

PERSPECTIVE

Formerly Crosstalk | THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA | SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL | DECEMBER 2025

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



Above: The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer helps a young parishioner light an Advent candle at St. John the Evangelist, Ottawa.
Below: The Ven. Rhonda Waters reflects on time for Advent, p. 13.



PHOTO: ERIKA FUSIKI

Faith network brings a national voice to work to end homelessness

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Anglicans helped launch a faith network at this year's National Conference on Ending Homelessness and laid the groundwork for a major initiative next year.

Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia and Paul Keherly of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal joined faith network co-chair Garth Brown of the St. Vincent de Paul Society as panelists for an inaugural presentation at the Montreal conference.

Although the alliance has been active for 13 years, the significant work of faith communities in addressing homelessness has not been recognized in the organization – until now.

Rather, it's been an aspiration of the alliance's chief executive officer Tim Richter. He secured funding for a network coordinator but felt unable to move forward without a faith-based steering committee. He asked me [writer of this article] as someone who has served on the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa's Episcopal Panel on Housing Justice for years, to help gather an interfaith group of interested people, and over the last year the steering committee has come together.

"Faith communities have always played a central role in responding to homelessness," Richter said. "The faith network will allow communities across the country to work together, share great ideas and become a powerful voice in tackling the structural issues that create homelessness."

About 70 delegates from across Canada attended the inaugural session, and many joined the network. Some gave impromptu presentations of their projects and experiences.

Bishop Greenwood-Lee told



Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee

Perspective that she underlined the challenges of actually creating suitable housing. She noted that the overwhelming majority of the 2,300 delegates are front-line responders to homelessness or those with lived experience.

"They're not building the housing as such," she said. "They have different problems than we do when we're trying to build housing."

She suggested the network might share best practices in overcoming regulatory and social barriers in creating housing.

Garth Brown contacted the Rev. Graham Singh, incumbent of St. Jax, a bilingual Anglican parish and community hub in Montreal but more particularly the founder and chief executive officer of Relèven. Relèven specializes in working with closed churches and in the re-use and development of religious property.

Singh made the case for a national declaration on the use of redundant religious property to help house homeless people. It might include a pledge to make a percentage of land available.

Singh is already consulting CEO Tim Richter and his own religious contacts in Winnipeg, site of next year's conference, to put it on the agenda.

► Faith network, to p. 5

Synod 2025 begins with evening Eucharist at the Cathedral

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The 145th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa opened with a Eucharist service on the evening of Oct. 23, 2025, at Christ Church Cathedral.

The Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain, Dean of Divinity at the University of Toronto's Trinity College and recently appointed diocesan Canon Theologian, offered the homily. He quoted from Archbishop Shane Parker's charge opening the 2024 Synod. "We must always remember that God is already at work in the world, and our task is to participate in God's work by listening in a new way to the Holy Spirit." He noted that those who heard those words last year were not expecting the change that began when Archbishop Parker was elected to lead the Anglican Church of Canada.

"As you gather as a Synod to discern together what the Holy Spirit is calling you to do as a church in this geographical region of God's creation during a period of change and transition, I will offer you three points that I think Scripture is suggesting to us tonight."

First, be prepared to be redirected.

Second, accept that this is going to be disruptive, so we better talk about this honestly together.

And thirdly, stay rooted during this time in God.



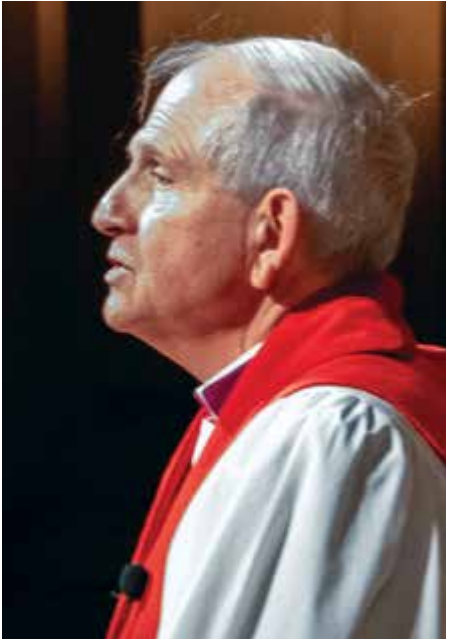
The Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain delivered the homily.

Elaborating on the third point, he said: "This is how we are to live in this period of time here in this diocese. Like James at the Council of Jerusalem, by keeping ourselves

in the words we've heard sung so beautifully from Psalm 1, like trees planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season. This is an image of resilience, of hope, of faith, of being able to withstand drought, withstand uncertainty, withstand frustration, due to remaining in intimate connection with God. Trust in God's goodness, through prayer, through attention to the movement of the Spirit."

He added, "I pray that during this Synod, we all might be sufficiently open to the Spirit that Christ can do many deeds of power in our midst or in what follows from the decisions that we make together."

The service included the installations of the Rev. Canon Dr. Jon Martin to the Cathedral Canonry of St. James; the Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain to the Cathedral Canonry of Saint Anselm of Canterbury and as Canon Theologian; and the Rev. Dr. Sarah Kathleen Johnson as an Honorary



Bishop Michael Bird is the diocesan administrator until a new bishop is installed.

Canon. The Rev. Dr. Caz Ducros was commissioned as Regional Dean of West Quebec.



Dean Beth Bretzlaff installs the Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain to the Cathedral Canonry of Saint Anselm and commissions the Rev. Dr. Caz Ducros as the Regional Dean of West Quebec. She installs the Rev. Dr. Jon Martin to the Cathedral Canonry of St. James and Dr. Sarah Kathleen Johnson as an Honorary Canon. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer was commissioned as Regional Dean of the Southwest in absentia.

PARISH NEWS

St. Albans and the University of Ottawa Student Union team up to feed body and soul

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

St. Albans is partnering with the University of Ottawa Student Union this year to continue its efforts to address food insecurity among students and to build community on campus.

In 2024, the parish ran a pilot project serving a free meal once a month at the Friel student residence using funds left over from Open Table, a pre-pandemic ecumenical project, and a \$5,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation. Last year, they served 12 meals at the residence, partnering with St. Bartholomew’s parish for two of them and with a couple of other groups for others. Each meal attracted about 250 students, and St. Albans heard very positive feedback.

The Rev. Michael Garner, incumbent at St. Albans, acknowledges that meals such as these don’t address the larger problem of student food insecurity, but the project was intended to raise awareness at the university and to build a sense of community. The meals served in the Friel residence last year encouraged students to sit down and eat together. “In the individual conversations I have with students, whether I’m serving at a meal or as a chaplain in a meeting, there’s a broad sense of loneliness. That’s societal, but it’s certainly on campus,” Garner said.

In that sense the meals were an outreach of pastoral care for students. “It’s a group of people saying we actually care about you guys, and you don’t have to do anything for us, but we’ll be here and we’re going to eat some food and care for you in tangible ways, but then if you want to have a conversation, you know, we’re here as well.”

Being at the residence every two weeks allowed the parish volunteers to get to know a lot of the students. Garner recounted how one of the St. Albans parishioners was volunteering as a greeter. While talking with one young man she asked why he kept looking over at a person sitting at a table alone. “I kind of want to ask her out,” he said. She encouraged him to just go sit with her and then saw that they spent the evening chatting. There were small moments like that, but Garner said they also helped a couple of students apply for Masters’ programs and other pragmatic things “because they got to know and trust us.”



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The Rev. Michael Garner and a team of St. Albans parishioners and student volunteers serve a hot lunch of red lentil soup with North African spices and paprika butter to University of Ottawa students in a project with the student union.

Despite all the positive feedback, Garner said the university told him they didn’t have funding to help continue the program at the Friel residence this year.

The University of Ottawa Students’ Union, however, was keen to partner with St. Albans. I’ve been building relationships within the undergraduate student union. They run the food bank on campus, and we had done a food pantry [in the chaplaincy office] a couple years ago. so we had a link with them. Over time, I think our different activities on campus sort of gave us legitimacy with the student union..... So, we’ve pivoted this fall and we’re doing some pilots this year on the main campus.”

As a part of “Fed Up,” the union’s food security program, three or four student volunteers with work with some St. Albans congregation members. “We’re going to start cooking the meal together at 8 or

9 in the morning, and then serve a free lunch for students in an atrium area of the student union building.

Their first lunch was on Oct. 5. “I got a great deal on three massive induction friendly pots that each hold 24 quarts, and so we made 60 litres of red lentil soup with North African spices and paprika butter,” said Garner. Afterwards, the student volunteers will get the recipe and a gift card for a grocery store along with the encouragement: “You’ve made this recipe, now cook it for your friends and have a meal together.” So it is both to empower them on how to cook nutritious, cheap food but also the importance of gathering together.” On Nov. 5, they plan to cook vegetarian chili and then on Dec. 3, do another meal at Friel when St. Albans members and students can just eat together.

Garner says he has been struck by how keen the student union has been to promote St. Albans as their partner. “One of my theological convictions is if the church just expresses the fruits of the spirit — kindness and patience and gentleness and all of these traits— in the world, it becomes hugely attractive.” He added that some of the students who don’t attend the church have been recommending it to others. “If you are looking for a church, you should try St. Albans.’ It was bizarre, and it was just lovely because they’re seeing us as people who care about students.”



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TENS webinar inspires wholistic view of stewardship

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The Learning Commons is intended to be a trove of resources to help parishes thrive. One of those resources is a webinar created by the Stewardship Resources Hub in partnership with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) that about 40 people from across the diocese attended online on Oct. 28. A video recording of the webinar will also be posted in the Learning Commons section of the diocesan website as a resource for any parish accessible any time.

TENS is a ministry of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. and the Anglican Church of Canada. It is an association of church leaders that provides resources and training at low or no cost to clergy and lay stewardship leaders. The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa is a member, which means that all the parishes in the diocese can access all of TENS stewardship resources.

The webinar featured a conversation with Davey Gerhard, executive director of TENS, and the Rev. Debra Bennett, a TENS board member and the priest at Church of Our Savior in Akron, Ohio.

Derwyn Sangster, chair of the the Stewardship Resource Hub moderated. The following excerpts offer a glimpse of the rich discussion:

“From your perspective in the Anglican faith, what is stewardship?” Sangster asked Bennett.

“On a number of levels, it can be understood as an act of worship. It’s our relationship with God and how we respond to God’s generosity in our lives, in all facets of our lives. Where are the blessings? Where are we grateful?” she said. “And it is a part of our spiritual disciplines —when we are intentional around attending to those things of God

that we understand are part of how we live and move and have our being. And so, when we engage in service to community, that is an act of stewardship.”

Sangster then asked Gerhard what stewardship means in the day-to-day life of a congregation.

“If we think about stewardship in general as caring for all of God’s creation, the entire kingdom of God, the reign of God, we think about our congregational context as our own little corner of God’s reign, of God’s kingdom. And while we are called to serve all of God’s people, the parish context gives us the opportunity to serve our local community and the local ways that our community needs us to be present, to stand up for it, to advocate for it, to heal and seek and serve.... I look at our congregations as our local place to engage God’s work and to keep that recognition of abundance, gratitude, and generosity flowing out to our neighbors.”

Sangster also asked Gerhard, “What are the essential elements of a successful stewardship campaign? And... how can TENS resources be brought to bear in support of parish campaigns?”

“What TENS does, in addition to creating an annual pledge campaign, which is about the mechanics of how we raise money in a congregation — pledge cards and statements of faith and letters and prayers —all those things are very important and touch on the spiritual and the human components of our stewardship. But then we also give an enormous number of resources for ongoing formation throughout the year. My worry is that when congregations only talk about stewardship as a coded word for fundraising, and they only do that once a year or one month a year, then we’re missing all these other

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATED IN CHELSEA



PHOTO: MARIAN MCGRATH

As part of the festivities to celebrate Chelsea’s 150th anniversary, members of the public were invited to take a turn ringing the bell at St Mary Magdalene on June 7, 2025. The original SMM Church was built in 1875, the same year that Chelsea was founded. Longtime resident and member of SMM Church, Irene “Renie” Nielsen, who turned 90 in 2025, was the first to ring the bell.

amazing opportunities to draw that connection between gifts received and gifts given, and gratitude....”

“We inspire, we nurture, we grow Christians in their faith and in their love. And part of doing that is then for us to see stewardship, not as just transactional, but transformational. ... Our resource library is chock full of things. Our webinars all through the year get into work that’s not just how to run a stewardship campaign,

but how to evangelize, how to talk about money and faith, how to see what your community needs from you and bring that back into your budgeting process and your planning processes.”

Enjoy the full webinar online and contact Carole Breton, director of Communications and Development, for more information: carole-breton@ottawa.anglican.ca.



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

Parishioners lead fundraising to renovate Perth rectory

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The rectory for St. James Perth, built in 1875, is one of only five in the diocese that still in use by parish incumbents. But when the Rev. Canon Ken Davis retired in the spring and moved out, the parish faced a dilemma because the house was in need of a major renovation.

The kitchen required a complete overhaul, particularly because it lacked insulation and had an infestation of mice. The downstairs wood floors have significant issues with damage and splintering and are unable to be sanded in high traffic areas as they are worn down to the tongue and groove. There is no air conditioning.

The parish considered demolishing the rectory, but it was designated as a heritage building in Perth, so demolition was likely to be opposed. Renting and selling were also considered, but the best option for present was determined to be renovating the house for the new incumbent.

Parishioner Christine Erdos is a designer who offered to redesign the kitchen as a donation to the church. That just left the challenge of fundraising about \$110,000 to pay for the rest of the renovation costs.

Parishioners Ray and Elaine Hook took up the challenge. Ray's career in the military and Elaine was a nurse. "I retired young, but I still did probably 38 years in uniform and then took a series of civilian jobs," which included development work, fundraising for universities and the Royal Military College Alumni Association, Ray told *Perspective*.

Elaine also had apt experience. "After a nursing career, I spent a lot of time in the not-for-profit sector," including food banks. "So, we



Elaine and Ray Hook are leading fundraising efforts to renovate the rectory at St. James, Perth.

thought we were ideally suited, and we're people of action," she said.

They had the skills and also the motivation. During their working years, they had moved many times before finally retiring in Perth and beginning to attend St. James and coming to love the community they found there. "After 23 moves and

nine different churches, St. James tops them all," Ray said.

One of the places they had lived was England where they had toured historic churches. "When we came here, I thought, this is such a beautiful building," he said. "So, I went to the council and the wardens and said, would you be willing to let me do tours of the church? Because I think it's important that people get to know that, one, this church is open and welcoming, and two, that people see this building because of the historical significance of it. They supported me full on."

Ray and Elaine also help with St. James monthly community dinners that the parish prepares as a free meal open to everyone and that usually draw about 100 people — those who may need a hot meal and those who want the company and social connection. The Hooks feel it is an important outreach.

Three years ago, Elaine was seriously injured a car accident. After her hospitalization, she had 10 weeks of recovery at home when she couldn't get out at all.

How you can help

Anyone who would like to donate to the project can go to the St. James website: <https://www.stjamesperth.ca/support-st-james>
E-transfer: stjamesperth@gmail.com

Online donations to St. James Church Perth using Canada Helps: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/27635>

By mail: St. James Anglican Church, 12 Harvey St. Perth, Ontario K7H 1W4

In all cases, please ensure that you direct the donation for Rectory Renovations.

They have no family in Perth but were very moved by the ways that people in the congregation stepped in to help and care for them. "We feel very strongly that congregation here is like family to us," Elaine said. "And so, this was kind of our way of giving back for what they had done for us."

They donated \$10,000 to get the fundraising started, with \$5,000 used as matching funds for any donation over \$100, and they are using their skills and experience to spearhead the fundraising effort with great success so far. Thanks to generosity in the parish, Ray was hopeful they would be halfway to their goal by the end of October.

The renovations are progressing, and they hope to have it all ready when their new incumbent, the Rev. Robert Camara, arrives in December.

► Faith network, from p. 1



Tim Richter, at the Montreal conference

"That kind of vision could create all kinds of possibilities and opportunities," Brown said.

(Singh's Relèven is working with the Anglican dioceses of Huron and Qu'Appelle on the re-use of property).

Regulatory red tape has been a particular problem according to Greenwood-Lee. A project at St. John's in Duncan was held up for six weeks, awaiting one signature.

"Finally, someone came out and was aghast that they were the problem," she said. "Any work we can do in coalition, especially across sectors, to get municipalities to work with the provinces and the feds to get projects done faster would be huge."

The alliance's national conferences provide an opportunity for an important dialogue that was a focus of Paul Keherly's presentation.

Bringing his extensive experience in mentoring homeless people, he stressed the need to listen to their views before decisions are made so that housing works for them.

His views are similar to those of the Rev. Maggie Helwig, rector of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields Anglican Church in Toronto, site of an encampment that has been forcibly removed, only to be re-settled:

"There is a reason people may find encampments a preferable way to live (as opposed to shelters or hotel rooms) -- because they offer simple human community. They are places where people look after each other."

Another take-away for Keherly will be a recommendation that his own Diocese of Montreal survey individual parishes as well as other denominations and faiths. "Let's find out what they are doing, or would like to do. Have they collaborated

with other organizations? What are others doing? Can we collaborate? I'd like to see more done here."

All of this is grist for mill of the steering committee in the coming weeks. The co-chair with Garth Brown is Laura Solberg, executive director of Kentro Christian Network. Members Amy Fisher, Salvation Army; Fran Klodawsky, Multifaith Housing Initiative; Nuha Dwaikat-Shaer, assistant professor, social work at Wilfrid Laurier University; Dawn Campbell, Community Housing Transformation Centre; Jeff Wheeldon, municipal councillor, Brighton Ontario, chair, Brighton Homelessness Task Force; Amanda Doré, executive director, Centre de Jour St James/ St James Drop-in Centre, Montreal, Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee.

DIOCESAN SYNOD 2025

PHOTOS: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN



The 145th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa gathered in Ottawa on Oct. 24 and 25.



General Synod delegates Kate Jordan and the Ven. Kathryn Otley

Shock and awe at the 2025 General Synod

Diocesan representatives — Caroll Carkner, Kate Jordan, Katherine Spencer-Ross, the Rev. Matthew Brown, the Rev. Dr. Jon Martin and the Ven. Kathryn Otley— offered their observations and thoughts about attending the 44th General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada in London, Ont. in June.

The Ven. Kathryn Otley described her feelings about the primatial election as “shock and awe.” The shock came when the House of Bishops submitted Bishop Shane Parker’s name in response to a request for additional candidates after the second ballot and with his unexpected election. She said the awe came two days later at his very moving installation as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada when the Ottawa representatives were asked to participate by assisting Archbishop Parker as he vested for his new role.

Kate Jordan and the Rev. Canon Jon Martin, both attending General Synod for the first time, reported that although discussions among those attending did become passionate at times, the overall atmosphere was one in which people listened respectfully to each other and made efforts to incorporate the views and experiences of others.

Episcopal Election news

The Rev. Canon Stephen Silverthorne, Clerical Synod Secretary updated Synod on preparations for the episcopal election set for **Feb. 28, 2026**.

The Supplementary Nominations Committee, appointed by Diocesan Council and advised by the House of Bishops, can appoint one or two nominees who can be from other dioceses.

The Episcopal Elections Committee, chaired by the Synod Secretaries, is developing formal questions to be answered by all of the nominees.

In the weeks leading up to the election, **four public meetings** will be held different locations across the diocese as an opportunity for people to get to know the nominees. They will include a formal introduction, a question period and a reception. The meetings will also be live-streamed.

Applications are now available through a portal on the diocesan website. Nominations must be supported by at least five lay members of Synod and five clergy and be submitted by Jan. 24, 2026 for the candidate to take part in the public meetings. Additional applications can be accepted until the electoral synod is called to order on Feb. 28.

Who votes

- Diocesan Council members in 2025
- 10 retired clergy (chosen by the retired clergy of the diocese)
- Members of the 2025 Diocesan Synod, including active clergy and lay parish members

Voting is completed in successive rounds until one of the candidates receives a majority of votes in both orders (clergy and lay).

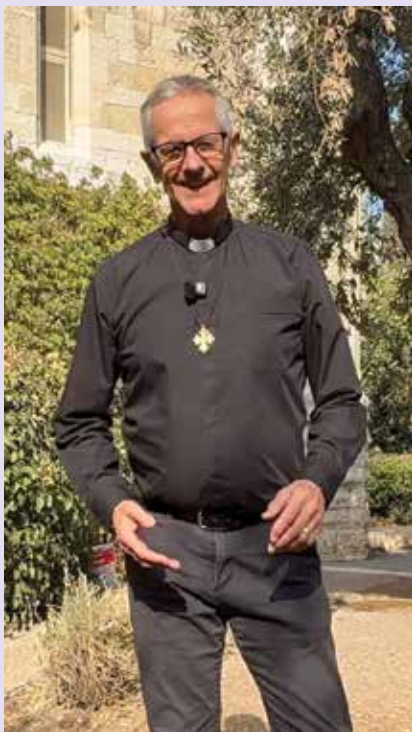
The new bishop will be consecrated at a service on May, 9, 2026.

A greeting from the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The Very Rev. Richard Sewell, Dean of St. George’s College in Jerusalem, sent a video greeting. He thanked the people of the diocese for their love, prayers and advocacy during these last two years of war and trauma and thanked God for the ceasefire at that time.

“The ending of the terrible destruction, the decimation, the loss of tens of thousands of lives is one thing and a very important thing, but actually so much more needs to be done to bring that elusive peace which everybody here so desperately needs.” Dean Sewell added a wish for God’s blessing for the Diocese of Ottawa.

“Our heartfelt love and prayers are with you as you enter into this period of your time of Synod fellowship together.”



Dean Richard Sewell

DIOCESAN SYNOD 2025



At the opening of the sessions on Oct. 24, Dean Beth Bretzlaff introduced and thanked Bishop Michael Bird for serving as Diocesan Administrator until a newly elected bishop is installed in May 2026. L to R: Synod Secretaries Margaret Porter and the Rev. Canon Stephen Silverthorne; Bishop Michael Bird; Dean Beth Bretzlaff and Chancellor Canon Henry Schultz.

Update on triennial cycle and current priorities

The Ven. Monique Stone chairs the Evaluation and Priority Setting Task Force, which includes the Rev. Michael Garner, Kate Jordan, the Ven. Brian Kauk, Alec Simpson and Jamie Tomlinson. Archdeacon Stone explained that they have been working “to design a way that we can evaluate the work that we’ve done over the last three years, and to review the impacts that have been made.” She explained that the review and assessment will then help “all of us to work together in developing priorities for our next triennium as well.”

In her presentation, Stone looked back to a previous strategic plan, *Embracing God’s Future* (2014), to see what goals and objectives were agreed upon by the diocesan church. Moving to more recent work, she gave an overview of the way the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultations, which began in 2020,



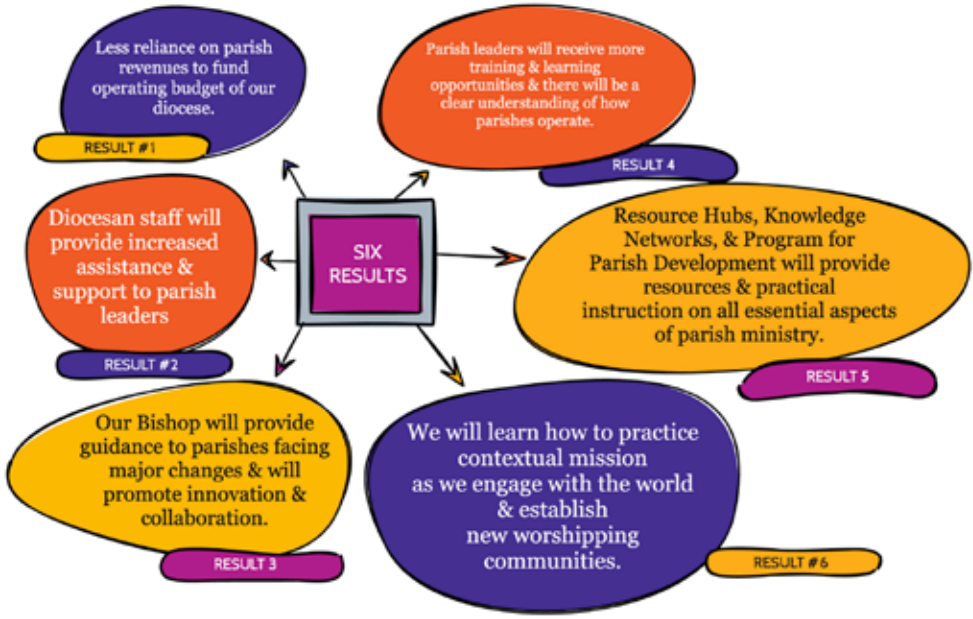
Archdeacon Monique Stone holds a copy of a strategic plan from 2014 “*Embracing God’s Future*.”

led to a consensus at the 2022 Synod for three proposals, which developed into 11 actions supported

at the 2023 Synod, and finally six desired results presented at the 2024 Synod (see graphic).

Archdeacon Stone encouraged everyone to “acknowledge the importance of all that we have done so far, and to recognize that this is the infrastructure of who we are as a diocese.

The task force has developed tools and processes for a review of the achievements, challenges, and remaining work of this 2024-2026 triennium. They asked Synod members to discuss and offer ideas and feedback in writing. Stone added that the task force will be “unfolding opportunities for all of us together to determine the priorities also for the 2027-2029 triennium that we will approve as a synod at next synod.”



Canon and bylaw amendments

Diocesan Chancellor Canon Henry Schultz led Synod members through numerous amendments to the canons and bylaws, including some updates to the governance of Community Ministries. All motions were carried.

Anglican Foundation



The Rev. Amy Hamilton, acting director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada, brought news of the foundation’s latest initiatives:

- a new online application portal
- new legacy giving resources
- Category C grants of up to \$50,000 for strategic, high-impact projects
- Greater emphasis on funding community ministry projects
- Growth of Say Yes to Kids — 30 teams raised \$160,000 this year

Contextual Mission update

Archdeacon Mark Whittall, co-chair of the Contextual Mission Sub-Committee, reminded Synod of the goals envisioned at the 2023 Synod:

- By 2028, every parish in our diocese will be engaged in a new or renewed contextual mission initiative.
- By the 135th anniversary of our diocese, in 2032, we will have created 35 new worshipping communities.

One resource he recommended was a Certificate in Missional Leadership course offered in partnership with the Center for Missional Leadership in Vancouver, B.C. Five parishes in the diocese are currently participating.

Other presenters offered inspiration from their experiences:

- Carolyn Coffin-Caputo recommended a course on Reimaging Church from the Niagara School for Missional Leadership.

And she described a hot lunch program that the Parish of the Lower Valley is just creating in Hawkesbury that will be served in the Church Hall.

- The Rev. Colin McFarland recommended a course on John Bowen’s book *The Unfolding Gospel* available on the Contextual Mission page of the diocesan website
- The Rev. John Holgate described popular monthly community gatherings and lunches held at St.

James, Manotick

- The Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer described the success and growth of a monthly games night at St. John’s, Smiths Falls

They offered information about how to apply for diocesan Future Fund grants to fund such ventures. (Watch for more in-depth stories on these experiences with contextual mission in upcoming issues of *Perspective*.)



The Ven. Mark Whittall with sub-committee members Carolyn Coffin-Caputo, the Rev. Colin McFarland, the Rev. John Holgate, co-chair Ron Brophy and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer.

Learning Commons report

Caroll Carkner, chair of the Education Committee, reported that a great deal of progress had been made since the last Synod in developing Learning Commons resources, including several in-person training sessions for parish leaders held in several locations in the spring.

The Rev. Dr. Canon Jon Martin, co-chair of the Parish Development Sub-Committee, updated progress on the development of online resources.

He noted that they decided to shift from offering introductory modules as videos to written materials because it is easier to update and add to written text and because video was difficult for people without reliable Internet service to access. An introduction to parish development is available, with two more modules on community and pastoral care to be posted soon.

The Rev. Simone Hurkmans, co-chair, introduced Synod members to the Thriving Parish Self-Assessment

Tool, a questionnaire to help parishes decide what areas of parish life to prioritize [worship, spiritual growth, community, pastoral care, contextual mission, leadership & governance, financial stewardship and management, property management and maintenance.] She led Synod members through a test run of the tool so that they could guide their parishes through its use.



The Rev. Simone Hurkmans

Motions presented

The All My Relations Panel drew Synod’s attention to the fact that 2025 marks the tenth year since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report. Following a short video with inspiration and challenges from the late Justice Murray Sinclair, AMR co-chair Kathryn Fournier introduced a motion calling on the



The Rev. Canon Hilary Murray, Chaplain, Cornerstone Housing for Women

Diocese to renew its commitment to ongoing education to ensure its members learn about the church’s role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary. The motion carried with broad support.

The Rev. Canon Hilary Murray introduced a motion for the Diocese to support the UN Declaration for the Decade for People of African Descent being extended for a second decade. The motion carried.



Kathryn Fournier AMR co-chair



Staff at Ascension House stand ready to offer their support and advice to parishes and ministries.

PHOTO: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

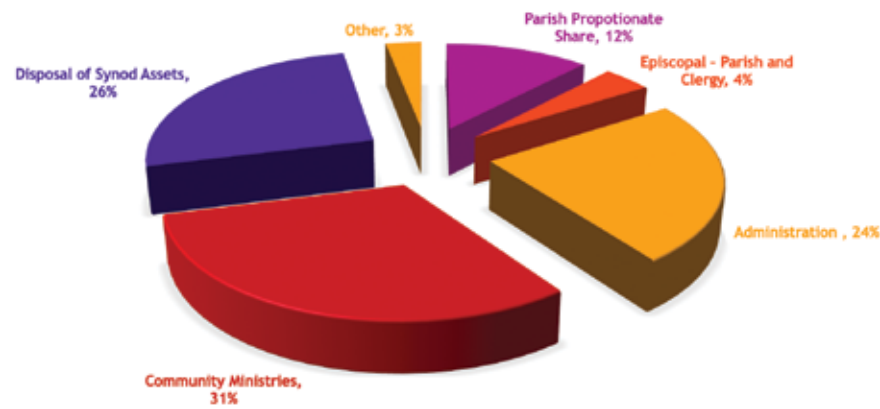
Financial Update

Sanjay Grover, director of Financial Ministry, said the 2024 audit had been completed with total assets increased to \$155 million from \$139 million in 2023. He noted that property sales including that of St. Martin’s Church in Ottawa had increased revenue.

In keeping with the strategic plan, Parish Proportional Share decreased from about 20% to 12%.

One area of concern were deficits in the Community Ministries for Belong Ottawa and Centre 105 in 2024 amounting to about \$700,000 combined. Belong Ottawa was able to cover much of its deficit with some reserve funds, and the diocese covered the remainder from its reserves. Grover said that the new management team at Belong Ottawa has done a

Diocesan Operating Fund Revenue - \$14.6 Million



lot of work to stabilize the situation and is now anticipating a small surplus with hopes to start building

up a reserve again. Centre 105 in Cornwall's deficit was smaller, but the program and needs of



Sanjay Grover, director of Financial Ministry

the community that it serves are growing, so they are looking for new ways to help break even, Grover said.

Community Ministries Update

The Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs, director general of the Community Ministries, offered a brief overview of the many essential and compassionate services the five community ministries — Belong Ottawa, Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, The Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, and the Refugee Ministry Office — provide to some of the most vulnerable people in our midst.

Addressing the deficits referred to in the financial update to Synod, he noted that Belong Ottawa’s new executive director Shauna-marie Young inherited the deficit when she was hired. Under her leadership and that of director of operations Michael Howard many of the problems have been rectified. Hobbs shared the good news that:

- An accurate costing of Belong Ottawa operations led to a much more robust funding agreement with the City of Ottawa.
 - Fundraising and donor development has been prioritized and the annual fundraising goal for 2025 has been already surpassed.
 - And there is hope that the creation of the Hearts of Compassion Fund in support of the Community Ministries established by Archbishop Shane Parker this summer will rekindle the support previously received through the Today for Tomorrow campaign.
- Hobbs said that Centre 105’s deficit, though smaller, is as concerning. Contributing factors were cost overruns in a capital project to construct showers and

washrooms, a change in United Way funding that meant a \$30,000 reduction in funding, and an exponential increase in demand for services among the people Centre 105 serves. Currently, the City of Cornwall does not provide core funding the way the City of Ottawa does for Belong Ottawa and Cornerstone but talks with the city council are ongoing. Monica Patten, Chair of the Community Ministries Committee, is leading a task force exploring ways to make Centre 105’s important ministry in Cornwall sustainable.

“We know God calls us to this work, these ministries. We know we are invited to follow Jesus. We know we are to use our gifts, resources to bring something of God’s infinite compassion to bear upon this world,” said Hobbs.



Synod Reflector

The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Kathleen Johnson, director of Anglican Studies at Saint Paul University, offered three reflections for the 2025 Synod. Read more in our next issue.

Accessing Ascension House



Carole Breton, director of Communications and Development

- Carole Breton, who was hired as director of Communications and Development in April, introduced herself and highlighted some of the work of the department.
- Sharing stories, information and connecting Anglicans through the digital and print newspaper, social media, and other platforms
 - Populating the Learning Commons platform on the diocesan website
 - Working with the Synod Secretaries to prepare for the episcopal election
 - Hosting the Anglican Editors Association annual conference in May 2026 with the Primate as guest speaker

- Launching the Hearts of Compassion Fund as a successor to the past Today for Tomorrow campaign to raise funds for the Community Ministries

Noting that one of the key triennium priorities is that the diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders, Ms. Breton introduced the directors at Ascension House and encouraged people throughout the diocese to reach out and call Ascension House when they need support and advice in their ministries and work. See staff photo, page 8.

Financial Stewardship

Carole Breton said she is making efforts to visit parishes and get to know their unique contexts. She recommended drawing on the Stewardship Resource Hub for guidance and expertise. The members serving with her are Derwyn Sangster from St. Thomas the Apostle, who is also the chair of the Stewardship Resource Hub; Barb Dransch from St. John the Evangelist, Ottawa; and the Rev. Jonathan Askwith from St. Clare, Winchester. “Together we are here to listen, to support, and to help shape stewardship initiatives that are grounded in real life of our parishes, of your own reality.”

She encouraged everyone to benefit from the resources available to all parishes in the diocese through the partnership with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship.

The Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs retires

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs, director general of the Anglican Community Ministries, is retiring at the end of the year.

Dean Beth Bretzlaff took a moment at Synod to thank him for his decades of devoted ministry in the diocese.

"You are the heart and soul of this Diocese, both our parishes and our community ministries. You've been a student, you've been a priest and a pastor and a teacher and a mentor, a leader as an archdeacon, a canon and director general, a whole new title that we made up just for you," she added affectionately. "And most of all, you've been our friend, and we're really glad that you're just retiring and not going anywhere else. So, we look forward to seeing what this next chapter has for you, and we're going to hold you in our hearts and souls, and we want to thank you." Synod members spontaneously stood to give him a heartfelt standing ovation.

In October, he kindly took time out of his busy schedule to reflect with *Perspective* on his years of ministry.

Before Hobbs was a priest of the diocese, he was a child of the diocese, born in Cornwall, Ont. His father, the Rev. R. Harry Hobbs, served in Christ Church Long Sioux, Emmanuel in Arnprior, St. John the Divine in Nepean, and later as the deputy director of program for the Diocese, before the family moved to Manitoba. Asked when he first felt called to ministry, Hobbs said he remembers playing church when he was very young. "Some Sunday afternoons I would have bread and juice and I'd preach a little sermon and distribute communion, all in an old choir room."

As a young man after finishing his undergraduate degree he considered an acting career and attended theatre school in Montreal. Realizing that wasn't the path for him, he returned to Winnipeg, uncertain. His father had died in a car accident when he was 16. "I was 24 years old, and I was not a churchgoer at that time. I knew the church very, very well. I had lots of people who I knew were praying for me and who were supporting me, but I was not going to church," he said. Suddenly something changed. "I had this profound sense of calling, 'You're going to be a priest.' I remember waking up in the house full of rock musicians and actors that I lived in, going down that morning and saying, 'Guess what? I'm going to be a priest.'"

A few days later, he phoned Bishop Edwin Lackey and said he wanted to be a priest in the Diocese of Ottawa. Bishop Lackey asked

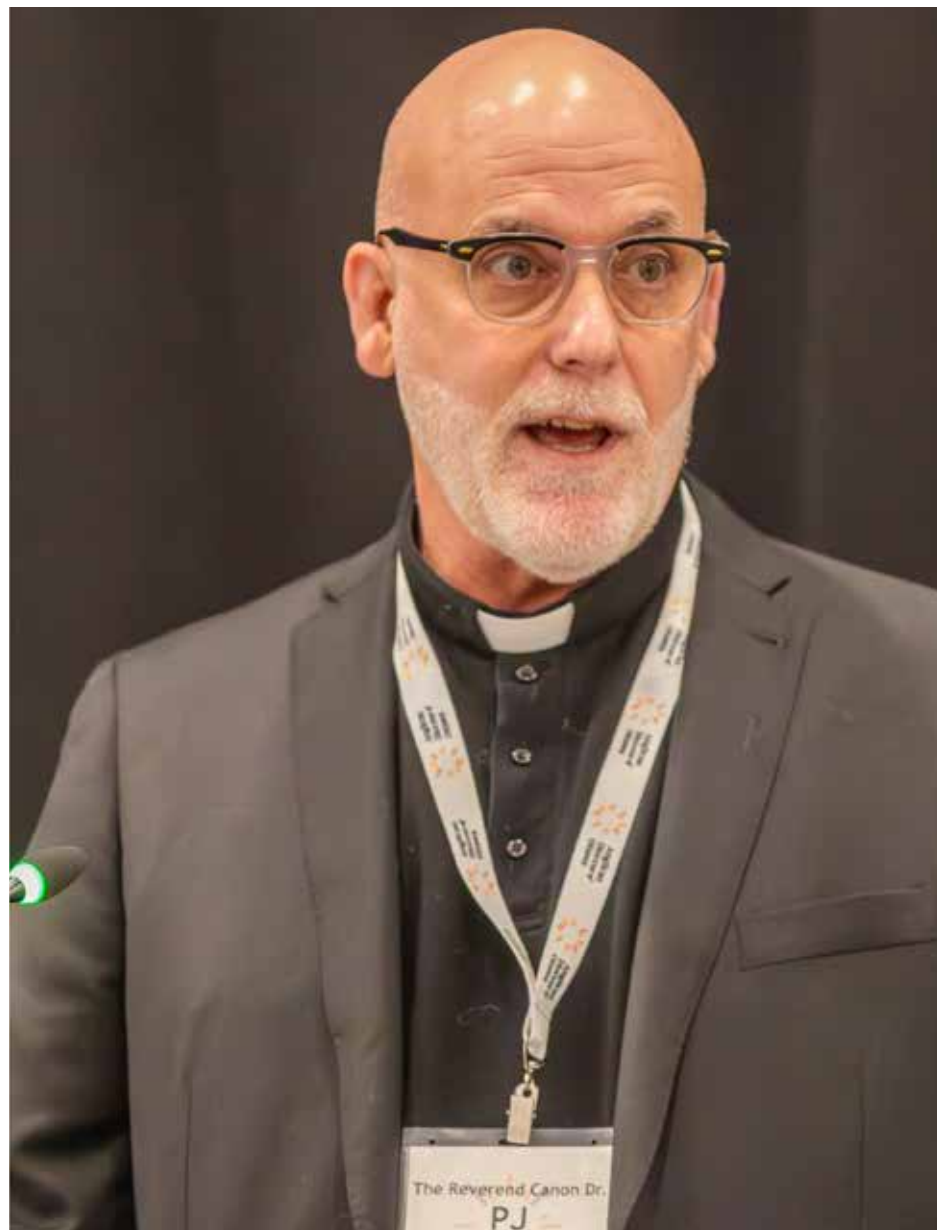


PHOTO: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN

him to come to Ottawa to talk with him and sent him a plane ticket. The bishop was supportive but told him to go back to church to start with. "That was great advice," Hobbs says. He went back to Winnipeg for two years and in that time met and married his wife Diane, and then they moved to Ottawa so he could attend Saint Paul University.

Clearly, he found his way. "I knew the power and the depth of community that can be wrought ... with all of the liturgical life of a parish. I knew that there was something wonderful and beautiful about that, but also this sense for social justice was also very much a part of my own sort of emerging ideology and being ordained seemed to be a great marriage of the two."

Hobbs was ordained in 1992 and served in the parishes St. Matthias on Parkdale Avenue from 1992 until 1995, Chelsea, Lascelles, Wakefield until 2001 and at Christ Church Bells Corners until 2013. He loved his years in parish ministry. "It's very affirming. ... Once or twice a week someone takes you aside and affirms you, says 'You're awesome.' And it's because you're doing natural things that a priest would do."

He added that there are many great helping professions, but "very few that allow you to be with people in some of their most intimate moments in life, moments of great loss, moments of great joy, of accomplishment, of sorrow. And

we are asked to be with people in their homes, at their hearth, if you will, in ways that I don't think other helpful professionals are. And that's an incredible, deep honour."

In 2013, Bishop John Chapman offered Hobbs the opportunity to become director of mission for the Diocese, and his interest in the Community Ministries was deep enough pull him away from parish ministry. "I was very happy to come [to Ascension House] ... I was always attracted to the Community Ministries of our Diocese and watched them with great interest and volunteered at Centre 454 for a couple of years on my days off."

During the 13 years since, the Community Ministries have grown along with the expanding and deepening needs of the population they serve. Hobbs estimates the budget for the combined ministries when he became director of mission was about five to six million dollars. Now it is between \$15 and \$20 million.

He has been a powerful voice for the Community Ministries. "We cannot underestimate just how difficult it is for people who are addicted, people who are living in poverty and struggling with issues like trauma, mental health, addiction. It is a complex web of realities," he said, speaking to staff last year. "It's a very different world in which we're living right now with the acuity of those in need being that much higher than certainly

it's ever been in my life from my observation.

"I think this is a point in time where we as a diocese need to decide, are we going to invest in this ministry? Not that we haven't, but I think we need to renew that commitment in a way that it shows up in our financial life. It's great that we have the kind of funding agreements that we have with the City of Ottawa for Cornerstone and Belong Ottawa, and we're certainly working on it in Cornwall. Each of the Community Ministries in one form or another have a very healthy group of individual donors and parish donations.... But we, as the Diocese, need to really take a look at how we are going to invest in these ministries to ensure they're sustainable. Because I believe it's core gospel.

And I believe as we move forward further into this century, the church will largely be measured and the church will be attractive because of its ability, commitment, to care for those who are most vulnerable in our midst.

"There's lots and lots of people who make the Community Ministries happen, and it's just simply been an honour to be on this perch as the DG [director general].

Canon Monica Patten, chair of the Community Ministries Committee, praised Hobbs' extraordinary ability to be a bridge between the Community Ministries and secular organizations, such as the Alliance to End Homelessness. "He would go there and bring the perspective of the ministries and of the church and learn about what matters in the community." She added that he was always a remarkable support for the executive directors. "He genuinely loves the ministries and people they serve."

As he steps away from the work he has been so passionate about, Hobbs said he feels confident that the Diocese is a living system that will be able to figure out how to ensure that the Community Ministries continue to thrive and grow.

He thanked the Diocese and all five bishops he has worked with. "I've been able to not only have the fullness of ministry that this diocese provides me, but it's also allowed me to be educated and teach. I've done three graduate degrees since I was ordained and that means the world to me."

What's next? Hobbs says he will continue to teach graduate students at the Virginia Theological Seminary, where he's been teaching since 2000. But he is looking forward to more time at home with his family and grandchildren. "I love going to church every Sunday morning. It's the highlight of my week, to be at the Eucharist."



Anglican
Diocese of
Ottawa



Hearts of
Compassion
Fund

A community where
everyone is welcome



The Hearts of Compassion Fund (HCF) directly supports the Diocese's five Community Ministries, which provide safety and essential services such as food programs, housing, counselling, refugee sponsorship, and community outreach for people living in vulnerable or precarious circumstances.



DONATE NOW TO HCF



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COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

Breakfast fundraiser supports Centre 105

BY CAROLYN GODDARD

There was a great show of support for Centre 105 in Cornwall, Ont. during its annual fall breakfast fundraiser on Oct. 23.

“Almost 200 meals were served ... [to] a mix of Centre 105 donors and program participants,” executive director Taylor Seguin said, adding that the event raised just over \$10,000.

“On behalf of Centre 105’s management board, staff team, and volunteer team, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended and donated,” he said. “Times are tough in our communities, but with your support, Centre 105 is able to continue to provide essential services ... to the most vulnerable individuals in our community. Thank you!”

Centre 105, one of five Community Ministries of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, is located at 105 Second Street in Cornwall in the parish hall of the historic Trinity Anglican Church. It began under the leadership of the Rev. Peter Cazaly (now retired) in



PHOTO: CAROLYN GODDARD

Together we are stronger. Centre 105 staff and volunteers gathered with City of Cornwall staff, council members and residents for the 2025 Annual Fall Breakfast Fundraiser for Centre 105 in Cornwall.

2017 and continues to provide a sanctuary and support for those in need of a hot meal and a safe space to rest or socialize, and referrals to other essential services. The Centre also provides a place for people to do laundry, and in 2024, renovated to add showers.

Amongst those enjoying a delicious breakfast and the social event were members of Cornwall City Council and administrative staff. “One can never underestimate the value of the contribution of the work done by Centre 105,” said councillor Denis Sabourin.

In attendance were several Anglican Diocese of Ottawa clergy, including the Rev. Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs, director general of Community Ministries; the Rev. Mark Lewis, the Ven. Peter Crosby, and the Rev. (Retired) Peter Cazaly.

“God’s favourite people are the marginalized, so that is where the church should always be,” said the Rev. Jon Martin, incumbent of St. John’s Kanata North Anglican Church. Mentioning crises in housing, financial instability and mental health, Martin said, “I think it is essential that Christian communities do everything they can to address those issues and support those struggling with them.”

The next Centre 105 fundraising activity is the Centre 105 Annual Christmas Concert and Holiday Reception Fundraiser, scheduled for Dec. 15 between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church.

For more information on Centre 105 or to donate, please go to: www.centre105.ca

Spotlight on The Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre (The OPC)

The Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre is one of the five Anglican Community Ministries. This is the fourth in a series of articles introducing readers to the OPC’s team members and their work.

The holidays bring joy but can also be a stressful and difficult time for many people.

“Often there’s a big difference between the ideal that people hold in their hearts and their minds about how things should be on these significant occasions, especially Christmas. The reality of is that it is often full of difficult emotions. Grief ... anger, resentment, guilt. All kinds of very strong emotions come up when you have a time like this that encapsulates an expectation of family. And I think we all have an image in our minds of how a family should be. Everybody’s supposed to be in harmony, gathered together, enjoying each other’s company. And so often that’s not the reality.... Relationships can be fractured. People can be living so far apart that they can’t see each other. Families are split by marital splits.

There is also the busyness of the season. Do people talk about those kinds of pressures?

Yes, and it can be very hard to figure



Alexa Delroy is a therapist who has worked with the OPC for 25 years. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

out how to prioritize those things. What’s actually going to determine how I answer all those requests and demands? Am I going to go with other people’s expectations? Am I going to figure out what’s most meaningful for me? Who am I going to let down? Especially if families are trying to [divide their time] at Christmas between two sets of parents or maybe more.... Trying to please everyone.... Often it’s felt afterwards too. People have some

excitement going in, but sometimes they feel pretty bruised coming out.

How do you help your clients through those things?

I trained in a model called voice dialogue, which is similar to something that’s becoming very prominent now, IFS, internal family systems therapy. I trained in a precursor of that... And that’s about parts....We think of ourselves as a unitary entity, you know, ‘I’m just me.’ But in reality, we have all kinds of different parts that operate differently in different situations and have come in to answer the needs of different situations.

Often these parts have come in to protect our vulnerability.... We adopt these protectors because they answer our needs. So, we’re born into a family, we have to fit into it and manage in it. So the parts come in to help us do that. And every person’s accommodation to their family will be different. The parts are protective and creative. ...So if I, for example, learn to please other people as a way of accommodating to my family, that protects my vulnerability, but it also gives me a way to interact....

These parts usually work up to a point, and then they hit a wall, and they don’t answer all the needs

anymore. And that’s when people usually come to therapy.

My approach is always that what people have learned to protect themselves with is always valid because it worked, and it was necessary for survival. That doesn’t mean it’s working now.

Do people sometimes create or discover a new part?

That would be part of the work, to protect your vulnerability in an alternate way so that you don’t have to use that one that you learned way back when. You now have other options...

There’s also a capital S self ... the one who can know all the parts and understand them in their own terms.... Meeting the parts with compassion and understanding is the way to help them loosen up, not to call them some kind of pathology and try to rip them off.

You highlighted a Christmas theme in that.

Being oneself is not toxic. We can come before God as we are at Christmas, We shouldn’t shut ourselves out of the stable because we think we or our families aren’t good enough. The message is goodwill to all people.

CLERGY REFLECTION

Some Advent thoughts on time

BY THE VEN. RHONDA WATERS

Time is a creation of God, just like the moon or the mountains or the birds or our own selves. Time did not exist before God and time does not contain God. It is a creation; born out of God's desire for a world. In fact, the book of Genesis names time as first of God's creations, occurring in the same breath as the creation of light and dark, day and night. From this point on, the rhythms of time shape the movement of all else – planets and stars; snow, rain, and sun; riverbeds and forests; birth, life, and death.

Time, then, is also a *gift* we receive from God and, like many gifts, we mostly take it for granted. Like gravity, time is simply reality as the seconds continue to tick by. When we do notice it, it is often because we notice a lack of time – we resent the speed at which good things pass; we are anxious about having enough time to do the things we need to do; we worry about wasting time and saving time and spending time. But the truth is that a day is a day is a day, no matter who or where or how you are. There



The Venerable Rhonda Waters is Incumbent of St. Helen's, Ottawa PHOTO: VEN. CHRIS DUNN

is, in fact, no wasting or saving or spending time. Time passes no matter what we do or don't do and God's work unfolds around us and within us.

This is not, generally speaking, our orientation to time. We are expected to manage our time, making the most of each moment and proving ourselves in control of our lives. Time, after all, is money. Time is a limited resource. Somehow, we are expected to

simultaneously regret the passing of time while also hurrying on to the next thing. In the midst of all this, it can be difficult to remember that, in fact, time is not ours to control. We live in God's time, created and gifted to us by the Source of all we have and all we are. Our time, and all time, is in God's hands and is in service to God, not us.

In the Gospel according to Mark (4:26-29), Jesus offers this parable:

The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.

This process — planting, waiting, watching, and finally, harvesting — unfolds in time and requires discernment on the part of the farmer to understand *when* these various steps need to take place. Neither delaying nor rushing will do any good. No steps can be skipped. The time it will take is, simply, the time it will take, and so the farmer

must align their activities according to God's purposes in God's time. Participation in the kingdom, it seems, involves an awful lot of time and patience which are two things that often seem to be in short supply. This is where Advent comes in.

Advent calls us to enter into a season of deliberate, holy waiting. We count the weeks and days to Christmas but resist the urge to jump ahead to the festivities, focusing instead on the in-between time – waiting not just for Christmas but for the unfolding of the kingdom of God. Like the farmer in Jesus' parable, we wait and watch for the ripening grain, signs of God at work in the world around us and an invitation to us to join in the harvest.

Christmas will come soon enough. There is no rushing it nor delaying it. We can neither waste the time nor save the time between now and then for the time will pass no matter what we do. So accept the Advent invitation to live, right now, in God's time, attentive to the kingdom that Jesus proclaims is already near.

Prayer Matters Praying for the election of a new bishop

BY PAUL DUMBRILLE

With the election of Archbishop Shane Parker as Primate for our national church, our Diocese is now in a period of discernment in the selection of a person to become our new bishop. The details of the process itself will be published elsewhere, but the true will of God will be reflected only if it is accompanied by prayer at all stages of the process.

Prayers for all involved are called for, both in our personal prayers and also when we gather.

In our prayers we would wish to remember the key elements of the ministry of a bishop in our church, namely:

- The bishop is to proclaim, interpret and witness to the good news of God in Christ.
- The bishop is called to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church.
- The bishop is called to celebrate and provide for the administration of the sacraments of the New Covenant.

- The bishop is called to ordain priests and deacons, and join with other bishops in the ordination and consecration of bishops.
- The bishop is called to be in all things a faithful pastor and a wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.
- The bishop is called to share with fellow bishops in the leadership of the Church throughout the world.

I am hoping that between now and the election in February, in addition to our personal prayers, every parish and congregation will include appropriate prayers in their liturgies, with special prayers included in the Intercessions and Prayers of the People during worship services. In praying for discernment in this process, I think we need to pray that God's guidance and presence will inspire all persons involved in the various stages of the process as follows.

I encourage all of us to pray for strength and wisdom by those who are involved in the organization and management of the nomination

process and the actual election.

In the early stages of our discernment time, we would want to pray particularly that those who would consider nominating a person to stand for this important ministry will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

We would also want to pray that any persons who are considering offering themselves for this important ministry and would be nominated, have discerned whether they are truly called by God to this ministry.

As the Electoral Synod nears, we would pray for discernment by the delegates to the Synod and that they listen to God's voice as they learn about and consider the candidates that come forward.

During the Electoral Synod itself we would want to pray that the Holy Spirit guides those casting ballots in the election. I am hoping that prayer vigils can be held, in person or online, during that time, and I can provide outlines and suggestions for this if you contact me at afp@ottawa.anglican.ca. In any case personal prayers on that day are encouraged.

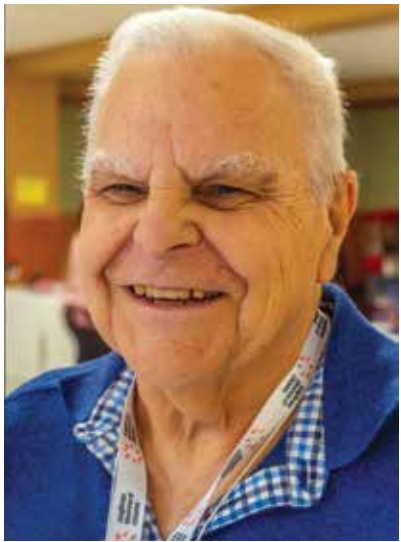


PHOTO: VEN. CHRIS DUNN

Paul Dumbille is the contact for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP) in our diocese.

In conclusion, I offer the following prayer:

*God of Wisdom,
In every generation you raise up leaders for the followers of Jesus. We have been blessed in the Diocese of Ottawa with faithful and loving leaders in our community. As we seek to discern your will, help us to remain open to your Spirit's guidance, through Christ, our Lord. Amen*

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

St. James, Morrisburg
Stormont Deanery

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 M6 8

Complex
Rearrangements

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

For us in 2025, the snow is just beginning to arrive. But when this photograph of Saint James’s Church, Morrisburg was taken approximately 125 years ago, the last snow of the winter was continuing to melt away.

Morrisburg was already named for the Honourable James Morris when this site was purchased from James and Louisa Hodges in 1856. The cornerstone for the first Saint James’s Church was laid in July 1856 by the Reverend John Travers Lewis of Hawkesbury. The completed house of worship was opened for Divine Service on 6 January 1859. We have no idea as to what the first church looked like, except that it appears to have had no bell tower.

From 1862 to 1866, Morrisburg was a single-point parish. In 1866, it joined with the Parish of Williamsburg, which included the congregation of the mother church, Holy Trinity, Williamsburg, what was known as the German Mission (briefly in 1874 and 1875) and, improbably, churches at Adolphustown and Fredericksburg (also briefly in 1875 and 1876). What possible connection, it may be asked, could Adolphustown and Fredericksburg on the Bay of Quinte have with Morrisburg? Two, it turned out. First, at a time when there was a severe shortage of clergy, these four points were readily travelled between on the Saint Lawrence River, despite the distance separating them, especially as steamboat lines and railways offered free passes to clergy. Second, all these churches were part



of the then Diocese of Ontario.

The want of a bell tower was felt after the passing of a generation, and the lofty tower we see here was added to the 1856 church in 1878. It is reputed to have been designed by Isaac Johnston, a Black architect who designed a number of churches in the region including

the United Church at Williamsburg. Placing Saint James’s tower to one side, with its entrance facing away from the church suggests that Johnston hoped to give Saint James’s an Akron style plan. If so, he was doomed to be disappointed. For the time being, parish resources were devoted to building a stone rectory

next door in 1883 in anticipation of Morrisburg again becoming a single-point parish in 1887.

In 1893, the parish decided that a much larger church was needed to provide room for a growing congregation. If they were not prepared to demolish the handsome tower built only fourteen years earlier, at the same time they did not see the Akron-style plan of church favoured by Isaac Johnston as being appropriate for Anglican worship. The result was to leave Johnston’s 1878 bell tower standing, to demolish the 1856 church, and to have the Excelsior Lodge of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons lay the cornerstone for a much more ambitious house of worship in a more correct style suitable to the Anglican liturgy.

Correct? On the outside, maybe. The new Saint James’s Church, Morrisburg was consecrated by Bishop Lewis on 18 April 1894. The new church took its cue from the windows of the upper tower, placing narrow paired windows along the length of the nave, which together with the rose window in the west wall once they were filled with stained glass, plunged the large interior into late Victorian gloom. Some purists were relieved that this hid the pendants hanging from the ceiling. The remarkable stencilling on the walls was restored in 1983.

The Diocesan Archives collects parish registers, vestry reports, service registers, minutes of groups and committees, financial documents, property records (including cemeteries and architectural plans), insurance policies, letters, pew bulletins, photographs and paintings, scrapbooks, parish newsletters and unusual documents.



These All My Relations panel members from various parishes organized a display in the hall at the diocesan Synod meeting in October.
L-R—Kimberly Johnson-Breen, Marni Crossley, Janet Allingham, Jane Maxwell, Debbie Grisdale, Gwynneth Evans

CALENDAR



PHOTO: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN

Dec. 4
Coffee, Company and Conversation
- “Koffee Klatsch”

St. Mark the Evangelist
(1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa)
10 am

Dec. 6
A German Christmas Celebration
Christ Church Cathedral

(414 Sparks St., Ottawa)
2:30 pm
Celebrate the magic of Christmas with some of the most beautiful traditional German songs, choral masterpieces by J. S. Bach, Jacobus Handl and Michael Praetorius. Timeless melodies, shimmering polyphonies, and well-known carols in a joyful experience in which the audience invited to sing along with the choir. Featuring the combined choirs of Christ Church Cathedral and the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal.
Ticket information and prices: <https://www.ottawacathedral.ca/events/>

Dec. 7
A Yuletide Symphony Christmas Concert

St. James Anglican Church
(20 High Street, Morrisburg, Ont.)
3 pm
A symphony Christmas concert featuring the Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de la Montérégie and soprano Margaret Whisselle, also Handel’s Hallelujah chorus sung by the Yuletide Singers and a Christmas Carol sing-along. This concert is in aid of local outreach programs.
Tickets: \$25 adult: \$15 student/youth

Dec. 11
Coffee, Company and Conversation
- Stories shared about Christmases Past

St. Mark the Evangelist
(1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa)
10 am

Dec. 13
Christmas Concert

St. Aidan’s
(934 Hamlet Road, Ottawa)
7 pm to 9 pm
St. Aidan’s popular Christmas Concert featuring Tea Mamaladze and fellow artists.
More info: p.charko@sympatico.ca

Dec. 14
Advent Procession with Carols

St. Barnabas
(70 James St., Ottawa)
7:15 pm to 8:30 pm
A beautiful service for Advent, with readings, choral anthems, and carols. All welcome!
More Info: <https://stbarnabasottawa.com/>

Dec. 15
Centre 105 Christmas Concert and Holiday Reception Fundraiser

Trinity Church
(105 Second St. W., Cornwall)
2 pm to 4:30 pm
More Info: www.centre105.ca

Dec. 18
Coffee, Company and Conversation - Christmas Joy

St. Mark the Evangelist
(1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa)
10 am
A joyous morning celebrating the Christmas season — sing along with pianist and song leader Joy Bowerman

Dec. 20
Christmas Concert
Christ Church Aylmer

(101 Rue Symmes, Gatineau)
7 pm
Net proceeds to the Aylmer Food Cupboard

Dec. 31
Nine Lessons and Carols – New Year’s Eve
St. Barnabas
(70 James St., Ottawa)
5 pm to 6:10 pm
Ring in the New Year with Christmastide lessons and sparkly carols. Sung by the choir of St. Barnabas. All are welcome! Free-will offering.
More Info: stbarnabasottawa.com/

Jan. 1
New Year’s Day Eucharist
Christ Church Cathedral

(414 Sparks St., Ottawa)
12 pm
Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will preach. Festive reception to follow in the Great Hall.

En cette période des fêtes de fin d’année, participez aux activités à St-Bernard

Saint-Bernard-de-Clairvaux, que l’on appelle affectueusement St-Bernard, est une communauté anglicane francophone qui existe depuis plus de 40 ans dans le diocèse anglican d’Ottawa. C’est la seule communauté exclusivement francophone dans tout notre diocèse; une place où les francophones et les francophiles peuvent prier et célébrer en français et faire communauté ensemble.

En cette période des fêtes alors que nous célébrons Noël et faisons des plans pour le Nouvel An, nous vous invitons à vous joindre à nous et à découvrir tout ce que notre communauté a à offrir. Voici un survol de nos prochaines activités :

La messe dominicale a lieu à midi, à l’église Trinity, au 1230, rue Bank, à Ottawa. Nous serons heureux de vous y accueillir dans une ambiance conviviale et fraternelle. (Au fil des ans, la communauté a célébré dans différents lieux, et elle a trouvé, depuis plus d’un an, un foyer chaleureux à l’église Trinity.)

La prière du matin a lieu tous les jeudis matin, à 9 h, sur Zoom, avec des membres de la communauté. Le lien pour nous joindre se trouve ici :

<https://communautesbernard.ca>

Notre messe de Noël aura lieu le 24 décembre à 17 h 30 en l’église Trinity.

Notre dernier Bible et Bouffe de 2025 aura lieu le dimanche 28 décembre à midi dans la salle Canterbury de l’église Trinity. Il s’agit d’un temps privilégié pour nous retrouver, échanger et tisser des liens autour d’un repas simple et chaleureux.

Au début de 2026, des rencontres sur la Bible seront offertes par Pierre LaViolette de l’Université Saint-Paul. Ces rencontres auront lieu les mercredis du 7 janvier au 4 février, de 19 h à 20 h 30 sur Zoom; une belle occasion de rester connectés et de partager, même à distance, la richesse de ces échanges.

En terminant, si vous souhaitez du soutien pastoral ou des célébrations anglicanes en français, n’hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi – ce sera un plaisir d’en discuter avec vous, en tant que curé de la communauté de St-Bernard. Vous pouvez me rejoindre à kevinwflynn@gmail.com, et il nous fera plaisir de vous accueillir.

—Rédigé par le Révérend Kevin Flynn

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