

# Crosstalk

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA | SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL | JANUARY 2025



PHOTOS: PHILIPPE OWEN



The 144th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa began with ceremony, music and worship at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa. Bishop Shane Parker presided, with clergy, parish leaders, diocesan staff and visitors in attendance at the opening Eucharist on November 7.

## City of Ottawa honours Belong Ottawa's decades of service

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe helped celebrate the long history of care and service that Anglican Community Ministries day programs have provided in the city by declaring November 2024 Belong Ottawa Month at an anniversary party at St. John the Evangelist Church on Elgin St.

Belong Ottawa, which has three service sites, was celebrating the 70th anniversary of Centre 454, the 41st anniversary of St. Luke's Table and the 40th anniversary of The Well. All three offer compassionate care to vulnerable people who struggle with issues such as poverty, homelessness, mental health and addictions.

"Congratulations on achieving this

incredible moment," the mayor said. "Seventy years of Belong Ottawa helping the most vulnerable people in our community. That really is remarkable.

"And I want to thank the entire Belong Ottawa team, the members of the team past and present, the staff, the volunteers, for everything you have done and continue to do and will do to support those experiencing homelessness or those who are precariously housed.

"For decades, this has been an amazing place where people can drop in ... for a meal, a hot drink, and some companionship," Sutcliffe added. "When they did, they were met always with compassion, with dignity, and with respect. That was true 70 years ago, and it's still true today, even as we are facing

unprecedented challenges in our city," he said, mentioning higher levels of homelessness, a mental health crisis and substance use disorder.

The civic recognition was undoubtedly welcome at a time when Centre 454 is facing intense pressure from some neighbours who oppose its presence to move out of its long-time location in the basement of St. Albans Anglican Church on King Edward Avenue and to relocate.

The Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs, director general of the Anglican Community Ministries, shared a brief outline of Belong Ottawa's history. The Anglican Social Services Centre began 70 years ago as a way to support men who were leaving prison, he explained. "From the

beginning, the centre was swamped with work, and in its first decades, it moved to many locations... In 1976, the centre moved to St. Albans at 454 King Edward. And in an early exercise of rebranding, it became Centre 454.

"Forty years ago, The Well began at St. Luke's Church before moving here [to St. John the Evangelist] a few years later, providing services to women and women with children.

"St. Luke's Drop-in Centre and Lunch Club, began 41 years ago, started by a group of parishioners and it would be renamed St. Luke's Table in 2013. And in 2021, these programs amalgamated, being branded, Belong Ottawa."

► **Belong Ottawa honour, p. 3**

## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

# An appeal from our partners in Jerusalem



**THE RIGHT REVEREND DR. SHANE A. D. PARKER  
BISHOP OF OTTAWA**

The Old City of Jerusalem has eight gateways, each one offering a distinctive portal into the place where many generations of pilgrims remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. Not too far from the historic Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem, there is another gateway, used by thousands from around the world who seek spiritual renewal in the Land of the Holy One: St. George's College Jerusalem.

The College is an integral part of the ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It is nestled within the bustling St. George's Cathedral Close, alongside the diocesan Cathedral, guest house, administrative offices and episcopal residence—and beside St. George's School for children from kindergarten age to high school.

I first took a course at St. George's College Jerusalem in 2004—my first visit to Israel and Palestine. That was also when I met Archbishop Hosam Naoum, who was then the Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Nablus on the West Bank. I quickly discovered that the College provides a unique gateway to the Land of the Holy One and those who live there.

The College's staff offer skilled guidance and information to enable

pilgrims to see, feel, and understand the biblical and contemporary richness of the land and the Christians, Jews, and Muslims who live there. The College is wholly committed to building awareness and reconciliation through pilgrimage, education, and dialogue.

The College normally draws dozens of pilgrims from across the Anglican Communion to the Land of the Holy One each year, and many local Christians—a tiny and threatened minority—provide services and goods to pilgrims. Everyone benefits when pilgrims are on the land.

The warfare that has intensified in the Middle East since October 2023 has had a devastating impact on the ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem. Archbishop Hosam Naoum has said “my diocese is bleeding at this time” and he has appealed to Anglicans from around the world to offer prayers and practical support.

Violence and uncertainty have created a major crisis for St. George's College. While the College has strived to adapt with creativity and resilience, producing videos for virtual pilgrimages, developing curricula, and maintaining the facility, the situation is dire for the staff and their families.

The \$2 million annual budget of the College is primarily supported through earned revenue from pilgrims' fees, gift shop sales, and other lodging fees. This revenue stream has been totally disrupted. It is highly unlikely that pilgrimages will resume in 2025, and there are insufficient funds to provide regular salaries for the College's staff and essential operations. While many of the Diocese of Jerusalem's health and educational institutions have regular streams of revenue from



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

We are asking all our friends around the world to come together to help St. George's College and to walk with us during these dark times of war and distress. We ask you to be companions on the way so that we may continue to work and serve Christ in the ministry of pilgrimage and love and light. We thank all our friends and partners who have come through the doors of St. George's College and for those who will come in the future. We ask you to join hands with us and to be so generous so that we can continue to celebrate St. George's College as a beacon of life and love in Jerusalem and from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

*The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum*  
Archbishop of Jerusalem and The Middle East

donor networks, the College does not.

The North American Committee for St. George's College Jerusalem provided some emergency funding in 2024, and is now appealing to all Anglicans and friends of the College to help provide essential support in 2025. I have been asked, as a member of the Committee, to chair a fundraising drive called Let Light Shine: The Canadian Campaign for St. George's College Jerusalem.

The campaign will run until April 2025, and the objective is to raise \$250,000 from Canadians who care about our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Jerusalem. This amount

will cover the now-reduced salaries of remaining staff at St. George's College in 2025.

This campaign is very much part of our Diocese of Ottawa's long partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem. I maintain close contact with Archbishop Hosam and with the College's Dean, the Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell, who spoke at our Synod in 2023. They are deeply dedicated and committed to the College as a vital ministry of their diocese. Please join me in solidarity with them to help St. George's College Jerusalem in its time of need.



The situation is dire for the staff and their families, and for the future of the College itself.

## Let Light Shine: the Canadian Campaign for ST. GEORGE'S COLLEGE JERUSALEM

The Anglican Centre for pilgrimage, education, hospitality, and reconciliation.

*“We are asking all our friends around the world to come together to help St. George's College and to walk with us during these dark times of war and distress.”*

**The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum**  
Archbishop of Jerusalem and The Middle East



More info: [www.StGeorgesCollegeJerusalemNAC.org/](http://www.StGeorgesCollegeJerusalemNAC.org/)

**Donate Now**

# The Reverend Karen McBride ordained

PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The Rev. Karen McBride was ordained on Nov. 30 by Bishop Shane Parker at Julian of Norwich Church in Ottawa, where she has also been appointed Incumbent.

The ordination took place on the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, a traditional day for ordinations in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa.

The Gospel reading was from Matthew 4: 18-22 recounting how Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee and saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into a lake. “And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately, they left their nets and followed him.

In his homily, the Rev. Canon Rob Davis, a retired priest of the diocese, spoke about how McBride was called out of all she was doing in her life and career. [She held senior roles in national education associations, working with universities, colleges and school boards across the country to support their international cooperation efforts.]

Now as a priest, Davis said she will draw on all her experience and skills in a new role. Karen is called and sent out into a world that is full of bad news “to proclaim the good news that there is a Saviour, and that everyone who calls on His name will be saved,” he said.

“Of course, she’s not sent alone.... She’s not even sent just with the other ordained clergy.... She is sent out with the whole body of Christ. ...We are all called to this. You are a chosen people, Peter writes, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness and into light. There’s an awful lot of people out there who don’t know that there is any light to be brought into. And we are here, you and I, called and sent to share that light with them. And this is not a light calling.... Sometimes it is a matter of life and death,” he said.



Davis shared that when his father was a young priest, he set off walking to the church to do a Sunday morning service in Petawawa in the middle of a blizzard. Halfway there he regretted that choice, but he stubbornly pushed on and made it to the church. A farmer had lit the fire in the wood stove, so the church was nice and warm, but only one person was in the church, a man warming himself by the stove. Even so, his dad proceeded to do the whole service with Communion. Afterwards, he went to take off his vestments and returned to talk with the man, but he had left. He never saw the man again. But many years later, when he was visiting friends in the Valley, he heard the rest of the story.

“The reason that that man was in the church that day was that he was on his way to kill himself.... His whole life had fallen apart. He had lost his job. He thought he was worth nothing at all. Nobody seemed to care. He was absolutely desolate. And finally, he thought, my family would be better off without me. ... There’s a place in the Petawawa River where the current swirls in close to shore and keeps the ice free. And he was walking down there, and he was going to jump in and just end it all. But as he walked, he got really cold ... and he stopped into the church to warm up. And while he was there, before he could leave again, my father arrived and started the service. Then he was embarrassed to leave, so he just stayed. But as the service went on, he realized, ‘I’m the only one here. All of this is for me. He’s doing this all for me.’ And as he listened to the words, “Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden. Come.” As he received the communion, as he heard the words spoken, he began to think, ‘Maybe I’m worth something after all. Maybe there’s hope yet.’ But he didn’t want to talk

to Dad, so as soon as Dad turned his back, he went out. But when he went out of the church, he turned the other way, and he went home.

“Our word can make a difference between life and death. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in someone of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear if there isn’t someone to proclaim Him? And how could someone proclaim Him if they are not sent?” Davis asked in closing.

Many clergy were robed and attending the service. After McBride took her vows, they surrounded her as she knelt, and joined in the laying on of hands when the bishop ordained her, as is the custom in the Anglican Communion. Then the bishop introduced her as a priest in the Church of God. Following the Eucharist, the bishop inducted her as the Incumbent of Julian of Norwich Parish with the words “accept this charge which is mine and yours” and members of the parish committed to supporting her and sharing in ministry with her.

## CLERGY NEWS



**The Rev. Jonathan Askwith** has been appointed Incumbent of the Parish of St. Clare’s North Dundas, effective Nov. 27, 2024.

**The Rev. James Duckett** has been appointed Associate Incumbent of the Parish of St. Helen’s Orleans, effective Aug. 5, 2025.



**Regional Deans were formally commissioned at the opening Eucharist of Synod.**

**Left to right:**  
**The Rev. Mark Lewis** as Regional Dean of East Ontario,  
**The Rev. Rosemary Parker** as Regional Dean of East Ottawa,  
**The Rev. Victoria Scott** as Regional Dean of Central Ottawa,  
**The Rev. Dr. Alana McCord** as Regional Dean of West Ottawa.

PHOTO: PHILIPPE OWEN

# PARISH NEWS

## Black History Month celebration at St. Stephen's

# Dinner and drumming extravaganza on Valentine's Day!

BY THE REV. CANON GEORGE KWARI

Some things are just worth repeating! And spending a hopping evening of yummy food, African drumming and dancing in the company of friends — young, old and in between — is one of them.

Last year, one of the ways St. Stephen's celebrated Black History Month was with an interactive African drumming event, which started with us joining together to share a meal of African and Caribbean foods. We are a global community at St. Stephens, and the food that evening was prepared and presented by members of our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) parish members and beyond. The food we enjoyed included Sadza from Zimbabwe, Caribbean beef and chicken stews, jollof rice, fried plantain and, of course, several desserts.



fun, we asked him to come back.

Do consider joining us at this year's Drumming Extravaganza. Bring your loved ones for a special Valentine's celebration. Celebrate love and heritage in a memorable way. It is a perfect way to honour Black History Month while enjoying delicious dishes from African and Caribbean traditions and an evening of beautiful music and rhythms.

Come for 5:30 pm on Feb. 14. Dinner will be at 6 pm, and the drumming will start at 7 pm.

Please call the church office at 613 828-2472 or email [sscometochurch@gmail.com](mailto:sscometochurch@gmail.com) to reserve a spot as we would like to keep tabs on numbers coming so we can prepare enough food.



Miracle, Bright and Humble Nwchukious came with a contingent from St. Margaret's Vanier.

The Rev. Canon George's congregation and Sadio invite you to a sizzling evening of African and Caribbean dishes, drums and dancing.

After dinner, the tables were pushed back, and the floor was opened up to the drumming world of Sadio Sissoko. A multi-talented African musician originally from Senegal, Sadio has lived in Montreal for many years. Sadio brought at least 30 drums of different sizes with him and as he led the music, he encouraged us to either use the drums, slap our thighs or clap to the rhythms. By the end, there was a lot of dancing too. We had so much



Drums, and fun, for all are on offer in St. Stephen's church hall, where joyful noises sound great.



**Crosstalk**

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Please contact the editor for submission deadlines.



*Crosstalk* acknowledges that we publish on traditional Anishinàbeg Algonquin territory. We recognize the Algonquins as the customary keepers and defenders of the Ottawa River Watershed and its tributaries.

# COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

PHOTOS: LORRAINE TELL

## November 2024 named Belong Ottawa Month

### ► Belong Ottawa honour, from p. 1

Reviewing documents in the Diocesan Archives, Hobbs said it was fascinating to see a community in action. Although the names of the people involved have changed over the decades, “the core values in programs have held fast. Everybody is welcome, included, treated with dignity and respect,” he said. Programs and services, though shifting in time and context, have also been consistent—providing basic needs, meals, laundries, showers, offering support navigating the system, referrals, advocacy, accompanying and creating community, social recreation, arts-based programs, spiritual care, outings and more.

“Sadly, what has also persisted is the need for our services in the social challenges facing our neighbourhoods,” he added. Archival documents referred to a lack of affordable housing, unsafe rooming houses, food insecurity, a lack of resources to address issues around poverty, trauma, addiction, and mental health, and the needs are now even more acute, he said.

“Today, though, is a moment of pause, to celebrate, to remember our remarkable grace-filled legacy of service to others,” he said. He noted that the celebration is a shared one. “From the beginning, we have always looked beyond ourselves to a greater community,” he said, giving thanks for “partnerships with other agencies, other churches, so, so many donors, and three levels of government, especially the city of Ottawa.”

Community development manager Liz de Melo has worked with Belong Ottawa in various roles for 25 years. She described how the three agencies rose to the challenge of the pandemic.

“We pooled all of our resources to help to address food insecurity and isolation that people were experiencing while delivering food to people’s homes and offering street outreach,” and gradually merged into Belong Ottawa.

“Over these years, I’ve had the opportunity to celebrate, grieve, support, and offer hope to those who call us family....We at Belong Ottawa are described by some as a living room of the poor and a place for someone, anyone, to just be without judgment. The past few years have presented



**Above: Mayor Mark Sutcliffe proclaims November 2024 Belong Ottawa Month with Bishop Shane Parker, City Councillor Ariel Troster, and Belong Ottawa ED Shauna-marie Young.**



**Left: Mary and Liz de Melo enjoy the party with cake.**



**Below: (L to R) Belong Ottawa staffer Panah, and Anglican Community Ministries director general the Rev. Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs.**

many challenges because of the pandemic, the abject poverty, the drug epidemic, and the ongoing and worsening lack of affordable housing,” she said. Participants in the programs are often described as resilient, and that is a term she agrees with, but de Melo cautioned that resiliency is not a state they aspire to achieve.

She read a few lines from Louisiana writer Zandashe L’orelia Brown: “I dream of never being called resilient again in my life. I’m exhausted by strength. I want

support. I want softness. I want ease. I want to be amongst the kin, not patted on the back for how well I take a hit, or for how many.”

Bishop Shane Parker thanked Mayor Sutcliffe for the honour he had bestowed on Belong Ottawa and for his and the City’s support. Many years ago, the Anglicans who started what has now become Belong Ottawa “looked around them and saw other human beings who were experiencing distress or marginalization or poverty. And they saw it with their eyes and then

they felt it in their hearts, and then they chose to act,” the bishop said. And they invited other people of compassion to come and work with them, and in doing so, they created a sanctuary where “everyone has the opportunity to be received, to be valued, to be seen as a whole person without judgment and made to feel that they belong. Thank each of you for participating with us in creating sanctuary. Thank you for your hearts of compassion, for your hearts of love, and thank you for sharing this wonderful celebration today.”

# SYNOD 2024

## Synod focuses on strengthening diocesan church to serve others

PHOTOS: PHILIP OWEN

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The 144th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa began with an evening Eucharist service at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa on Nov. 7.

In his charge to the Synod, Bishop Shane Parker referred to a metaphor he shared last year from church historian Henry Chadwick. It compares the church to a stained-glass window—“reflecting through its diverse panes the beauty of God’s grace, love, peace, hope, reconciliation and justice,” but which must be held together and protected by the oak and iron of good order and discipline. Professor Chadwick, he said, “realized the structures and operations of the Church—being well-run and properly resourced—enable cohesion amongst its members and free them to focus on serving others.”

This aligns closely with what the bishop described as the three-year journey the laity and clergy of the diocesan church have been on with him of “honestly assessing where we were at, and of carefully and collaboratively discerning what God was calling us to do.” And much of the work and discussion at Synod involved ensuring that the diocesan church is well-run and properly resourced, so that everyone in both parish and community ministries can focus on serving their communities.

The full text of the Charge was reprinted in the December issue of *Crosstalk* and is available in our online edition *Perspective*.

The bishop concluded by saying that as the diocesan church moves through this triennium, “we will cherish the beauty of Christ that has been entrusted to our diocesan church, and we will seek to share that beauty, with humble confidence and expansive generosity, wherever God is calling us to be.”



Sanjay Grover



Guiding the meeting through the agenda, exercises, deliberations and decisions were Synod Secretaries, Margaret Porter, the Rev. Canon Stephen Silverthorne, Bishop Shane Parker and Dean Beth Bretzlaff.

## Ascension House directors working to reduce parish costs and increase services

In one of the first presentations at Synod, directors of several departments at Ascension House provided progress updates on: Result 1 — reducing reliance on parish revenues to fund the diocesan operating budget — and Result 2 — diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders.

### Financial Ministry

Sanjay Grover, director of financial ministry, reported on actions to achieve Result 1

- Proportional Parish Share (PPS) was reduced by \$460,000 from the 2023 financial statements to 2024 diocesan budget.

It’s “quite an achievement from my perspective, as we have been able to reduce PPS by 20.5% reduction in one year,” said Grover. “And this is built into our triennial budget, so for the next three years, our PPS is primarily frozen at that number.” He explained that dividends from central/diocesan trust funds were used to compensate for the reduction.

Other actions included:

- Discontinuing the Clergy Retirement Fund at the end of 2023. The fund was 1% of payroll, and so its end translates to about \$50,000 in savings annually. These cost savings will be passed on to parishes

through the ECOPS billings process for 2025, he said. Questions from Synod members led to a clarification that the Clergy Retirement Fund was not related to clergy pension funds.

“Our Diocese will try to minimize ECOPS inflationary increases by absorbing them internally to the best of our financial abilities for 2025 and onwards,” he added.

Grover also gave a detailed account of the many services and supports he and the two staff members in the finance department provide to parishes (Result 2). A few of the statistics he shared were that financial ministry staff:

- Process 3,150 disbursements from the General Fund in 2023, and 900 from the Central Trust Fund. This work generates an average of 312 emails per week.
- Send and receive more than 2,000 telephone calls per year and 6,000 emails regarding payroll for staff on central pay for both parish and community ministries
- Manage the Central Trust Funds, currently valued at more than \$60 million
- Send out monthly Parish statements after incorporating ongoing changes
- Prepare and communicate annual Proportional Parish Share and ECOPS for every parish

- Prepare monthly financial statements for all functional areas of the Diocese
- Negotiate annual insurance renewals.

### Property and Asset Management



Joel Prentice

Director Joel Prentice outlined some of the ways his work is contributing to Result 2 — increased assistance to parishes.

The now completed diocesan building survey provides an inventory of building and property assets that Prentice says has been useful in many cases when parishes ask for his advice regarding

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# SYNOD 2024

► from p. 6

maintenance of their properties. It has helped him link parishes that have similar assets such as solar panels so they can compare notes and help each other.

He encourages parishes to do preventative maintenance rather than reactive work and repairs.

Prentice is working with his provincial counterparts in the Bereavement Authority of Ontario to make the reporting requirements around cemeteries manageable and sensible.

Property disposition — \$5 million in excess properties were liquidated in 2024. Annual leases, whether that be parking or residential, have been worth \$200,000.

Working with colleagues and clergy on the 35-unit Hollyer House affordable housing project, which opened this year has been rewarding, Prentice said. Some women from Cornerstone Housing for Women had moved into the building in the first week of November.

Following the fire at St. Luke’s Anglican Church (and St. Luke’s Table) in 2022, the building has been restored. Further renovation work is now a priority.

Prentice also helped Centre 105 in Cornwall, Ont. apply for a \$108,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Fund, which has now been used to add accessible washrooms and a shower.

## Communications, Development and Digital Solutions

(Result 2 – increased assistance to parishes)



**Sandra Hamway**

### Communications

Director Sandra Hamway reported that “the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (ADO) website (with total visits this year of nearly 76,000) serves as a vital connection point for our Anglican faith community and beyond. Every tool, resource and update are here to support your ministries, helping you grow

engagement, keep communities informed and strengthen connections for a vibrant parish life,” she said.

- **Social media:** “With nearly 40,000 people reached on Facebook alone, we’re expanding engagement and creating spaces for meaningful interaction,” she said.

- **Publications:** This past year, more than 171 stories were published in *Crosstalk* and *Perspective*. “Each story reflects our shared journey, highlighting the impact of our diocesan work and engaging our audiences through storytelling,” Hamway said.

Communications also provides support and guidance to parishes and ministries regarding media inquiries and crisis communications.

### Development

Development plays a vital role in supporting both parishes and community ministries by providing guidance, resources, and funding information. Hamway said the department offers parishes guidance in several key ways:

- acting as the Ascension House liaison to the Episcopal Panel on parish stewardship
- consulting with stewardship experts and developing practical training tools and resources
- providing presentations and materials for congregations.

“With grants, our role includes raising awareness of funding opportunities and helping parish leaders navigate the sometimes complex application process,” Hamway said. “Over the past year, our support has helped several parishes secure a total of \$25,000 in grants from the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

### Digital Solutions

Hamway reported that the department led four key initiatives to make it easier for parishes and community ministries to connect, collaborate and securely access essential information.

- moved Ascension House to a new Microsoft SharePoint system, essentially cloud solutions, improving email, adding new tools and increasing security
- expanded digital access to *Crosstalk* with an online edition, *Perspective*
- developed a parish-focused landing page on the ADO website to provide essential resources in one easy access location.

Work is underway to create a secure gated portal on the ADO website, which will provide clergy and parish leaders private access to resources, including upcoming Resource Hubs

## ADO Strategic Priorities: 6 Results to Reach for and Achieve

In his Charge to Synod, Bishop Shane Parker outlined six results to be prioritized and achieved in the current triennium (three-year budgetary and planning cycle). These priorities emerged from the diocesan church-wide Shape of Parish Ministry discernment process. Presentations throughout Synod updated members on progress made toward these goals.

### Result 1

#### Less reliance on parish revenue

Developing central resources so the Diocese is less reliant on parish revenues to fund shared operations and staffing. This is intended to leave more money in parishes.

### Result 2

#### More support for parish leaders

Providing increased assistance and support to parish leaders from the directors and staff of Ascension House, who offer expertise in communications and stewardship development, financial and legal matters, liturgy, human resources, governance, and property and asset management.

### Result 3

#### Guiding parishes facing major change, promoting collaboration

Providing guidance to parishes facing major change and promoting collaboration and innovation across

our diocese. The bishop is directly involved in achieving this result and continues to work with parish leaders to discuss options and support their decisions concerning major change.

### Result 4

#### More training for parish leaders and more clarity on structures

Review and revise Canons, Bylaws & Regulations (CBRs) to bring clarity to parish structures. Parish leaders will receive more training and learning opportunities, and there will be a clear understanding of how parishes operate.

### Result 5

#### Learning Commons and Parish Development

A Learning Commons and Program for Parish Development will provide resources, knowledge and practical instruction on all essential aspects of Resource Hubs, Knowledge Networks and a Program for Parish Development will provide resources and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry.

### Result 6

#### Contextual Mission and New Worshipping Communities

We will learn how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities.

## Human Resources

(Result 2 – increased assistance to parishes)



**Paul Lex**

Director Paul Lex reported that in the last year, 72 new employees were hired across the diocese in parish and community ministries, while 59 employees left, resulting in an increase of about 6%. Ascension

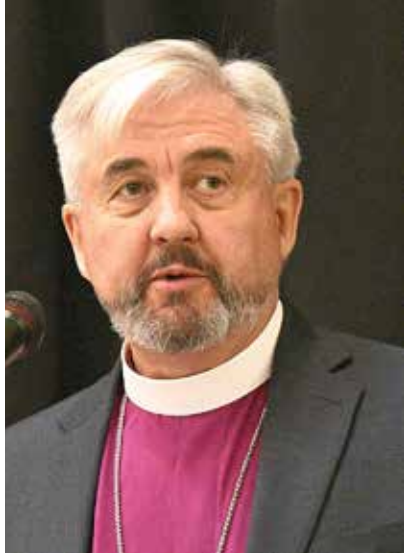
House now supports 247 employees across the diocese. “On average, it took us a little bit over 29 days from when a parish reached out to us to fill a role.... And this includes some background checks, reference checks, some writing contracts. And to fill all those roles, Petra [Ghazleh] and myself, we screened almost 3,500 candidates, resumes, application packages. And of those, we ended up interviewing 357 employees, almost 250 on the phone and 114 in person that could be at the parish, at either of the community ministries, or at Ascension House.”

He added that they have also worked with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board after employees had an accident creating return to work plans and processing their payments, as well as working with short and long-term disability claims. “We’ve done workplace investigations, workplace safety, joint health and safety committees and also performance management.”

# SYNOD 2024

## Bishop provides guidance to parishes facing major change

(Result 3)



**Bishop Shane Parker**

Bishop Shane Parker reminded Synod members that 15 years ago, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa had 74 parishes, but 45% of them were in some way vulnerable. Today, he pointed out, the diocese has 49 parishes but only 6% of them might be considered vulnerable in some way. "This did not come about by accident," he said. "Many of you have been actively engaged, often in consultation with me, in considering the facts, the feelings, and taking time to pray about what your best

option is to thrive at this time." Some parishes have chosen to preserve the status quo, while others amalgamated with neighbouring parishes, chose to become a chapel, and others have made the difficult decision to disestablish and been warmly received into neighbouring parishes. "That's extremely important. We do not walk away from people," said Bishop Shane. "We might close a building, but we don't close relationships." He recommended a step-by-step online guide that has been created for parishes considering major change and reminded them to also "bring in the bishop" as they talk about major change.

The bishop noted that Result 3 also calls for promoting innovation and collaboration across the diocese. Archdeacon Patrick Stephens is chairing an Episcopal panel which is getting underway and considering how to approach hospital ministry in a collaborative way, the bishop said, adding that the new youth program, ADOyouth, is another collaborative example

## Parish Development in motion



**The Rev. Dr. Jon Martin and Leslie Giddings**

The Rev. Dr. Jon Martin, chair of the Parish Development Sub-Committee, and Leslie Giddings spoke to Synod members to further clarify the meaning of parish development. At its heart, they said, parish development is about "creating healthy, hospitable parishes that are financially sustainable and are able to be thriving and vibrant communities within the community that surrounds them." In a very similar way to tidying up when preparing to invite guests to your home, parishes need to make sure their church is good order before inviting others to join them.

Giddings added that it's important to note that thriving is not the same as growing. "Thriving means having a parish that's functioning in a way that serves the needs of the local community and the congregation members in ways that are sustainable for the finances and the volunteers that are actually available right now."

Videos on parish development will soon be available on the ADO website. The first will be a general overview and then next is "going to be about developing a vision and setting priorities for your parish as you move forward."

## Learning Commons created

(Results 4, 5 and 6)



**Carroll Carkner**

Executive Archdeacon Linda Hill and Carroll Carkner, Chair of the education committee, reminded Synod members that at the 2023 meeting, plans were made to revise diocesan Canons, Bylaws and Regulations to bring clarity to parish structures and to provide training for parish leaders. There was also a plan to create a Learning Commons and a program for Parish Development. "And we said we'd learn how to do contextual mission and establish new worshipping communities." They reported that those things have all been done or are in the works.

### Training workshops offered

Almost 100 people attended a workshop for treasurers, church wardens, and clergy led by Joel

Prentice and Sanjay Grover in April. Paul Lex and Archdeacon Linda Hill presented a workshop on governance, employment issues, and safe church attended by 97 people in May. Powerpoint presentations from the workshops are available on the ADO website under the Learning Commons.

Anti-racism training is now part of the Safe Church in the diocese. Several events were led by the Reverends Chung Yan Lam, John Holgate, and Simone Hurkmans. The events they led take a creative, interactive approach to this important area of training.

Two in-person cemetery workshops were held, one in Quebec and one in Ontario. They were led by Rob Hanson, the Rev. Dr. Mary-Cate Garden, and Archdeacon Eric Morin.

### Resource Hubs and Knowledge Networks

The Learning Commons also includes Resource Hubs and Knowledge Networks, which aim to bring people together around topics of common interest and to share practical resources. Information about Hubs and Networks will soon be available on the diocesan website. The Rev. Gillian Hoyer is the coordinator for both. The first Resource Hub will be about rural ministry and other hubs are being planned, including ones for parish stewardship and for children's and family ministry, they said.

## Time of Prayer resources posted



**The Rev. Elizabeth December (left) and The Rev. Simone Hurkmans reminded Synod members that all of the resources for the Time of Prayer initiative (launched at Synod 2023) are also posted on the Time of Prayer webpage on the diocesan site and will be available any time parishes want to make use of them.**



# SYNOD 2024

## Contextual Mission guide online



**Ron Brophy**

Ron Brophy walked members of Synod through the step-by-step guide for contextual mission that is posted on the diocesan website (in the For Parishes section)

Three broad categories of contextual mission were mentioned:

**Loving service** – supporting those who experience some form of need for advocacy, social support, or material assistance.

**Community collaboration** — a new working partnership with other organizations, other churches, or with other groups to serve the needs of the broader community

**New worshipping communities** - a gathering of people where Christian faith is nourished and discipleship in Jesus Christ is practiced in a new place, in a new mode or manner, or to a new community

For leaders' courses, the Rev. Colin McFarland said that the Contextual Mission Sub-committee had identified two suggestions. The Niagara School for Missional Leadership, based in the Diocese of Niagara, and St. Andrew's Hall Certificate for Missional Leadership both offer courses. The Contextual Mission sub-committee is going to offer a course based on John Bowen's book *The Unfolding Gospel: How the Good News Makes Sense of Discipleship, Church, Mission and Everything Else*.

Caileen Dolan presented some information about the diocesan Future Fund, which will provide grants for contextual mission initiatives and new worshipping communities. There are two grant cycles on March 15 or Nov. 1. The amounts can range from less than \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending on the project. A parish is allowed one successful application per year.



### Telling our Parish Ministry Story

Archdeacon Monique Stone led Synod members in an interactive exercise to help tell the stories of their parish ministries. Clergy and lay representatives collaboratively described what their parish had done recently in five aspects of parish life—worship, building care, formation and learning, pastoral care, and engaging with the broader community. Then, they posted their activities in each category on the walls to share. (Above) Anne-Marie Clysdale posted her parish's contributions to the discussion.

## Canons and Bylaws



**Chancellor Henry Schultz**

Several motions to amend the Diocesan Canons and Bylaws were presented by Chancellor Henry Schultz. These proposed:

- changes to parish governance, including a motion to clarify that every congregation must be governed by a vestry
- changes to terminology around financial matters, including removal of references to the clergy retirement fund;
- clarification of roles for Synod

Officers and Executives of Synod

- clarification of diocesan indemnification authority.

The motions were all carried.

Of note was a motion Schultz put forward to remove a paragraph from a canon which provided that that the diocesan clergy list may include those clergy who from time to time may hold offices including, "headmaster or headmistress or chaplain of residential school situated in the diocese." Schultz stated that given the history of the schools, it is clear that the paragraph should be removed, even if there never were any residential schools in the diocese. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Fournier, a member of the All My Relations Circle, who said removing the paragraph, which implicitly shows support for the residential school system, is an act of reconciliation.

The motion was carried.

The Synod honoured Justice Murray Sinclair, who led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and had passed away earlier in the week, with a moment of silence and a prayer.

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\*Research conducted by Willful and Arbor Memorial Inc. in a 2020 survey.

Arbor Memorial Inc.

## SYNOD 2024

# Synod renews commitment to work for housing justice

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Synod 2024 unanimously endorsed a forward-looking plan to support the creation of more affordable housing and a renewed commitment to advocacy and coalition-building.

Terms of reference for the newly named Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice (BPHJ), formerly the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Working Group were presented by the Ven. Kathryn Otley, speaking for Canon Sue Garvey, the chair, who was unable to attend.

She expressed gratitude for the way parishes have participated in many ways to support housing justice. Looking ahead "we hope that some of your congregations will explore housing justice initiatives through the Futures Fund that responds to your unique contexts, and we'd love to help," she said.

The panel's new terms of reference include providing advice to the panel charged with administering the Futures Fund on projects related to housing and homelessness. The fund was established, following approval at Synod 2022, to support projects across the diocese with a dedicated

focus on contextual mission and new worshipping communities. The fund is seen as the main source of funding of small projects around homelessness and affordable housing that parishes may access.

The terms of reference specifically direct the panel to support housing-related projects that arise from contextual mission in parishes and community ministries.

Otley said panel members are interested in participating in conversations with the Diocese about the use of surplus property and whether it has potential to be used as affordable housing in conjunction with government and other community partners.

Other priorities are advocacy and communications through the diocese website and reports in *Perspective* and *Crosstalk*.

In anticipation of a federal election at any time in the next year as well as an Ontario vote no later than June 2026, the panel plans to prepare talking points and encourage parishioners to make presentations to local candidates.

After attending the national conference of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness with housing



**The Venerable Kathryn Otley**

advocates from across Canada, Otley said, "It is painfully clear that the need is greater than ever."

In his report to Synod, Anglican Community Ministries director general the Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs said the latest City of Ottawa count of homeless is 2,800.

The Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice will provide information on its page on the diocese, updated regularly, as a resource for parishes and the general public.

To access the page go to the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa website, click on What We Do and then click on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. When current updating is completed, details will be included on the panel's activities as well as the status of Hollyer House, Ellwood House, Eccles St, and the continuing projects at Julian of Norwich and St James the Apostle Perth.

# Land for Perth affordable housing project transferred

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

The town council of Perth gave final approval to the transfer of town-owned land for an affordable housing project in June.

One day in November, the Rev. Canon Ken Davis of St. James the Apostle picked up the phone and called the town's mayor and deputy mayor. Could they please look into the matter of why, five months later, the land had not been transferred? Without the land in the ownership of Carebridge Community Support, the project could not move forward.

"Magically, it got looked into," Davis says. "I have no doubt that we would not have it now had I not called."

Four years ago, St. James organized and continues to lead Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP) in the development of 15 units of affordable housing, the first in Perth in 30 years, on the land. Finally in November, the land was transferred to Carebridge Community Support as owner and future operator of the housing. Carebridge already operates 221 units in Lanark County, including the 34 units in the Smiths Falls

project that St John the Evangelist supported.

The Anglican Church in Perth has been the greatest supporter of the project along with Carebridge and the Saumure Group, the Smiths Falls-based developer of residential and commercial properties in the Ottawa Valley.

Having worked on various iterations of a site plan for at least six months, Saumure is now well placed to expedite the next step – completing the plan for approval by the municipality.

For its part the CHIP team is preparing for a \$300,000 fundraising campaign and promised consultations with neighbours of the Halton Street site. A website providing details of the project and a link for donations is available: (<https://perthhousing.ca>) St. James is making a \$31,000 donation, much of it from parishioners, to launch the campaign.

The team doesn't underestimate further issues with the town over parking capacity at the site. As well, an access road has to be built, with no offer of help from the town. But there is still hope that shovels will be in the ground in the spring, with

completion some time in 2026.

Carebridge says the CHIP project is unique in its experience. It has never before had a community group lay the groundwork for four years, inviting Carebridge to join the team in efforts to convince

a municipality to care about affordable housing.

Normally, for Carebridge it has been the other way around: Carebridge has gone looking for land and support from a group or municipality.

## Elections, 2024

The following were elected to **DIOCESAN COUNCIL** for a three-year term:

The Rev. Adam Brown  
The Rev. Dr. Mary-Catherine Garden  
Kate Jordan  
Lyonesse Woodstock

The following were elected as members of **GENERAL SYNOD**:

The Rev. Matthew Brown  
The Rev. Dr. Jon Martin  
The Ven. Kathryn Otley  
Caroll Carkner  
Kate Jordan  
Katherine Spencer-Ross

# SYNOD 2024

## Guest speaker encourages Synod to focus on the deep spiritual question of ‘Why?’

The Rev. Dr. Dawn Davis, assistant professor of Contextual Learning at Huron University in London, Ontario, was invited to be the guest reflector for Synod. She holds a doctorate in ministry and spiritual formation and has also earned a professional human resources certification specializing in training, development, and organizational behavior. She is the author of *Experience: Spiritual Formation in Theological Education*.

Davis praised the process and work that has been done in the diocesan church in the past few years, to create a well-ordered and resourced diocesan church with healthy parishes equipped to serve. She was impressed with the resources that have been created and are easily accessible. “This plan comes from an accountably drawn up consultative process. It has attainable targets, reasonable yet urgent timelines, clear lines of accountability, and is rooted in a very practical and foreseeable vision,” she said. “What your diocese has accomplished under the leadership of your bishop



**The Rev. Dr. Dawn Davis added a fresh and far-reaching perspective to the Synod experience.**

and his team is one of the most comprehensive and effective plans I’ve ever seen,” she said.

Her aim then, she said, was to help Synod members look to the horizon to see what might be coming next. Davis encouraged

listeners to remember to ask themselves ‘Why are we doing this? ...Why do people need it?’ So, I invite you... to go deeper. To ask this deeper spiritual question means to listen with ears that hear more than facts and figures. It is to be mindful

that this is not our church. It’s God’s church. We are stewards,” she said.

In her second reflection, she asked her listeners if they had ever had a spiritual experience and whether they could describe that to someone else. “Maybe this is a feeling you had while you were in nature, a sense of profound awe at the birth of a child, a moment of inexplicable joy or peace during worship, or while engaged in music and dance.”

She observed that Anglicans tend to keep their spiritual lives totally private, but she said it is important to be able to talk about those experiences. It is important, she said, because “when people ask us why, they want to know about the love that has helped you overcome mountains. They want to know about the trust in the divine that brought you healing. They want to know about the divine promise that gave you a new beginning. They want to know about that compassionate heart that came from an experience of really knowing what it was like to be wrong and be forgiven and be whole.”

## Archbishop of Jerusalem sends greetings and asks for prayers for the Holy Land

Archbishop Hosam Naoum sent a video greeting to Synod, wishing “everyone a blessed time and a time with the fruitful outcomes.”

The archbishop said the diocese of Jerusalem, which also includes Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, is bleeding.

The suffering of Palestinian Christians was at the heart of a joint letter the archbishop issued with Archbishop Justin Welby, who followed through with a planned pilgrimage before he steps down as Archbishop of Canterbury in January. An excerpt is below. In his



**Archbishop Hosam Naoum**

Charge, Bishop Shane encouraged everyone to “pray, donate and reach out to individuals and agencies who are either struggling or serving to alleviate the effects of obscene violence in the land of the Holy One. PWRDF, UNICEF and Canadian Red Cross ... seek to bring relief to those who are suffering.” He relayed Archbishop Hosam’s plea to pray fervently for peace, justice, and reconciliation for all Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the land where Jesus walked.

“The current war continues to be a huge struggle for many of us,

for our ministry and our people, so thank you again for allowing me to share this with you and very much for being such wonderful friends. May God bless you all,” Archbishop Hosam said in his video message.

Bishop Shane has been asked to serve on the North American Committee for St. George’s College, Jerusalem and to chair a Canadian campaign to raise \$250,000 across the country to pay the Palestinian staff of the college.

(Read more about the Canadian campaign in the bishop’s column on p. 2)

**Joint letter from the Archbishops**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Over five days, 15-19 November 2024, we travelled together, as fellow brothers in Christ, on a long-planned pilgrimage to pray and worship with the living stones of Palestine and Israel, listening to their voices, and offering solidarity with them in the shadow of the ongoing war in the region.

The last time we met in Jerusalem was just two weeks after the sudden eruption of war in the Holy Land in October 2023. Since then, the world has witnessed unimaginable suffering, death, destruction and displacement that has made Gaza simply uninhabitable. We give thanks that even in the midst of such horrors

the Al Ahli Anglican Hospital in Gaza City continues to serve those in need. We stand united in our call for an immediate end to the war, the release of all hostages and prisoners and an end to forced displacement.

In Ramallah and Bethlehem we were profoundly shocked and shaken to hear from Palestinian Christians — lay and ordained, young and old, male and female — about their daily struggles to survive the ongoing occupation. Such is the despair we encountered that many, especially young adults, question their own future here. We fear for the long-term survival of the indigenous Christian presence in the Holy Land that stretches back to the time when our Lord walked this land. This existential challenge demands our focused attention and collective

response.

We met with the Nassar family at the Tent of Nations outside Bethlehem City. We heard of their never-ending legal battles before Israel’s Supreme Court to defend their ownership of their farm, which has been in their family since Ottoman times. In the Al Makhrou valley we met with the Kisiyia family, who are challenging through the Courts the demolition of their home and the confiscation of their land by settlers.

We met with the Nasir family in their home in Birzeit and heard of the ongoing administrative detention of their daughter Layan, a young Palestinian Christian from St Peter’s Anglican Church, Birzeit. Layan has been detained since 4 April 2024 without legal proceedings, by order of a regional military court, based on

classified evidence that leaves her facing unknown allegations. Layan’s family do not know when she will be released, all the time without being charged, tried or convicted. There are thousands of Palestinians like Layan in administrative detention.

We thank all the families we met for their peaceful resistance and costly witness. These are not isolated cases, but part of a deliberate strategy of harassment and intimidation to force Palestinian families from the land. Reducing Palestinians to a position of despondent surrender, where they must either live under the yoke of occupation or emigrate, is deeply wrong and unjust. It will bring neither peace nor security.

...

► **Letter from Jerusalem, to p. 15**

# CLERGY REFLECTION

## Love yourself as your neighbour

BY THE REV.  
ROSEMARY PARKER

A few years ago, I was feeling uncertain about a sermon I wrote for the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17). The Gospel reading itself is beautiful, describing the moment that the Spirit of God descends upon Jesus and God claims Jesus as God's cherished son. Unfortunately, I felt that my sermon failed to capture that beauty; the words did not flow, the message had not crystalized, and it was Sunday morning—my time had run out. I messaged a clergy friend to commiserate, but their response completely floored me: "Rosemary, you are God's beloved child, and with you, God is well pleased."

In Church Land, we tend to focus primarily on the first half of Jesus' second Commandment: "Love your neighbour." When our parishes collect donations for the food bank, sponsor refugee families, or support isolated seniors, we know that we are doing God's work of loving our neighbours. There is a sense of confidence and rightness in outreach projects—we are fulfilling our mission as Christians—and everyone is eager to contribute. Even our smaller, rural parishes in this diocese are very generous to

the community. Before it closed, St John's Innisville always made sure to have a Mitten Tree at Christmas and extend the warmth of God's love to their neighbours in need.

Yet what about the second half of Jesus' second commandment: "Love your neighbour as yourselves?" After my sermon mishap, I realized that I do not always feel like God's beloved child or even worthy of God's love. That may sound funny, but take a moment and reflect on this: Do you feel God's love and grace truly extends to you, personally?

This is more than important to our life as Christians than it may seem. When we do not feel love for ourselves, we can become brittle. If we cannot forgive ourselves for mistakes or imperfections, we struggle to forgive others for their own flaws. If we cannot accept God's forgiveness for ourselves, we cannot extend God's forgiveness to others. Sometimes in Church Land, this manifests as a strong emphasis on everything being precise and perfect, because we want to offer God our very best. Unfortunately, this can then create a culture where anything or anyone less than perfect is judged or corrected.

*Rosemary Parker is Incumbent of St. Aidan's parish in Ottawa.*

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



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## ICI ON PARLE FRANÇAIS — RÉFLEXION

### Le repentir : Le chemin de la vie

LE RÉV. CHANOINE  
KEVIN FLYNN

Tout au long des Écritures, nous entendons l'appel à la conversion par la repentance. Jean le Baptiste a appelé les gens à une vie nouvelle par le biais de la repentance. Jésus a fait de même au début de sa vie publique, en faisant de la repentance la condition d'entrée dans le Royaume de Dieu. Il a confié la même tâche à ses disciples lorsqu'il les a envoyés en mission (par exemple, Marc 6:12).

Malgré le témoignage constant des Écritures, des premiers Pères, des Conciles, des saints et d'innombrables milliers de croyants qui ont essayé de vivre cet appel, de nombreux chrétiens contemporains semblent ne pas pouvoir ou ne pas vouloir entendre cet appel. Il y a au moins deux raisons principales à cela. Premièrement, nous ne comprenons pas le repentir dans son sens religieux, c'est-à-dire comme un chemin d'amour et de confiance dans la miséricorde infinie de Dieu. Au contraire, nous l'envisageons principalement en



Le révérend chanoine Kevin Flynn est le pasteur de la paroisse St-Bernard-de-Clairvaux

termes psychologiques, comme l'expression d'une émotion négative, d'un sentiment de culpabilité exagéré, voire pathologique.

Deuxièmement, nous avons tendance à considérer la repentance en termes transactionnels, comme le paiement d'une dette pour le mal que nous avons fait. Là encore, nous ne le comprenons pas comme un moyen de guérison, un chemin vers une vie nouvelle.

Plus encore, nous pouvons avoir du mal à comprendre à quel point le besoin de repentance est profond



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

parce que nous ne comprenons pas l'immensité de ce que nous avons perdu à cause du péché. Nous considérons le péché comme une question de violation de tel ou tel commandement, comme une mauvaise action individuelle, plutôt que comme la condition douloureuse de l'esprit humain aliéné de Dieu, l'arrière-plan sombre de nos vies.

Nous pouvons considérer la repentance comme une manière de « se faire des amis » avec nous-mêmes. Lorsque nous entrons en présence de Dieu et faisons l'expérience de la réalité de l'amour et de la miséricorde divins, nous

pouvons également commencer à nous connaître et à nous aimer comme Dieu nous connaît et nous aime. Nous apprenons la vérité sur nous-mêmes—nos échecs et nos péchés, et donc notre besoin d'une véritable conversion du cœur. Mais l'amour de Dieu rend la vérité sur nous-mêmes supportable. Nous devenons capables d'accepter la vérité et de nous abandonner totalement, tels que nous sommes — les bons, les mauvais, les indifférents —entre les mains de Dieu et d'être en paix.

*This text in English is available in the January issue of Perspective: ottawa.anglicannews.ca*

## PWRDF unveils new name and welcomes partners from Zimbabwe

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS  
AND JANICE BIEHN, PWRDF

There was a festive atmosphere at St. Stephen's Church in Ottawa on a November evening as the diocesan Primate's World Relief and Development (PWRDF) Working Group launched its new name Alongside Hope and Auprès de l'espoir in French. The new name is effective March 1, 2025, but it will be a gradual transition to use the new name.

The working group was hosting two people from Zimbabwean partner TSURO (Towards Sustainable Use of Resources Organization) Trust, and St. Stephen's went all out preparing a wonderful meal that included Zimbabwean dishes. After dinner Roseline Mukonoweshuro and Farai Gumisai took the large group who attended the event on a slide-show tour of their numerous innovative agricultural projects in the Chimanimani mountains in the in Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe.

Due to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, people in their area are facing many challenges, including food insecurity. They are susceptible to weather events and natural disasters.

PHOTO LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



Roseline Mukonoweshuro and Farai Gumisai shared news of their innovative and inspiring agricultural projects

Gumisai described the devastating effects of a 2019 cyclone which caused flooding and landslides that destroyed the village, fields, orchards and washed all their crops away. Cyclones are more frequent now. "We must come together

to mitigate the effects of climate change," he said.

The TSURO Trust is working to improve conditions with project funded by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Government of Canada, and supported by PWRDF that uses nature-based solutions to improve biodiversity and strengthen climate resilient livelihoods.

- Conservation agriculture techniques such as minimizing soil disturbance, maximizing soil cover, and maximizing crop diversity.
- Assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting such as incorporating fruit trees, indigenous trees, and fodder crops into farmers' fields and household areas in conjunction with wider landscape rehabilitation through tree planting and natural restoration processes.

- Improved water management including use of structures to control soil erosion, farm level water harvest technologies and water conveyance systems. This includes the construction of four solar-

powered boreholes. Solar panels are mounted above a borehole well to provide the power needed for a pump to extract water. A narrow shaft drilled approximately 60-80 metres into the water table by a rig, and the water flows from a raised tank of 10,000 litres into pipes that supply water to households for domestic use and livestock watering.

- Improved livestock and range management such as community planned grazing, improved fodder crops and improved crop-livestock systems. This includes distribution of heifers to farmers.

A biodiverse landscape enables community members to build more resilient livelihoods.

- Use of nature-based solutions in agricultural production and improved marketing to enable higher income earnings.
- New or improved agro-ecosystem activities including non-timber forest products such as fruit, nuts and honey; and production and marketing of fuel-efficient stoves to foster resilient livelihoods. Two initiatives include fish ponds stocked with tilapia and demonstration sites teaching farmers how to grow mushrooms.

# DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

## Temple Pastures Deanery of West Quebec

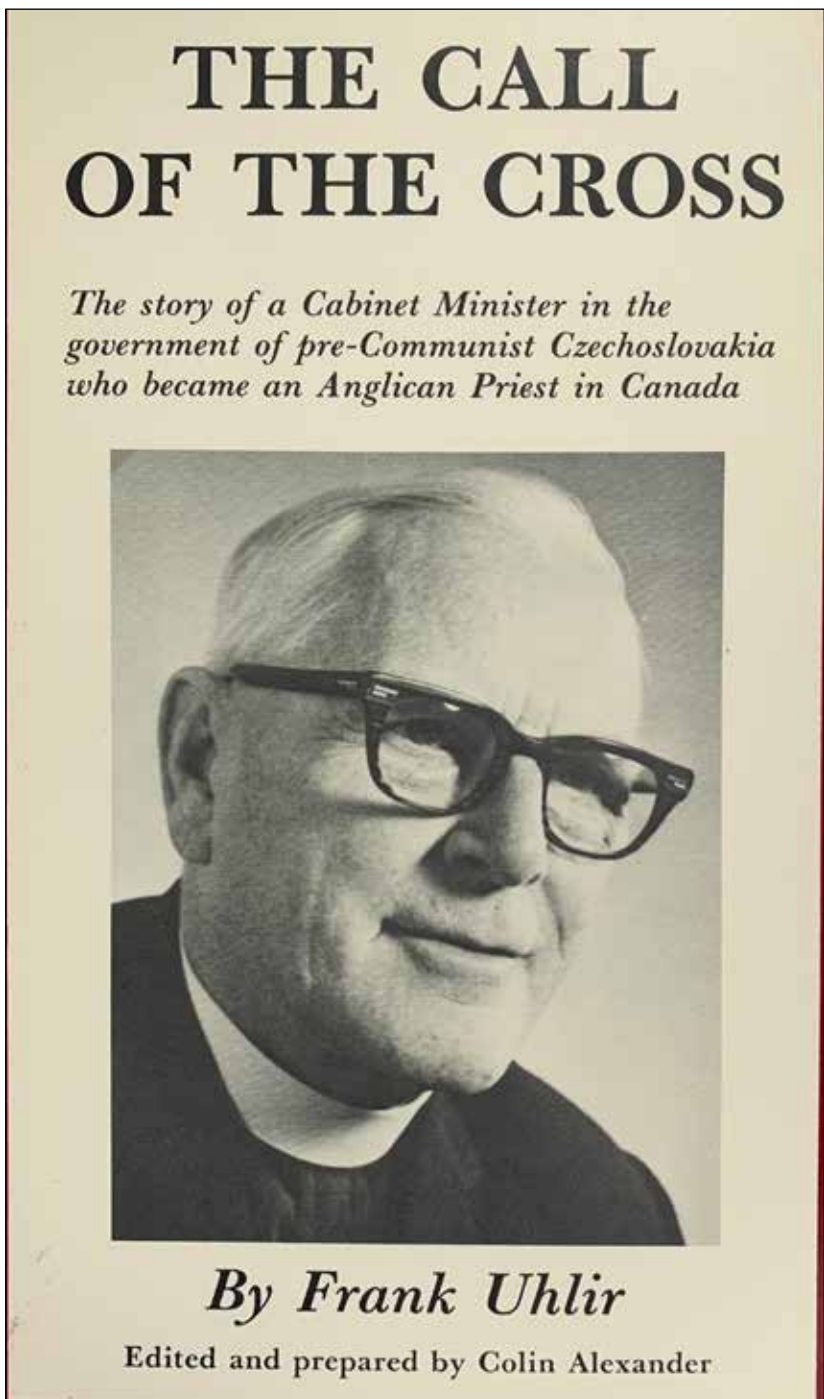
### A Spiritual Haven in the Canadian Countryside

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

This 1970s photograph is a reminder of a man who was not your standard Anglican, yet who for a generation operated a facility that helped define Anglican spirituality and Anglican outreach in the Diocese of Ottawa.

Frank Uhlir in 1954 was a recent immigrant to Canada from what then was known as Czechoslovakia. He already had had a career as a freedom fighter against the Nazis during the 1940s. Many Czech immigrants would leave their mark on Canada. There was for example, Thomas John Bata, owner of the world's largest shoe manufacturing company, who fled the Nazis in 1939 and re-established himself at Batawa in Canada. And there was Peter C. Newman, the controversial chronicler of Canadian politicians and the Canadian establishment, who in his spare time headed an orchestra called 'Peter Newman and his Bouncing Czechs.'

Frank Uhlir was a very different immigrant from a country first liberated from Nazi oppression, only to find itself placed under the heel of Soviet domination. When he arrived in Canada in 1954, Uhlir was amazed at the immensity of his adopted country. As he later recounted in his autobiography, *Call of the Cross*, acting on a vision he felt had come from God, he purchased fifty acres of land with a farmhouse on it in West Templeton, Quebec in the far reaches of the Diocese of Montreal for the purpose of establishing an ecumenical



eventually took place in 1966. It was on two counts, then, that Temple Pastures Mission originated outside the Diocese of Ottawa, first as a private initiative, and second, as one first emerging in the Diocese of Montreal. The Templeton farmhouse became an office, and a frame barn was renovated and extended to become a house of worship. Eventually, a large residence with meeting rooms, suites of bedrooms and bathrooms became known as the Temple Pastures retreat centre. Frank Uhlir married Joan Moresby in 1960, a scholar who for a time was head of Elmwood School for girls in Ottawa. Summer missions began at Temple Pastures in 1961. In 1966, a full-time School of Christian Life was started. By 1977, more than 17,000 people visited Temple Pastures Mission for spiritual renewal, teaching and on occasion for spiritual healing. Uhlir published a number of tracts and newsletters that emanated from Temple Pastures.


In 1980, the Rev. Frank Uhlir died. Joan Uhlir was in charge of Temple Pastures for four years. In 1986, the diocese accepted responsibility, and it continued for a generation to be a retreat, teaching and spiritual centre for all religious groups. With dwindling attendance, it closed in the 2010s. A Czech translation of *The Call of the Cross* was published by a university press in the Czech Republic where Uhlir's work as a freedom fighter is now recognized.

Christian teaching mission near Canada's capital. Although his rural property was in the Diocese of Montreal, Uhlir, raised a Roman Catholic, attended Anglican services in nearby Ottawa. In 1956, he was ordained a priest by

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 T1 3

Bishop Ernest S. Reed. Even before Uhlir purchased his rural property in West Templeton, talks were well underway for transferring Clarendon (later West Quebec) Deanery from the Diocese of Montreal to the Diocese of Ottawa—a move that


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The Community Ministries of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (ADO) offer drop-in day programs, professional counselling, supportive housing, emergency shelter, and refugee sponsorship. These ministries embody God's love, providing care, material aid, and hope to people in the national capital area and beyond. Our staff is well-trained, offering services ranging from compassionate

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Shane A.D. Parker  
The Right Reverend  
Bishop of Ottawa

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# Faith rising: You are leaven

BY JOSHUA ZENTNER-BARRETT AND THE REV. MARGO WHITTAKER

You are invited to a free *You are Leaven* event on Jan. 18, 2025.

The Anglican Studies Program at Saint Paul University in partnership with the ADO Learning Commons and the Diocese of Montreal have been hard at work preparing this one-day conference intended to enrich participants' lifelong process of growing in faith, understanding, and attentiveness to God.

The day will include workshops offered by leaders from both Montreal and Ottawa. Participants will be invited to choose one workshop from each of three categories—Everyday Spirituality, Practices of Prayer, and the Spirituality of Church Operations—and to discover new practices and new ways of seeing old practices.

This mini-conference is based on a four-day weekend retreat *You are Leaven: Fermenting Cultures of Spiritual Foundation* held in the spring. Two teams from the Anglican Studies Program and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa joined with teams of Anglicans from across the country at a beautiful setting in the Queen of the Apostles Retreat House in Mississauga, Ont. Archdeacon Rhonda Waters was on the *You are Leaven* steering committee, and Dr. Sarah Johnson and Carl Bear, also from Ottawa, came to take part in the workshops and worship and to present their Singing Justice workshop.

We learned, we practiced, we reflected on many different ways to build community, to let the Holy Spirit work in us, to grow closer to Jesus. We wondered about how worship can be transformative, so that we might be more faithfully yeast-y and just and loving. The conference process had us learning, doing, and reflecting on spiritual practices across four workshop

streams: Prayer and Worship; Life in Community, Study and Learning, and Action and Service. Each of us attended a series of workshops, and as a group we reflected on our experiences and planned our next steps to teach and develop practices in our context.

At the spring retreat, we worshiped multiple times a day in a round chapel, where we were fed by the words of common prayer, a variety of voices, songs new and familiar, and silence. We moved together and shared the baptismal water. We watched yeast be added to sugar water and start to go to work, and yoghurt placed in crème fraiche. Fermentation can take time and needs attention; the right environmental conditions are necessary.

We practiced a form of *mystogogy*, or learning about the mysteries, by discussing our experience in worship. The entire retreat could be called *mystogogical* if we define *mystogogy* as a process of growing in our faith through prayer, learning and practicing with other Christian folk.

The retreat was full of good news – we are the church, and we influence the world around us. We are Leaven, with hope that our Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier God will continue to guide us to restore and redeem the world.

Please join us at the free *You are Leaven* event on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at St. Clare's Anglican Church, Winchester, to continue the fermentation!

More information and registration is available at <https://sthelens.ca/you-are-leaven/>

*Joshua Zentner-Barrett is director of music in the Anglican Studies program at Saint Paul University and the Rev. Margo Whittaker is a chaplain at the university.*

## ► Letter from Jerusalem, from p. 11

Throughout our journey together, we heard repeatedly that many indigenous Christians of the Holy Land feel abandoned by the global Church's response to the war and the challenges they face. This must change. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must be united in saying there can be no Gospel justification for denying people their God-given human dignity and the rights that flow from this....

Please join together in prayer against these injustices, appealing both to God to intervene and enact justice, and to soften the hearts of the oppressor. We must always pray and never lose heart. Through our prayerful persistence, justice will prevail.

We call on you to advocate with your political representatives for a just

and lasting peace that recognises the human dignity of all people and upholds international humanitarian law. We ask for your help in pressing for the immediate release of Layan Nasir....

Thank you for your ongoing support for the living stones of the Holy Land and for the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem in the very lands in which our Lord Jesus Christ was born and ministered in his earthly life – before offering up his life on our behalf and then rising again victorious from the grave, overcoming death and giving hope for a new life....

*The Most Reverend Justin Welby*  
The Archbishop of Canterbury

*The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum*  
The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

## CALENDAR

PHOTO: THE VEN CHRIS DUNN



Jan. 1

### New Year's Day Eucharist

Christ Church Cathedral  
(414 Sparks St., Ottawa)  
12 pm  
Archbishop Anne Germond, Acting Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will preach. Festive reception to follow in the Great Hall.

Jan. 18

### You Are Leaven

St. Clare's Anglican Church  
(2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester)  
9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
(see details in article on this page)

Feb. 14

### Drumming Extravaganza

St. Stephen's  
(930 Watson St., Ottawa)  
5:30 pm  
Bring your loved ones for a special Valentine's celebration. It is a perfect way to honour Black History Month while enjoying delicious dishes from African and Caribbean traditions and an evening of music and fun. Dinner will be at 6 pm, and the drumming will start at 7 pm. Please call the church office at 613 828-2472 or email [sscometochurch@gmail.com](mailto:sscometochurch@gmail.com) to reserve a spot. (See story on p. 4)

# WINTER SEASON 2025



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### UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

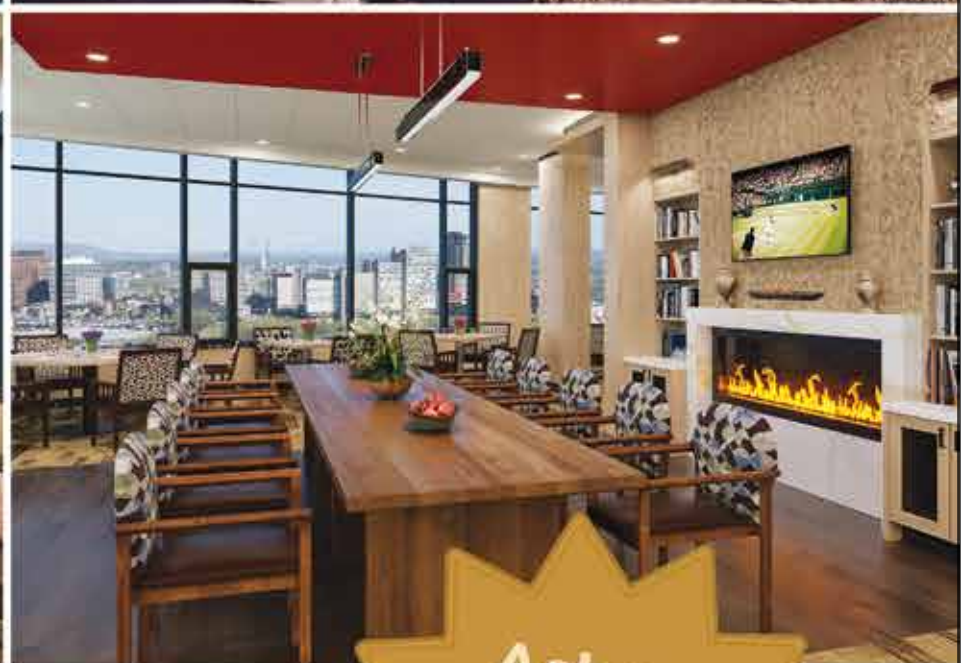
- January 9** New Year Welcome – Predictions for 2025
- January 16** Bridge & Games - or - Koffee Klatsch
- January 23** **Robbie Burns Celebration** – Guest: **Neil Emberg**, lead singer and guitarist with the well-known Celtic group, "*Hadrian's Wall*".
- January 30** Creative Writing - or - Coffee and Conversation
- February 6** Coffee & Conversation
- February 13** **Valentine Hearts Event** – with Rob
- February 20** Bridge & Games - or - Koffee Klatsch
- February 27** Guest: **Bruce Deachman**, *Ottawa Citizen* feature journalist "*Reporter about town*" and author of the book "*Front Page Ottawa*", a collection of the *Citizen's* most significant stories since 1845



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