also done to Oriole Nursery, including the repainting of classroom 1 which they use.
- The building alarm system and telephone systems were replaced this year.

Works planned:

Large projects require significant planning. The committee has been working on two forthcoming projects.

- The downstairs kitchen will be refurbished with a grant received from the Federal Government's Community Recovery Fund. We thank Su Laine Varkey for applying for this grant. The kitchen will be available for rent when complete. The countertop with sinks will be replaced with stainless steel. The electrical outlets will be upgraded, including new electrical outlets in the community hall and guild room. Commercial refrigerators/freezers and a new oven will be purchased. The whole kitchen and storeroom will be repaired and repainted.
- The second major forthcoming project is to waterproof the foundation wall around the north east stairwell near Yonge Street. This will involve digging around the foundations and repairing the drainage. Once this is complete, the interior damage in that area can be repaired.
- Following a specialist masonry report on the Narthex, the peeling paint and plaster can now be repaired with no risk of further deterioration from water penetration.
- The external wood doors that were completely refinished in 2019 will also be freshened up.
- In addition, the sound system needs to be upgraded with more and better speakers. We hope to begin initial work for a project tender this year.

The Moore Family Foundation monies will be expended in 2024. Capital repairs such as the roof, stonework maintenance including the belltower and heating/AC systems, are not funded from the operating budget and thus require additional funds for these large projects.

For the church grounds, we received a grant to establish a pollinator garden, to be located near the west fence on the lawn. The second of the two pine trees near Yonge Street had to be removed. A new tree will be replanted in place of it on the west lawn. Some small and unsightly trees around the Heath Street Atrium were removed. We thank Ed Grady for all his work in the gardens this year, turning the church into a welcome spot of beauty on a busy corner. It is appreciated by many in the community, beyond the congregation.

We thank Su Laine Varkey, the late Anne Larkin, and Don Dority for leading the initial design of the basement kitchen project.

All members of the committee are thanked for their contributions throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Harding

Chair



Enjoying the annual Pentecost BBQ



Our new pollinator garden!



Christian provides sound and livestream support at the June Pride Church on Tap service



Rev. Cheryl gives the Christmas homily



The CCDP Choir sings at Rev. Ali's Ordination in February

The 152nd Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes

for the year ending December 31, 2022

Held in-person on

Sunday, March 5, 2023

In attendance (39 in total): Debbie Wilkinson, Amir Hossein, Mary Bredin, Lucia Nebesny, Jayne Miles Simpson, Marcia Kavanagh, Roger Knox, The Rev. Robert Gorham, Dora Garcia-Strube, Walter Blackwell, Edna Quammie, Andrew van Nostrand, Caroline van Nostrand, Sharilyn Robinson, Carl Wehniainen, Elizabeth Quinlan, Laura Thoman, Margaret Hanson-Clarke, The Rev. Cathy Gibbs, Pauline Thompson, Paul Gooch, Rebecca Wells Jopling, Ann Atkins, Maria Zamfir, Christian Crawford, The Rev. Alexandra McIntosh, Anne Larkin, Maggie Symons, Barbara Johnston, Susan Laine Varkey, Nick Strube, Paul Kingston, The Venerable Cheryl Palmer, Michael Butler, Katherine MacDonald, Stephen Clark, Elisabeth Lunder, Patrick Dewell, Amanda Jagt

Minutes prepared by: Amanda Jagt

Opening Prayer: The Venerable Cheryl Palmer

1. Appointment of Vestry Clerk

- a. Cheryl Palmer appointed Amanda Jagt as Vestry Clerk.

2. Opening Remarks

- a. Cheryl Palmer gave opening remarks welcoming everyone to Vestry for the first time in-person in 3 years; she also thanked Anne Larkin for preparing the Vestry lunch.
- b. *Adoption of the Agenda* was moved by Rebecca Wells-Jopling and seconded by Mary Bredin; all were in favour, none opposed, no additional discussion or additions, motion carried.

3. 2022 Minutes

- a. *Approval of last year's Minutes* was moved by Maggie Symons and seconded by Cathy Gibbs; all were in favour, none opposed, no additional questions or comments, motion carried.
- b. Business Arising from Minutes: none was raised.

4. Reports

- a. *Acceptance of written reports* was moved by Walter Blackwell and seconded by Jayne Miles Simpson; all were in favour, none opposed, no additional questions or comments, motion carried.
- b. The Rector's Report was made by Cheryl Palmer:
 - i. Cheryl noted that 2022 was a year in which we finally fully reopened from the pandemic closures. One of the outcomes of the pandemic has been smaller churches throughout the city, and this includes CCDP, as many of our own people have not returned. Cheryl recognized the commitment, faithfulness, and deep love of our church in those who have returned, and noted that we also have new members of our church. She extended a special

thank you to everyone who had returned after the pandemic and to the devoted laypeople of CCDP for their desire to continually grow in Christ.

1. Cheryl extended a particular thank you to **Jayne Miles Simpson** for her role in orchestrating many of the fellowship events that have happened in our parish. Cheryl also acknowledged the large team of people who assist Jayne at these events.
 2. Cheryl also thanked the staff of CCDP for their front of house and behind the scenes work to make our church run: **Cathy Gibbs**, a thoughtful and creative teacher who provides high quality adult education and is fully immersed in the life of our parish; **Ali McIntosh**, who was ordained a deacon in 2022 and a priest earlier this year, and who has contributed greatly to our post-pandemic restart in 2022; Ali's creative new ideas, paired with her deep faith, have invigorated our liturgies, particularly at 9:15 and Church on Tap. To **Vivia Cook**, Cheryl extended a thank you for her work with our fledgling youth group and for running events to attract the attention of young families in our neighbourhood. Cheryl also thanked the two newest staff members: **Amanda Jagt**, director of parish operations, and **Patrick Dewell**, director of music. She also recognized the work of **Elisabeth Lunder**, our bookkeeper, along with **Denis Delisle**, head custodian, and all the custodians who keep our church clean and cared for. **James Finnerty** continued leading the livestream, with the addition of **Christian Crawford** and **Liam McIvor** this year, all of whom made our church look and sound good on camera. To the honorary assistants – **The Reverends Robert Gorham, Peter Slater, and Dorothy Lancaster** – Cheryl extended a thank you for always being at the ready to help.
- ii. Cheryl closed her report with a prayer that 2023 will be a year in which we re-commit ourselves to grow God's kingdom at this little corner of the vineyard that is Yonge and Heath.
- c. Wardens' Report:
- i. Michael Butler, outgoing Rector's Warden, gave the Wardens' Report. He thanked everyone who has assisted the Wardens in running the church the past year. He extended thank yous to **Andrew van Nostrand** for seeing us through the first two years of pandemic; to **Jayne Miles Simpson** and **Mary Bredin** for leading the Rummage Sales; and to **Barbara Johnston** and **Caroline van Nostrand** for their leadership on Holy + Holly. Together the two Rummage Sales and Holy + Holly brought in about \$20,000 in revenue last year. Michael noted that there are so many people who volunteer at CCDP, and many of them are active behind the scenes.
 - ii. As he steps down from his time as Rector's Warden, Michael also extended a thank you to the 2022 Management Team for being a team that worked well and effectively together: **Katherine MacDonald, Stephen Clark, Su Laine Varkey, Paul Kingston, and Nick Strube**.
 - iii. On behalf of the congregation, Ann Atkins thanked the Management Team for their work this past year.

5. Finance

a. Presentation of 2022 Audited Financial Statements & 2023 Budget

i. Stephen Clark gave commentary on the 2022 Audited Financial Statements and the 2023 Budget:

1. **2022 Revenue (\$953,987):** Our givings were steady in 2022, but need to also acknowledge the tremendous contribution of people who went above and beyond. Going forward into 2023, we must keep striving to make sure our givings meet our expenses. One of the items we also worked hard on was increasing our rental income and the usage of the building, as this takes pressure off the budget.
2. **2022 Expenses (\$1,068,095):** Expenses were generally in line with the year before; we had a few additional items but no extravagances or emergency expenses.
3. **2022 Deficit:** Nick Strube explained that after the regular 5% transfer from the investment fund (\$90,500) offset the operating expenses, we had approximately a \$65,000 deficit. This was much lower than anticipated.
4. **2023 Budget:**
 - a. The Wardens have taken a conservative line on revenue, and this is because we cannot forecast one-time gifts and bequests.
 - b. The first item that came from the Financial Forum is the importance of the Community Breakfast – the Wardens recognize this and have asked those overseeing the Community Breakfast to engage with them about how to manage the increasing needs of our local community with the financial resources of the church. The Wardens will continue to monitor and support this area. The second item from the Financial Forum is that the number of children and youth at CCDP is not where we want it to be; yet, our church carries a high budget related to children. So, in the 2023 budget, the amount allocated to children’s ministry has been decreased by 40%. It is important to note we still have a budget for children’s ministry, it is just adjusted to the smaller number of children we currently minister to. This is in line with how other churches are addressing children’s ministry.

Question from Sharilyn Robinson: I respectfully acknowledge and am glad to hear that the Wardens understand the importance of children’s ministry and the correlation between a youth program and the growth of our church. Given that, what plan have the Wardens put together to be able to increase our outreach in the community around children’s ministry, as well as utilizing other resources to help sustain this church into the future?

Answer from Cheryl Palmer: Ali and I have thoughts on moving forward with our children’s program, but we needed to wait to have this budget approved before being able to

implement those ideas; part of that process will be having a meeting with the volunteers who have been helping Vivia (volunteers: Sharilyn Robinson, Katherine MacDONald, Annie Lawton, Jayne Miles Simpson, Valerie Myers, Abigail Brown). We do know that if the budget is approved, Vivia will likely not be staying on because it's a 40% cut to the position (25 hours/week + benefits reduced to 15 hours per week); but, we will be having the conversation with her tomorrow. So really, nothing is in place until this meeting is finished, as we want to respect what this community says and the process of Vestry. After Vestry, should the budget be approved, we will move forward with hiring someone at 15 hours per week should Vivia decide not to stay on. We need a plan to sustain and grow the program, especially coming out of Covid.

- b. *Adoption of the Audited 2022 Financial Statements: That the Vestry accept the Audited 2022 Financial Statements as prepared by Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation.* Motion was moved by Nick Strube and seconded by Ann Atkins; all were in favour, none were opposed, no further questions were had; motion carried.
- c. *Appointment of Auditors for 2023: That the Vestry appoints Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation as Auditors for the 2023 Fiscal Year.* Motion was moved by Nick Strube and seconded by Melissa Walter; all were in favour, none were opposed, no further questions were had; motion carried.
- d. *Adoption of the 2023 Budget: That the Vestry accepts the 2023 Operating Budget as presented.* Motion was moved by Nick Strube, seconded by Carl Wehnianen; the majority was in favour; questions raised are outlined below; Robert Gorham and Sharilyn Robinson were against; motion carried.

Question from Caroline van Nostrand: If we approve the budget, will there still be a review of the outreach budget? Can we put an asterisk that that line is subject to further discussion and development, as was discussed at the Financial Forum?

Answer from the Management Team: Certainly, the outreach budget will be further discussed in consultation between the Wardens and the Community Breakfast organizers, and may be increased at the discretion of the Wardens based on those conversations. However, for the purposes of Vestry, a budget does need to be approved. The Wardens reiterated how valued the Community Breakfast program is, and mentioned that our church currently has two grant applications in progress to seek money for kitchen upgrades and for food costs, in the hopes of sustaining and growing the program into the future. Cheryl stated that no one will be turned away from the breakfast program and just as many breakfasts will be served this year as there were last year. If, at the end of 2023 we find ourselves in the same situation with the budgeted number being smaller than the expended number, then we will need to respond by putting money where it needs to be.

Question from Andrew van Nostrand: Can we hear more about the grants you've applied for?

Answer from Su Laine Varkey: Absolutely. We heard about a one-time \$400 million dollar amount from the federal government that is being distributed through United Way; we applied on February 2nd for \$40,000 towards a new oven/stove, fridges, and freezers, as well as electrical, plumbing, and gas upgrades (as the grant did not allow us to ask directly for money for food).

Answer from Michael Butler: And, the second grant application is to the Anglican Foundation. We can apply for up to 50% of a budgeted amount for the coming year, or 50% of our last year's actuals, and so we will apply for money and if we receive the grant, we will use it toward food costs as well as electrical upgrades and a new countertop in the downstairs kitchen. The application will be submitted this month.

- e. *Withdrawal from Investment Fund:* **In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Investment Fund, in addition to the annual amount permitted to be withdrawn from the Investment Fund without Vestry approval, the Corporation of Christ Church Deer Park is hereby authorized to withdraw from the Investment Fund, in one or more withdrawals at any time up until December 31, 2023, an aggregate amount not to exceed \$68,100, as a permitted withdrawal for 2023 from the Investment Fund.** Stephen Clark gave an explanation for the request to Vestry for a withdrawal from the Investment Fund. Currently CCDP has about \$1.643 million in the Investment Fund, of which up to 5% is capable of being withdrawn every year to offset operations expenses (each year the Investment Committee determines whether to make this withdrawal recommendation to the Corporation). The Corporation also has the right under the terms of the Investment Fund to ask Vestry for consent to draw an additional amount, and this year the Corporation has asked for Vestry approval to withdraw \$68K to close the deficit from 2022. Motion moved by Stephen Clark and seconded by Michael Butler; all were favour, none opposed, questions written below; motion carried.

Question from Anne Larkin: Where does that \$68,000 number come from?

Answer from the Management Team: Stephen explained that the revenues are higher (and the deficit lower) on the financial statements because 75% of the received bequests were transferred into the Investment Fund in accordance with an administrative decision of the Wardens to transfer 75% of the amount of any bequest over \$500 into the Investment Fund, with 25% remaining in the operating budget. Nick also added that we will not take the requested deficit coverage money from the Investment Fund unless we absolutely have to, and that the motion gives us the flexibility of waiting until end-of-year so we can determine the need.

- f. *Investment Fund Report:*
- i. Michael Butler, chair of the Investment Committee, gave the report. Christ Church has several invested funds: the **Investment Fund, Ministry Fund, and Our Faith Our Hope Fund**, which total approximately \$1.643 million. Results from 2022 were satisfactory on a relative basis considering financial markets did not do well last year (the war in Ukraine, high inflation, continued recovery from COVID all contributed to this). CCDP's funds were down about 7% throughout the year, but they began recovering by the fourth quarter in 2022. Our 5% distribution last year was \$90,000. CCDP

also has a **Rectory Fund** (from the sale of our rectory) which is managed by the Diocese. Each year our church receives a percentage of this as income; in 2022 we received \$50,000. We transferred our Investment Fund to PH&N just over a year ago in the fall of 2021, and we have been happy with them. Michael also extended his thanks to the members of the Investment Committee for their time and expertise this past year: **Bruce Langstaff, David Clark, Nick Strube, George Lewis, and George Elliott.**

Question from Rebecca Wells-Jopling: Did our parish have someone managing the money before PH&N?

Answer from Michael Butler: No; originally we had three or four funds and all the money was invested in bonds and we were managing it ourselves. About 20 years ago we started investing some in equities (i.e. mutual funds). However, markets change throughout the years and it became too difficult to adapt to changes and manage the funds ourselves.

Question from Rebecca Wells-Jopling: How much are we paying PH&N? And, are they a Christian firm? Can we decide if there are areas we do not want to invest in?

Answer from Michael Butler: PH&N does abide by environment, social, and governance (ESG) guidelines, and they are one of the leading firms in this (and one of the reasons we chose them, as it brings us into compliance with the Diocesan guidelines for investing). For example, they do not invest in companies that manufacture military equipment, and they recently stopped investing in a company that sells many tobacco products. In terms of fees, we pay them eight tenths of one percent on the value of our Investment Fund which is market.

6. Election and Appointment of Officers

- a. *Acknowledgement of Outgoing Officers*
 - i. Cheryl Palmer thanked **Michael Butler**, a long-time parishioner, for his service as Rector's Warden for the past three years. She thanked him for his ministry and all the work he has done for Christ Church, as well as for his continuing work as chair of the Investment Committee. Cheryl also thanked **Genevieve Chornenki** for her eight years of dedication as editor of the newsletter *Spiritus*. Her stellar work and standard of excellence will not be easily replaced. Cheryl added that we are currently looking for someone to take up this ministry.
- b. *Appointment of Rector's Warden*: Cheryl Palmer appointed **Stephen Clark** as Rector's Warden for 2023-2024. Stephen accepted this appointment, and Cheryl expressed her gratitude for his acceptance.
- c. *Appointment of Treasurer*: Stephen Clark, Rector's Warden, appointed **Nick Strube** as treasurer, noting with thanks that Nick has served in this position for many years now.

- d. *Election of People's Warden:* Stephen Clark noted that **Su Laine Varkey** agreed to stand for election, and he made a motion to accept her candidacy. Nick Strube seconded this, all were in favour, none opposed, the election was carried.
- e. *Election of Deputy Wardens:* Stephen Clark nominated both **Paul Kingston and Katherine MacDonald** for the position of Deputy Warden. Nick Strube seconded, all in favour, none opposed, the election of both was carried.
- f. *Election of Members of Synod:* Cheryl Palmer re-nominated **William Jackson, Ann Atkins, and Melissa Walter**. No further nominations from the floor were made. Paul Kingston moved to accept these three members; Michael Butler seconded; all in favour, none opposed, the election of all three was carried.

7. Other Motions

a. *Social Justice Motion:*

- i. Cheryl Palmer introduced this year's Social Justice Motion, and first gave some background on it. Each year the Diocesan College of Bishops approves a motion that can be brought forward at parishes for acceptance. While these motions can be controversial, Cheryl explained that they are important to bring forward so that we can discern with what it means to follow Jesus and help the least of our neighbours. The 2023 motion advocates for an increase in the Ontario social assistance rates, as the current rates are deficient in keeping recipients out of poverty. Cheryl noted that our parish has been asked to add our voice to the growing call to double the income assistance to those living on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (formerly Welfare).

Comment from Andrew van Nostrand: I struggle with this social justice motion because there are government programs and non-government programs. If I go downstairs during our community breakfast, we serve a lot of different folks. But many of them are on Ontario Works and ODSP – and I believe their cheques go entirely towards housing, and then they must rely on food programs to feed themselves. I don't know how we can be calling on the government to double social assistance when we are not doing that ourselves in our church. I'd invite the management team and the clergy to participate in the breakfast program just to understand what we are doing downstairs; and, I invite all the parishioners to participate. I'd also say that so many volunteers come through the program who are not parishioners – I think this is a wonderful opportunity that we are missing – these are people who feel and live what Christ is asking us to do. So, I'd like to amend this motion in some way to include our own social assistance program: 1) we could commit to tying our community breakfast budget to inflation; 2) not book things at the same time as community breakfast, i.e. make it a priority in terms of space use; and 3) have the management team and clergy commit to serve at the community breakfast.

Comment from Ann Atkins: Anne Larkin has been volunteering at the food bank for over 25 years; this year, the number of clients they used to serve in a week, they now serve in one day. And food banks were only supposed to be a stop gap originally, not a solution to hunger.

Comment from Roger Knox: I support both the intent and the actual amendments Andrew suggested; but, they are both on a different scale than the Diocesan motion is talking about; this is advocacy over a very wide scale, which is different from what we do at CCDP. Public policy is not the same as what we do in-house – it may be the same morally, but the advocacy is different towards government than within our local parish.

Comment from Stephen Clark: From my perspective, one of the things I like about the church is that it's a big tent – some of the things resonate with some people, some with others. I'll leave the first motion alone because that's government. On this second motion suggested by Andrew, I'd ask that we spend more time thinking about it in a quiet, thoughtful manner, allowing more people than are here today to add their thoughts to it. I do not think Vestry is the forum for this, and I am concerned about the process.

Comment from Melissa Walter: I wonder, personally, if we make the second motion a little broader, and perhaps have those who run the other advocacy groups at CCDP part of the discussion. Something like, "As we call on the government we call on ourselves to deeply think about our own works and advocacy for those on social assistance."

Comment from Rebecca Wells-Jopling: Andrew, thank you. I do also agree with Stephen, not that some things don't need to be done right away, but because I think this is worthwhile to take time to get everyone's voices on this issue. This may mean more ideas such as Andrew's come to the surface and we can get more people involved in our programs. I do also agree it's wonderful to get our clergy involved in the breakfast program, but they also do a ton of things already, so I'm not sure if we want them mentioned in the motion.

Comment from Cheryl Palmer: is it possible to approve this Diocesan motion and add at the end that we challenge ourselves to provide more for the community breakfast program at the rate of the need we see?

Comment from Anne Larkin: In response to the need we see, we have increased the number of breakfasts we are serving this past year. It may be worth looking at how the breakfast programme fits in with the visioning we have done over the last 10-12 years at CCDP.

Conclusion: Cheryl Palmer read the original Diocesan motion: **We, the parish of Christ Church Deer Park call on the Province of Ontario to double social assistance rates for both Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program, and thereafter to index these rates to inflation, so as to provide a safety net that enables people to meet their**

most basic needs. Anne Larkin moved to accept it, Su Laine Varkey seconded it. Then, Barbara Johnston moved for the amendment to be included, **whereby we as a Parish recognize the need and challenge ourselves to respond.** Debbie seconded the amendment. All in favour of the amendment, none opposed; the amendment was carried. Robert moved again to accept the original motion, Melissa seconded original motion; all in favour, none opposed, social justice motion carried.

8. Other Business

Question from Anne Larkin: Do we want to look back at one of the visioning exercises we did a few years ago to see what our priorities were/are? (Keeping in mind that the parish doesn't look the exact same as it did when those exercises were done.)

Answer from Paul Kingston: I will say that the management team is interested in integrating the outreach discussion. We are committed to strengthening the connections between the various groups of our parish and the management team itself. We are committed to this so we can better balance the resources of the parish with the Christian values we hold.

- a. *Service of Commissioning for Lay Ministries:* Cheryl Palmer led the short service to commission the lay ministries for the new year ahead.
- b. *Concluding Prayer* (The Reverend Ali McIntosh)
- c. *Adjournment:* Cheryl Palmer called for adjournment of the 2022 Vestry Meeting at 2:03pm.

2024 MOTIONS

FINANCIAL MOTIONS

Motion #1

Moved by: Nick Strube

Seconded by:

That the Vestry accept the Audited 2023 Financial Statements as prepared by Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation.

Motion #2

Moved by: Nick Strube

Seconded by:

That the Vestry appoints Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation as Auditors for the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Motion #3

Moved by: Nick Strube

Seconded by:

That the Vestry accepts the 2024 Operating Budget as presented.

Motion #4

Moved by: Stephen Clark

Seconded by:

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Investment Fund, in addition to the annual amount permitted to be withdrawn from the Investment Fund without Vestry approval, the Corporation of Christ Church Deer Park be and it is hereby authorized to withdraw from the Investment Fund, in one or more withdrawals at any time up until December 31, 2024, an aggregate amount not to exceed \$62,000, as the permitted withdrawal for 2024 from the Investment Fund.

Motion # 5

Moved by: Stephen Clark

Seconded by:

As a result of an inadvertent overcharging of management fees in the amount of \$5,800 by the Investment Manager of the Investment Fund in 2023, and the subsequent return of such overpayment to Christ Church Deer Park, Vestry hereby ratifies the characterization of this overcharge of \$5,800 as a special withdrawal from the Investment Fund in 2023 over and above withdrawals already authorized, and the deposit of such \$5,800 into the general operating account of Christ Church Deer Park.

PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE MOTION

Motion # 6

Moved by: Stephen Clark

Seconded by:

In accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada, the Churchwardens of Christ Church Deer Park have nominated the following persons to be appointed as members of a Parish Selection Committee to be created for the purpose of coordinating a search for a new Incumbent:

Stephen D.A. Clark (Rector's Warden)

Su Laine Varkey (People's Warden)

Michael Baker

Mary Bredin

Jan D'Angelo

Andrew Harding

Amy Leung

Jill MacRae

Pauline Thompson

Melissa Walter

Vestry hereby confirms the appointment of each of these persons to the Parish Selection Committee to be formed.

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING FOR LAY MINISTRIES

Priest Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which they are called.

Sponsors We present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Warden/Committee members/ Member of Synod in this congregation.

The priest addresses the assembly

Priest Is it your will that these people fulfil these ministries?

People It is.

The priest addresses the candidates.

Priest You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with care, to the honour of God and the benefit of the Church?

Answer I will.

The priest addresses the assembly.

Priest Will you uphold these people in this service?

People We will.

Antiphon

Priest The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

Priest I am your servant; grant me understanding:

All That I may know your decrees.

Priest Let us pray.

Priest Blessed are you, gracious God, our creator and redeemer. In every age you call people to minister in your name. May the work of these your servants so build up your Church, that they may faithfully serve you and show your love in all the world. Blessed are you, O God, now and forever. Amen.

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens, Committee members and Members of Synod of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All O Lord, without whom our labour is lost: We beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to us, your workers, a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Juliet sings at Rev. Ali's Ordination in February



Worshipping in our 100-year-old sanctuary



Reimagine Rummage Team after the Christmas Sale



The beautiful mums on the grounds



Rev. Ali presiding at Christmas Eve

