

PERSPECTIVE

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA | SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL | SEPTEMBER 2026

PHOTO: ABASI EKPENYON



Trinity Bank Street: 150 years young. Parishioner Abasi Ekpenyon said, “What we have here at Trinity is a euphony of people who make service seem undemanding, who make community seem like a no-brainer and who make love for the Creator seem effortless.” (See story, p. 5)

St. Thomas celebrates ground-breaking for Ellwood House Extension

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Long-time residents of Ellwood House, the seniors affordable housing in Alta Vista, who looked out towards St. Thomas the Apostle Church on a sunny day in June, saw an unusual sight: a parade of speakers at a lectern delivering spirited words of determination and hope, with a bevy of shovels at the ready.

Ellwood and church leaders came together with federal, provincial and city representatives to celebrate the beginning of construction of the Ellwood House Extension that will more than double the capacity of the 37-year-old community residence.

The project is a partnership of the St. Thomas the Apostle parish and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, with funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Ontario government, the City of Ottawa and — the next challenge — a capital fundraising campaign.

The extension will be built on the site of the former St. Thomas



PHOTO: CAROLE BRETON

The Rev. Maria Nightingale and the Rev. Tim Kehoe of St. Thomas the Apostle Church stood shoulder to shoulder with Bishop Kathryn Otley and diocesan director of Property and Asset Management Joel Prentice, shovels at the ready, at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ellwood House Extension.

rectory, which was demolished in early June along with land abatement, clearing the way for site plan approval by the City. The extension will have 38 one-bedroom units, six barrier-free and the rest fully visitable for those with accessibility needs.

The Rev. Tim Kehoe, incumbent at St. Thomas, told the gathering: “No single organization can accomplish work like this alone. It’s only possible through close collaboration among church and government partners, housing organizations, donors, volunteers, and community advocates.”

He said the ground-breaking event demonstrates what’s possible when people unite around a shared vision of the common good. “It’s simply part of the DNA of this place,” he said. “Ensuring respect and dignity for all, so that none are left behind.

“The soil we turn today represents more than construction – it represents lives that will be strengthened and futures that will be secured.”

► Ellwood Extension, to page 5



Indigenous cultures and spirituality celebrated at Christ Church Bells Corners during Indigenous History Month in June.

► See story, page 6

BISHOP'S REFLECTION

PHOTO: VEN. CHRIS DUNN



BY THE RIGHT REVEREND
KATHRYN OTLEY

“Be transformed by the renewing of your minds...”

We gather again after summer’s slower rhythm. For many of us, these weeks have offered space to breathe: a less frantic pace, time with family and friends, travel or quiet at home, and a chance to refill wells of energy that may have run low by the end of Eastertide.

I find it striking that the pattern of the church year runs counter to the pattern of the earth’s seasons. As autumn begins, the earth yields its harvest and prepares for winter: a season of dormancy and rest before springtime’s new growth.

By contrast, our church and community life often moves from summer’s quieter pace —while still active in worship and service, we also make room for self care, spending time with loved ones, exploring new places, or resting in familiar places. And in the fall, we engage in a season of renewed activity, as the church year progresses through Ordinary Time toward the Reign of Christ, we turn again to planning, programming, and action.

This September, let us carry forward the renewal summer has offered. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that “those who wait for the

PHOTO: BISHOP KATHRYN OTLEY



Bon Echo's still dews of quietness

Lord shall renew their strength.” St. Paul, in the letter to the Romans 12:2, calls us to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds.” In this turning of the season, we are invited to receive God’s renewal and with wells refilled and strength restored, dive into the ministries to which we are called, with hearts and minds open to God’s transforming purpose, in and around us all.

STAFF NEWS



Heidi Pizzuto

Heidi Pizzuto, executive assistant to the bishop, retired in June. After serving as the parish administrator at Christ Church Bells Corners for 12 years, she was hired as a full-time receptionist and administrator for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. About a year and a half later, Bishop John Chapman invited her to work in the Episcopal Office as executive assistant to the bishop, a position she says she was honoured to accept and serve in for 12 more years, also assisting Archbishop Shane Parker and Bishop Kathryn Otley as she began her episcopate.

“During my 14 years at 71 Bronson, I met so many wonderful people and made many lifelong friends,” she said. “My work for the church was a ministry, a calling, and my gifts seemed well-suited to my responsibilities. It was my pleasure and my privilege to serve our Diocese in the way I have.” Diocesan staff honoured and thanked her at a farewell lunch at Ascension House wishing her joy in her retirement.



Benjamin Ralph

Benjamin Ralph joined the diocesan Communications and Development team as communications officer in July.

Having graduated from Carleton University in 2025 with a Bachelor of Journalism, Ben will contribute to a wide range of diocesan communications initiatives, including strategic communications, website, social media, video production, Synod and event communications and storytelling. He will work closely with parishes, congregations, Community Ministries, and diocesan partners.

Ben has a special interest in videography and enjoys finding innovative ways to tell stories. Growing up in an active Anglican family, he developed a passion for purpose and community. He volunteers annually with Ontario Youth Parliament, an organization dedicated to bringing young people together to explore faith and friendship through spirited debate.

Outside of work, Ben can be found playing on one of his three weekly soccer teams, covering first base for his softball team or taking (beginner) salsa classes.

Christ Church Cathedral choirs invited for summer 2027 residency at Westminster Abbey

BY JAMES CALKIN
Director of Music
Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

One Friday morning in February 2024, I received, out of the blue, an email from Westminster Abbey in London.

In it, the Assistant to Minor Canons in charge of Special Services and Visiting Choirs, wrote to invite our Cathedral's choirs to undertake a summer residency at the abbey.

And so began a project that, in less than a year, will see our Cathedral Girls Choir, Boys Choir and Lay Clerks embark on a performance tour to London where they will be the "Choir in Residence" at Westminster Abbey the week of July 19 to 25, 2027.

During that time, we aim to showcase the range and depth of talent and engagement in our Cathedral's choral family including by our parent volunteers as well as the pastoral leadership and support of Dean Beth Bretzlaff and the Rev. Canon Doug Richards. Our choristers will sing services every day except Wednesday. Some services will be sung by upper voices alone, some by the Lay Clerks; the Boys and Men will sing together, and, on the Sunday, the full complement will assemble for



PHOTO: DOUG MORRIS

the morning Eucharist and closing Evensong of the residency.

This invitation from the Abbey is a significant honour and a testament to the good name and reputation of our Cathedral and its music ministry throughout the Communion. It is also an amazing opportunity for

our choristers to learn and to grow, continuing and enhancing our educational offerings and building on past experiences of international touring by the choirs. Indeed, it will be the fourth overseas trip I've led since 2016 and the third time that choristers from our Cathedral have

sung at the Abbey (previously the Girls Choir in 2012 and the Men and Boys in 2017).

In addition to the liturgical duties, our vision for this tour includes plenty of fun extra-curriculars including a daytrip to Oxford. And thanks to associate music director Andrew McAnerney (himself an alumnus of Magdalen College) we're looking forward to seeing and experiencing the college chapels, quads and gardens as usually reserved only for members of the university community.

Logistical and financial planning is already well underway by a dedicated team of volunteers. This fall, our fundraising events will launch in earnest and throughout this season there will be many opportunities to show your support, including:

A gala concert with silent auction featuring the music of John Rutter on Saturday, November 7.

For Christmas, please consider the purchase of one or several of the Choir's famous wreaths along with unique, chorister-designed Christmas cards.

For more information and to stay up to date on our fundraising initiatives, please email: james.calkin@ottawacathedral.ca

Diocese hosts the 2026 Anglican Editors' Conference

Editors of diocesan newspapers from across Canada as well as staff from the *Anglican Journal* met for their annual conference at the end of May in Ottawa this year. In addition to professional development workshops, they heard presentations on affordable housing projects in the diocese, Community Ministries, Alongside Hope, the Anglican Foundation of Canada and the Companions of Jerusalem. Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, was the guest speaker on the final evening of the conference.

The idea of expanding the Anglican Editors' Association to include other communicators working for the church was discussed, and the editors voted to broaden the organization to include anyone working in a communications role throughout the Anglican Church of Canada.

The editors expressed their appreciation for being able to meet in the beautiful space of the Great Hall of Christ Church



Cathedral Ottawa and thanked the Rev. Canon Doug Richards for leading our concluding Eucharist service.

Special thanks to Dean Beth Bretzlaff, the Rev. Canon Doug Richards and Nicholas Galambos at the Cathedral and Carole Breton and Marcela Hurtado at Ascension House for all their help organizing the conference and to our guest presenters. — Leigh Anne Williams

Back row: Jane Waterston, *Perspective's* production manager; Saskia Rowley, art director for the *Anglican Journal*; Margaret Glidden, AEA past president; the Rev. Canon Doug Richards, Christ Church Cathedral; LCdr (Ret'd) the Rev. Robert Parker, Diocese of Brandon editor; Brian Bukowski, web manager, Anglican Church of Canada.

Front row: Carole Breton, diocesan director of Communications and Development; George Cribbs, editor, Anglican Diocese of Moosonee; Jason Antonio, Saskatchewan editor; Janice Biehn, Alongside Hope; Gisele McKnight, editor, Diocese of New Brunswick; Bishop Kathryn Otley; Archbishop Shane Parker; the Rev. Victoria Scott, director general of Anglican Community Ministries; Emily Rowe, editor, Diocese of Newfoundland; Leigh Anne Williams, editor *Perspective*.

Fundraising appeal issued as Perth affordable housing project prepares to open

PHOTO: CLAIRE SMITH

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

“Please help us close the gap. Please help us get these families into their homes.”

That’s the appeal from Claire Smith, chair of fundraising for Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP) as the official opening of its 15-unit affordable housing residence approaches this fall.

While significant contributions have been made, the capital campaign is still \$144,000 short of its \$300,000 goal.

The CHIP project was initiated by St. James the Apostle; the parish made an initial contribution to get the fund started and continues to provide significant support.

Since the fundraising campaign began, others have stepped up, and Claire Smith is confident the goal will be achieved.

Substantial support has come from St. Paul’s United Church and the Rideau St. Lawrence Real Estate Board.

The Rev. Don McLean, minister at St Paul’s, says the congregation explored various ways of supporting affordable housing in Perth and for two years made contributions to CHIP as part of its mission and outreach work. As well, “individual members of St. Paul’s are active in the community in a variety of roles as active supporters of the CHIP project and in advocacy for affordable housing.”

Pauline Auger, a realtor with offices in Perth and Smiths Falls, says she has seen first-hand how important shelter is to those who struggle financially to get affordable housing. A past president of the Canadian and Ontario Real Estate Associations and director of the Ontario Realtor Care Foundation, she arranged the board’s support and made her own donation.

“My parents taught me from



childhood that it was important to help others in our community who from time to time may need assistance,” she says. “I know by donating to this very worthwhile housing initiative that I am helping someone find a place to call home. What can be more important than that?”

The dates for a ceremonial opening and a barbecue with neighbours have not been settled. What is not in doubt is that families will start moving in over a three-month period during the fall.

Rent-geared-to-income candidates will come from Lanark County’s wait list of more than 460. Some others will come from the wait list of Carebridge Community Support, the owner and operator of the residence at 63 Halton Street.

CHIP has an excellent website with details about the project and

ways to donate or volunteer for its Alongsider support program (perthhousing.ca). Regular postings are made on Facebook under Community Housing Initiative Perth.

The fundraising goal of \$300,000 is necessary to complete the financing based on a \$2.5 million forgivable loan from Lanark County and a \$600,000 grant from the Ontario Building Faster Fund.

The Rev. Canon Ken Davis, St. James’s rector until he retired last year, reached out beyond St. James to form the CHIP steering committee that has become a model of success in community involvement.

David Kroetsch, St. James’ chair of outreach, is co-chair with Smith of the CHIP steering committee. Davis’s successor, the Rev. Robert Camara, and the Rev. Liana Gallant,

incumbent and deacon respectively at St. James, are active in CHIP. Camara replaced Davis on the steering committee.

“It has been an opportunity for our church community to identify an important need within the community and respond to it,” Camara wrote in an email. “It’s also part of the parish’s response to the Diocese’s call to help find ways to address the housing crisis.”

Gallant is working with the Alongsider support program, for which a group of trained volunteers will provide social support to the tenants, including helping them navigate resources and services, helping build connections with neighbours and attending community events together.

Donations may be made at perthhousing.ca



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Please contact the editor for submission deadlines.



Perspective 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.

PARISH NEWS

Trinity Church in Ottawa South celebrates 150 years of ministry

PHOTO: ABASI EKPENYON

BY LINDSAY WHILLANS

On Sunday, May 31, clergy and parishioners gathered at Trinity Church in Ottawa South to mark a significant milestone — our 150th year of ministry. About 150 attendees participated in a service of celebration led by Trinity’s incumbent, the Ven. Mark Whittall. The event honoured the generations of Trinity’s faithful who built and contributed to this vibrant parish. How appropriate to celebrate on Trinity Sunday!

In his homily, Archdeacon Mark reflected on Jesus’s core messages to his disciples and all Christians — love God, love neighbour and love one another. “Jesus is urging his disciples to create communities of love and belonging ... that are diverse, inclusive and affirming of the God-given dignity and worth of every human being,” he said. “One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1876, the people of Ottawa South decided that they wanted to form just this sort of community.” Looking ahead 150 years into the future, no matter what else changes, he reminded parishioners that they could count on Jesus’s promise to be with his followers “to the end of the age.”

Special guests included the Rt. Rev. Kathryn Otley, 11th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, who offered memories of her time as a parishioner at Trinity while attending university. Also in attendance was local MPP Catherine McKenney, who shared cake-cutting duties with Bishop Kathryn.

Music was a highlight of the service, with specially curated selections led by Trinity’s director of music and organist Fabien



Bishop Kathryn Otley shared memories of her time teaching Sunday School in the parish and was invited by Archdeacon Mark Whittall to do the cake-cutting honours.

Tousignant and featuring the Trinity choir, members of Trinity Brass, and Paul, Evelyn and Kit Mugarura from Trinity’s weekly Connect 4 pm contemporary service. In the weeks leading up to the event, parishioners voted for their favourite hymn, which was revealed at the service. It was a well-guarded secret right to the end! For the record, the most requested hymn was “The Blessing.”

As well, we heard a number of reflections from parishioners — both long-time and newer — about what Trinity means to them.

One of the youth, Abasi Ekpenyon, said, “What we have here at Trinity is a euphony of people who make service seem undemanding, who make community seem like a no-brainer and who make love for the Creator seem effortless.”

Rebecca Cowal recounted arriving at Trinity House from Arnprior as a university student and gradually becoming a part of the Trinity parish. To me, Trinity is .. “a place to make friends, to share in faith and to grow, a place to ask questions, to feel cared for and seen by people who know you,” she said....”As evidenced by today, this community is comprised of generous people who embody the very qualities of kindness, grace and selfless hospitality of Jesus.”

It was a grand celebration befitting such a milestone. May Trinity continue to be a positive presence in the community for many more generations.

► Ellwood House Extension from page 1

Kehoe’s remarks resonated with subsequent speakers, the project’s partners.

Defence Minister David McGuinty, MP for Ottawa South, recalled being at the opening of Ellwood in 1988 with his late father, a former Ontario MPP for the area. “This is evidence of what we can do as a country when we work together,” he said, confirming \$6.9 million in funding from the CMHC Affordable Housing Fund.

John Fraser, the current Ontario MPP for Ottawa South, paid tribute to the vision and determination of president Janice Horton and the Ellwood House board of directors. “Leadership is never losing sight of where you want to go. It takes vision and people to stick with it.” The Ontario Building Faster Fund provided \$9.5 million.

Mayor Mark Sutcliffe said the City of Ottawa is proud to work with the partners to make the project possible. The city provided significant pre-development funding as well as much support and advice throughout.

Bishop Kathryn Otley reminded everyone that three factors – aging, rent increases and fixed income – combine to create homelessness.

“Ellwood House Extension offers seniors safe, affordable, permanent housing for independent living; just as importantly...a place to belong... that respects each person, a place to call home.”

Further supporting words came from Marty Carr, city councillor for Ward 18; Khurram Mirza, associate director at Turner and Townsend, project managers; Allessandro Guarna, vice-president of McDonald Brothers Construction; and James Colizza, founding partner of Colizza Bruni Architecture.

Colizza, who designed the original building 40 years ago to deliberately face St. Thomas church, referred to the campus as a vibrant intergenerational village, home to Braeside House, a residence for adults living with disabilities, the Bloom Centre for Early Learning and a city fire station in addition to Ellwood House and soon, the Extension.

In a closing prayer Bishop Kathryn Otley of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa prayed for blessing upon board members and parish members, planners and builders, partners, funders and supporters.

“Bless all who shall live here: grant them comfort in their days, companionship in their evenings, and joy in the sharing of life together.

Ellwood House kicks off fundraising campaign for Extension

The Ellwood House Extension Campaign with a fundraising goal of \$1 million, is open for donations.

Janice Horton, president of Ellwood House (Ottawa) Inc., said the campaign is essential to create 38 additional affordable and accessible homes for seniors.

“While we are deeply grateful for the government funding already secured,” she said, “rising construction costs and increased material prices mean we must look to the wider community to help close the gap.”

She also disclosed that improvements are also being made to the existing 30-unit residence. Planned upgrades include a larger outdoor patio, improvements to the tenant lounge and a more accessible kitchen where residents can gather and share meals.

Promotion information for the campaign says that, whether through a personal gift, family foundation. corporate contribution or planned legacy donation, supporters can play a meaningful role in shaping the future of senior housing in the community.

The project has been funded by federal, provincial and city governments. Initially \$9.5 million was provided through Canada Mortgage and Housing’s Accelerator Fund, later financed by the city through the Ontario Building Faster Fund.

To donate: ellwoodhouse.ca

—David Humphreys

“May their years be rich with memory and hope, their hearts strengthened in faith, and their lives upheld in your love. “Make this community a sign of your kingdom—where justice is cherished, where no one is left

behind, and where each person is honoured as your beloved child. “Guard this place from all harm; fill it with kindness and laughter; and let your presence dwell here continually...”

Christ Church Bells Corners creatively celebrates Indigenous History Month

PHOTO: MARNI CROSSLEY

Christ Church Bells Corners hosted a community event to mark Indigenous History Month on June 13.

The day began with Elder Larry Langlois offering a smudge and prayers outside the church.

Then everyone moved into the parish hall where Belle Bailey and Charmaine Leonard, who came to the event from Mādahòki Farm, demonstrated two beautiful traditional dances. Bailey performed a Fancy Shawl Dance, and Leonard performed a Jingle Dress Dance. Afterward, they spoke and offered some insights from their Indigenous cultures and advice on how non-Indigenous people can learn more and work to contribute to reconciliation.

Everyone attending was invited to participate in a collaborative art project, adding their own designs to rocks that had been painted red, white, yellow and black. Then all the rocks were carried out into the parish garden to be arranged into the four quadrants of a medicine wheel, an important symbol in many First Nations cultures, which represents the interconnectedness of all life, the cycles of nature, and a path to personal balance.

The parish offered bannock with strawberry jam and strawberry water as refreshments for all.

—Leigh Anne Williams



Elder Larry Langlois offered a smudge and prayers.



Belle Bailey from Mādahòki Farm's shawl dance.



Archdeacon Monique Stone invited everyone to everyone was invited to participate in a collaborative art project by painting rocks that were later arranged in a medicine wheel design in the church gardens. Bannock and strawberry water were served in the parish hall.



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St. Bartholomew's parish has a growing relationship with its neighbourhood resource centre.

PHOTO: JUDY WIESINGER

From empty box to Three Sisters Garden

BY JUDY WIESINGER

The box was empty. More than 300 visitors had come into the church to look around during Doors Open Ottawa (DOO), but by the end of the afternoon not a single can of beans had landed in the box by the door. There was nothing to give to the local food bank. While disappointing, this should perhaps not have been unexpected. When it is 22 degrees Celsius at 10 a.m. and you plan to visit the French Embassy, Rideau Hall and other nearby buildings on foot, who wants to carry around a can of beans or two, let alone a bag of flour or 2 kilos of sugar to drop off at St. Bartholomew's Church? This was in 2023. That year, DOO had determined "Food" to be the event's theme; participating buildings had been encouraged to incorporate this into their planning, if possible, with DOO offering to promote this in their media materials in return.

Little did we realize at that time that this initial disappointment would evolve into an established partnership with the Rideau

Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) over the next few years. Soon after the Doors Open weekend in early June 2023, St. Bartholomew's reached out to the RRCRC to determine how we might be able to support the needs of the Community Food Bank in our city ward. Located in the former Rideau High School on St. Laurent Boulevard, the centre provides many and varied services for those most in need in Ward 13 (www.crcrr.org). From monthly and special food drives initially, two tote boxes are now permanently left out at the church for drop-off of non-perishable items any day of the week. And it is rare that they are empty!

The relationship with the RRCRC has grown and expanded in different ways. Once a year, the church now helps the centre provide back-to-school backpacks for high school students. It is a mad dash along the aisles in early August as volunteers fill their shopping carts with school supplies and then stuff the backpacks in the parish hall. The packs are blessed a few days later

in the main Sunday liturgy before being distributed to the youth by the RRCRC in mid-August. Some staff members from the centre always join us for the filling of the back packs and bring their van to take them away following the blessing.

Another exciting development happened earlier this summer. While helping with meal preparation for the community fridge at the RRCRC one afternoon, I was shown the centre's 40 recently installed cedar raised planters and was offered two for the church. Being able to accept them required a quick check with the rector and wardens after our 10:30 service two days later. Within the week, volunteers from the RRCRC had not only brought over the locally milled cedar but also assembled the two 8' x 4' planters on the front lawn of the church for us. This generous gift had coincided with a recently expressed desire at the church to plant a Three Sisters Garden. This companion planting method originates from Indigenous agricultural traditions, where

corn, beans and squash are grown together in a symbiotic relationship. The crops support each other, enrich the soil, deter weeds and provide shade for the roots of the other plants. At St. Bartholomew's, one raised bed has now become a Three Sisters Garden, serving as a reminder to the community that we live on the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin, who have acted as stewards and guardians of this land. The other raised bed is being used to grow vegetables that will go to the RRCRC Community Food Bank — assuming we can stay ahead of the squirrels. The planters were blessed by the Rev. Canon Catherine Ascah on June 21, National Indigenous Day of Prayer.

We cannot help but be reminded of the parable of the mustard seed as we look back over the past three years. We trust that God will continue to guide, develop and strengthen the partnership between St. Bartholomew's Church and the RRCRC in the years ahead so that together we may support those in greatest need in our community.



Cathedral supports Community Ministries

Men and women at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa have participated in their parish Festive Market and Teas on the last Saturday in November for the last two years. They have made pies and soups in the fall and marmalade in the spring.

Judith Dowler, coordinator of these events, and Nicholas Galambos, who makes the Christmas cake, jams, jellies and chutneys that are sold, presented a cheque for \$16,000 to the Rev. Victoria Scott, director general of Anglican Community Ministries, to help support Belong Ottawa, Cornerstone Housing for Women and the Refugee Ministry Office.

PHOTO: LA WILLIAMS

COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

Belong Ottawa’s Centre 454 asks City for an extension of its time at St. Albans

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Centre 454, one of three service locations for Belong Ottawa, is seeking a new home. As an Anglican Community Ministry, Centre 454 has offered care and essential services to adults experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental health challenges, substance use related harms and social isolation for 72 years. St. Albans Anglican Church at the corner of King Edward and Daly Avenue has housed this ministry for most of that time. The City of Ottawa, which provides core funding for the program, has advised Belong Ottawa that Centre 454 will need to relocate, with a current deadline of end of January 2027. Belong Ottawa has sent a formal written request for an extension of the transition timeline to ensure its “essential service continues without interruption for everyone who depends on it.”



The Rev. Victoria Scott

The prospect of any move of this kind is daunting. Belong Ottawa welcomes 600 to 700 people to its three locations every day, with about 45 per cent of them at Centre 454. In addition to meals and other essential services, Belong Ottawa provides referrals to help participants access income, housing, newcomer supports, addiction and mental health treatment services, education, employment, health, legal and other supports. In recent years, Centre 454 has upgraded its kitchen and laundry appliances. The centre provides access to showers, laundry and lockers where people experiencing homelessness can temporarily store their possessions, and cots with clean linens where they may rest in a safe space. Moving locations in the dead of winter would add another level of complexity at a time when the City requires warming centres and safe places people can seek shelter from the cold.

PHOTO: IINDIA BEDSON



Shauna-marie Young

Belong Ottawa is a low barrier drop-in day program. Everyone is welcome, and for the safety of everyone involved, open use of drugs or alcohol has always been prohibited inside the program and on other Community Ministry properties. As the opioid crisis intensified over the past several years, however, the increasing prevalence of public drug use created new challenges for participants, staff, volunteers, and the surrounding neighbourhood. It also intensified pressure from some nearby residents who had long called for Centre 454 to relocate. Belong Ottawa staff have been trained in the use of Naloxone to reverse overdoses, and they regularly save lives. The recent closure of Consumption and Treatment Sites (CTS) in Ottawa, including two in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood near Centre 454, have increased pressure on the city’s health and social service system. Kale Brown, director of Housing and Homelessness for the City of Ottawa, acknowledged that “Centre

454 is an important part of Ottawa’s social support network and has supported some of the community’s most at-risk residents for decades.” He attributed the need to find a more suitable location to “the needs of program participants and the surrounding community” evolving. “As a primary funder, the City is working closely with Belong Ottawa to review location options and support the transition. As planning continues, our focus remains on maintaining service continuity and supporting community well-being,” and helping “ensure day programs, like Centre 454, remain a welcoming community resource.”

PHOTO: LA WILLIAMS



Rabeya Klein

Belong Ottawa’s executive director Shauna-marie Young told *Perspective* it is vital that any new home be “meaningfully placed,” so it is accessible to the people Centre 454 serves. Launching a fundraising campaign to uphold critical services and fortify Centre 454 through this transition, Belong Ottawa confirmed its commitment “to continuing Centre 454’s compassionate, low

PHOTO: LA WILLIAMS



Calley

barrier support for generations to come. As community needs grow, we are partnering with the City to strengthen this vital service.” A silver lining outcome would be finding a larger and purpose-built space to help meet increasing needs, Young said. The Rev. Victoria Scott, director general of the Anglican Community Ministries, said: “As attention continues to focus on Centre 454’s relocation, our immediate priority remains advocating for an extension to the January 2027 timeline and helping people understand the impact this transition will have. As we navigate this moment together, we remain committed to holding with care the longstanding witness of this ministry, the people who rely on it, the realities facing the surrounding neighbourhood and the City of Ottawa, and the discernment required to find a new home where Centre 454 can continue offering dignity, stability, and compassionate support.”

► Belong Ottawa, to page 9

Ride for Refuge supports Centre 454 on Oct. 3

Join us. Support us. Ride with us. Together, we will keep community strong

Belong Ottawa’s Ride for Refuge returns for its second year on Oct. 3. And this year’s fundraiser comes at a crucial time as Centre 454 is preparing for an important transition to a new, but as yet unknown, location. “This fall, your ride will help ensure Centre 454’s essential services continue uninterrupted during its upcoming move,” said executive director Shauna-marie Young. “While our address will change, our commitment to welcoming and supporting people experiencing poverty, homelessness, isolation, and other barriers remains unwavering.” She added that she hopes to see teams from many Anglican parishes across the diocese participating along with many others from the broader

community. “As we enter this next chapter, your support will help ensure Centre 454 continues to be a place of dignity, connection, and belonging for all who rely on it.” How to get involved and help Belong Ottawa invites everyone to join the Ride for Refuge—a familyfriendly national event where communities walk, ride, roll, rally, and push together in support of people seeking hope, safety, and stability. Last year, more than 60 participants and 10 teams helped Belong Ottawa reach their goal. This year, every dollar raised will help Centre 454 navigate this critical period of change and ensure essential programs, meals, and supports continue uninterrupted.

Here is how to support Ride for Refuge and help keep Centre 454’s 72-year Anglican ministry strong: Lead a Team— Register as a captain and rally your parish, friends, family, or colleagues. Join a Team—Be part of the movement—walk, ride, run or roll, and fundraise with us. Donate— Support Centre 454 even if you can’t join us on Ride Day. Donate at belongottawa.ca/donate or scan the QR code in the ad on page 9. The Ride for Refuge page has everything you need to get started, including links to register as a captain, join a team, or donate. Belong Ottawa Elmvale Acres: rideforrefuge.org/location/ottawa1 On October 3, show up, enjoy the festivities, and know you are helping secure the future of Centre 454.



St. Albans, at the corner of Daly and King Edward in Sandy Hill, has been home to Centre 454 for most of its 72 years. Caring for the most vulnerable is a part of the parish's DNA.

PHOTO: LA WILLIAMS

The important role Belong Ottawa plays in the community was evident at a summer barbeque held in Dundonald Park on July 22 that was attended by more than 500 people, most of whom participate in programs at one or all three of its locations.

Rabeya Klein told *Perspective* that Belong Ottawa changed her life. She recalled being isolated in her home in the years before the pandemic. “I would find myself alone all the time, getting depressed and not feeling like I belonged anywhere,” she said. Fortunately, at that time, she lived next door to St. Luke’s Anglican Church on Somerset Street where the St. Luke’s Table program (now part of Belong Ottawa) served

hot lunches and offered other assistance to anyone in need. When she walked in for the first time, the staff welcomed her warmly, and she decided to volunteer. She began helping to serve lunches and then moved to calling bingo numbers. Now she serves as a member of the Belong Ottawa Participant Advisory Committee, gathering and expressing feedback from participants and sharing ideas to improve the drop-in day programs. “I’ve made lifelong friends through volunteering at St. Luke’s,” she said, noting that the relationships and opportunities for social connection are one of the best aspects of Belong Ottawa programs.

Calley told *Perspective* that she

has visited all three locations of Belong Ottawa at various times, said she found the staff are patient and “are always there to listen to you... They helped me understand that there is help out there.” She added that they helped her find housing after she went through a difficult time. Calley also mentioned the importance of the friendships and social connections formed at Belong Ottawa.

The Rev. Victoria Scott reflected on the importance of the Community Ministries for Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. “As a church, we are called both to respond to immediate need and to name the injustices that create that need. Compassion requires us to meet people where

they are. Justice requires us to ask why so many people continue to fall through the cracks and what must change so that people and communities can flourish.”

She added, “Too often these conversations become polarized, as though we must choose between supporting vulnerable people and acknowledging the strain that frontline ministries and neighbourhoods are experiencing. We can hold both realities and work toward solutions that serve everyone. We can affirm the dignity of every person while also saying clearly the current situation is failing many people, including those struggling with addiction, those working on the front lines, and the communities around them. Held together, these truths invite us into a shared work of discernment—one that refuses false choices and seeks the common good by pursuing solutions that honour the dignity of every person and strengthen the well-being of the whole community.”

Anyone wanting to support Belong Ottawa’s request for an extension to the transition timeline will soon be able to participate in a letter-writing campaign through Belong Ottawa’s website. There will also be opportunities to support the ministry financially through an upcoming fundraising campaign.

Supporters and allies are also encouraged to participate in or sponsor a team in the Ride for Refuge on Oct. 3: Ottawa Elmvale Acres (Belong Ottawa) - Ride for Refuge 2026. In the meantime, donations to Belong Ottawa can be made online at belongottawa.ca/donate



Ride for Refuge – October 3, 2026

This fall, your ride will help ensure **Centre 454's** essential services continue uninterrupted during its move to a new location. While our address will change, our commitment to welcoming and supporting people experiencing poverty, homelessness, isolation, and other barriers remains the same.

Join **Belong Ottawa** on **October 3** for **Ride for Refuge** a family-friendly national event where communities walk, ride, roll, and rally together in support of people seeking hope, safety, and stability.

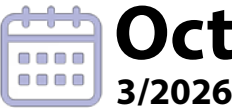
Every dollar raised will help Centre 454 continue providing meals, essential programs, and compassionate support throughout this important transition.

Here's how you can help:

- Lead a Team** – Rally your parish, friends, family, or colleagues.
- Join a Team** – Walk, ride, roll, or fundraise with us.
- Donate** – Support Centre 454, even if you can't participate on Ride Day.



DONATE NOW:
Scan the QR code or visit
belongottawa.ca/donate



Scan the QR code to register to the Ride for Refuge or visit
ride.w-ith.me/belong



St. Albans concerned about Centre 454 transition

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The plan to relocate Centre 454 away from St. Albans Anglican Church, which has been home to the centre for most of its 72 years, has caused deep concerns in the parish.

The most immediate concern is the January 2027 deadline to move the centre when a new location has not yet been found.

Mary Martha Hale is a parishioner at St. Albans, but she was also the long-time executive director of the centre before she retired. “January is impossible,” she said, having overseen the only time the centre moved away from St. Albans (to a former office building on Murray Street). She said it took about 18 months to find a place, to go through community consultations to fit up the building, to plan and renovate, and also help the community adapt to the idea of the centre moving.

“But that’s if you can find a place. Twenty-seven years ago, when we found the place on Murray, we had to go before the Committee of Adjustment at the City. We had to go before the Lower Town Community Association and give them information about what we were planning, what kind of services we offer, and actually, we were able to engage one of the members of the community association to sit on our board.” In 2011, as that location was becoming too small to meet their needs, Bishop John Chapman, bishop of the Anglican Diocese of

Ottawa at the time, invited them to come back to St. Albans, this time to occupy the whole basement not just half, and not as tenants of the parish but as one of two ministries of the Diocese that would be partners in the building.

Considering the current situation, Hale asked, “Are they truly going to close a service for the homeless in downtown Ottawa in January? It would be extremely shameful for the City to close the centre in January with no alternative identified and prepared,” she said. “If that if that is going to go ahead, I’m going to be picketing at the City,” she vowed.

Belong Ottawa has sent a formal, written request to the City to extend its transition time at St. Albans.

St. Albans’ rector, the Rev. Michael Garner is concerned that finding a new location will be difficult, but even when they do, he fears that many of the people Centre 454 currently serves won’t be able travel to its new location. “A lot of the people who go to the centre are pretty significantly challenged through drug addiction, through homelessness through physical infirmities.... The crux of St. Albans’ concern is those people aren’t going to follow the centre because they live in shelters in that neighbourhood, on the streets in that neighbourhood.

“If those people aren’t able ... to go to where the centre goes, who’s going to care for them? Who’s going to feed them? Who’s going to provide them with showers? Garner

asked. “Even just the pragmatic issue of public washrooms in the downtown core. There aren’t many. One of the main public washrooms, especially now that the safe injection sites are closed, is Centre 454. Where are people going to go to the bathroom?”

Even though the bathrooms and showers would still exist in the church basement, Garner explained that serving that high acuity population requires professional staff to run and supervise the facility. “As a parish, we don’t have the capacity to run Centre 454 by ourselves.... But there’s still going to be a need for laundry... for food ...for showers and all the amazing things the centre does... It’s the concern for the people who are literally our neighbours who we’ve been caring for.”

Both Hale and Garner thought that moving the centre would have negative consequences for residents in the broader area as well. As someone who attends St. Albans, Hale said, “Every time I go to the church or by the church, I see people leaning up against the gate, and people are using or they’re helping each other, or they’re just sitting there. And then if the centre’s open, there’s fewer people on the street. Those numbers, I think, are going to climb,” she said.

Parishioners hadn’t yet organized a collective discussion of the news during the summer, but Centre 454 has been an important part of the current parish’s identity since it returned in 2012. As the opioid crisis

escalated, some parishioners even took training to reverse overdoses and carry Naloxone kits with them.”

“It’s part of the role of the church to be ministering to the vulnerable,” said Hale. “These are human beings, and the people who I have been in relationship with at the centre are just like you and me, but they’ve just had horrible circumstances in their lives that have pushed them into homelessness.” She noted that being homeless makes people more vulnerable to predators in the drug trade.

“I always felt my work was my faith in action. And the relationships that are built, the lives that are supported, it flows in both directions. My life was enriched by my experiences at the centre. Just as I hope my being at the centre enriched others’ lives,” Hale said.

“The City has benefitted from the centre offering these services at a lower cost than if they had to provide them themselves,” Hale added, mentioning that Mayor Mark Sutcliffe praised Belong Ottawa’s work two years ago when he attended its 70th anniversary celebration.

Garner said there is a moral question at the heart of the situation. “Housing first is a great tagline, and obviously, housing is great, but the road to have everyone housed is long. So even if the City has a 100% foolproof plan that is going to work, it probably takes 10 years, and meanwhile, we still have to take care of these populations.”



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Oct
27

Belong Ottawa hosts a summer barbecue



Dan turned out to enjoy all the summer barbecue festivities.



Above left —Belong Ottawa’s director of operations Michael Howard; executive director Shauna-marie Young; communication and development manager India Bedson; Anglican Community Ministries director general the Rev. Victoria Scott, and City of Ottawa councillor Ariel Troster.



Two officers from the Ottawa Police Services’ community outreach pilot project dropped by the barbecue at Dundonald Park in Ottawa.

PHOTOS:
LEIGH ANNE
WILLIAMS



Mareel Danleu (top right), Natisha Johnson and Michelle Maniké (left to right above) offered all the fixings for the burgers.

“Grow through what you go through.” Great—but how?

I was just walking down Metcalfe Street, on my way to the main branch of the Ottawa Public Library, when I saw a woman wearing a shirt that said, “Grow through what you go through”, illustrated with some various vegetables, and I really loved and love that quote, with a thought of telling her how much I liked it, though we had already passed each other by.

Then came a thought that it only tells the what, but not the how. And I then realized that the only way to get to the how is with support. Unlike the idea that we are spoon-fed from birth in our Western society that says that this is something that we must do completely on our own, that no one is responsible for anyone but themselves, that tells us the fantasy (and the lie), of people who achieve greatness against all odds.

It does have a wonderful sound to it, and it makes a gloriously heroic archetype for movies and the stories of our lives, so I can’t blame anyone too much for believing it. The only problem with it is that it is almost true, but not quite. Where it goes wrong is when it speaks of people achieving greatness against all odds.

But no one can achieve greatness against all odds. No one can achieve greatness against all manner of adversity without having at least one thing going their way, without having at least one advantage, often hidden, which helps tip the teetering scales of life in their favour.

No one can achieve greatness feeling the whole world hates them and not having a supportive family and belonging to a stigmatized, marginalized

group and having every other disadvantage that one could possibly conceive of.

There has to be at least one person, one role model, whether it be a parent, a teacher, a preacher, or someone of at least some standing in society who doesn’t think they suck, who believes in them, and who helps shine a light to light a path through the thorny brambles and obstacles that this world often throws our way.

With that then comes the actual possibility of being able to “Grow through what you go through”.

Amen to that.

—By James Andriulaitis

James Andriulaitis is a writer and artist living in Ottawa.

PARISH NEWS

St. James Manotick celebrates its 150th anniversary in style

St. James, Manotick has hosted multiple events throughout this year to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

In June, the “Over the Decades” themed High Tea at St. James was a fun, well-attended event. Décor included displays of clothing and pieces from the late 1800s onwards that brought back nostalgic memories.

The parish also participated in Doors Open Ottawa during Manotick’s Dickinson Days weekend. They welcomed visitors to tour St. James and showcased displays of the church through the seasons as well as a historical timeline with photos past and present.

Parishioners are looking forward to gathering for a catered anniversary dinner on Dec. 4.



PHOTO: LONDON TRIO PLUS/ST. BARNABAS



St. Barnabas resounds with the joyful music of the London Trio Plus

On June 27, a concert with the inspiring music of the London Trio Plus helped St. Barnabas kick off a parish fundraising campaign to help with the costs of replacing floors in the church.

Lacing up and stepping up for our neighbours

The annual Walk for the Centretown Community Food Centre (CCFC) will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4.

Created by the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC), the walkathon builds on a solid foundation of shared support. This past year, our 20 member churches — including Church of the Ascension, St. Barnabas, St. John the Evangelist, St. Matthew and Trinity Anglican Church — contributed the following:

- \$56,152 given directly to the food centre to purchase food and supplies
- \$13,275 given to CCSAC to fund community projects and social justice advocacy
- \$69,427 in total generated across all CCSAC-related activities.

While these church contributions are vital, the demand for assistance continues to grow. The Oct. 4 walkathon is our chance to close the gap and ensure no neighbour goes hungry.

The walkathon launched in 2015 during a time of tight resources. Today, food insecurity in our neighbourhood remains a serious challenge. The food centre—a registered charity established by CCSAC in 1978—provides a critical lifeline to anyone experiencing hunger within our downtown Ottawa catchment area (bordered by Wellington Street, Billings Bridge, Lyon Street, and Main Street/Lees Avenue).

This year, we want to make our biggest impact yet, and we need your help. Everyone is welcome — whether you are walking alone or with your whole family from kids to grandparents, on foot or in a wheelchair, pushing a stroller or walking your dog on a leash. This is a celebration of community, advocacy, and faith in action.

How to get involved

This walkathon raises vital funds and awareness for the food centre.

Lace up your sneakers and help us turn steps into meals.

You can participate by walking, collecting pledges, or cheering us on! To register, sign up as a volunteer, or make a donation, please visit centretownchurches.org/walkathon. Donations can also be made at the registration desk on Oct. 4th or mailed to CCSAC at 507 Bank Street, Ottawa, K2P 1Z5. We can’t wait to see you, your kids, and your pups on Oct. 4!

— Doreen Barnes, Chair, Walkathon Committee

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The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak retires

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, associate incumbent of St. Margaret’s Vanier and the first Inuit priest in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, retired at the end of June.

St. Margaret’s was full for her final service on June 28 with extra chairs brought in and standing room only at the back of the church. Parishioners from both the Inuit and non-Inuit congregations as well as family and friends wanted to honour and thank her, not only for her work, care and leadership in the church, but also in the Inuit community in Ottawa.

Ottawa has the largest population of Inuit people outside of the Arctic. People often come to Ottawa for medical care, education and employment. Attagutsiak has been an important support for Inuit who often have not travelled outside the Arctic before. She visits Inuit in hospital. She helped establish an Inuit sewing group and is one of the key organizers of a large annual Inuit gathering and celebration at Christmas time when people enjoy traditional foods such as Arctic char and caribou. St. Margaret’s also hosts a community meal after Sunday services.

In her sermon, Attagutisak reflected on her faith journey. She grew up in Arctic Bay in a family of 14. They lived on the land in traditional Inuit way, hunting and fishing. She previously told *Perspective* that her mother loved going to church and all 14 children studied the Bible at Sunday School. Her older brother was a priest in Arctic Bay.

She told those gathered how others saw that God was calling her to be a priest before she did. After she moved to Ottawa in 1998, she began attending services at St. Margaret’s where the Very Rev. Roger Briggs, who had served in the



PHOTO LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Diocese of the Arctic, presided at St. Margaret’s Inuktitut-language service. She became a lay reader, and Briggs asked if she would like to train for the ministry. So did the Rev. Jason Pollick when he served at St. Margaret’s.

And when Bishop Andrew Atagotaaluk visited St. Margaret’s, he too told her he felt that she would one day become a priest. She again said no, she couldn’t. He asked why. “I thought all about the ways that I have made mistakes, so I told him, ‘I’m a sinner. You’re too late to choose me.’” But the bishop answered her, “The more you talk about yourself, about how you’re a sinner, the more I like you.”

Eventually, she came to believe that it was not the other priests calling her, it was God.

After studying with Briggs, attending annual courses at Wycliffe College in Toronto, she was ordained as a deacon in 2014 and as a priest in 2015, but even then, she struggled. When she first was appointed as a full-time priest at St. Margaret’s, the Rev. Canon Rhondda MacKay asked her if she wanted to preach the sermon on the National Indigenous Day of Prayer on June 21. She reluctantly agreed but recounted how she ended up crying in the bathroom before the service.

“I was talking to God. ‘You chose the wrong person. Why don’t you choose one of those people who know everything, who are not afraid to speak, who have wisdom about the Bible? I know nothing, Lord. Nothing. I don’t know how to speak English.’”

But she knew everyone was waiting for her, so she washed her face to hide her tears and went into the church. To her surprise, a parishioner named Derek Hamilton came and sat beside her. “He said, ‘I’m here to say, ‘Aigah, you’re in the Holy Spirit. You are with the Holy Spirit.’”

“That shocked me a little bit,” she said. “I thought to myself, ‘He doesn’t know me. I was telling God that he chose the wrong person.’” And I said, ‘Even when I try to argue, am I still in the Holy Spirit?’

“He said, ‘Yes, the first day I saw you, I saw that you were in the Holy Spirit. You’re with the Holy Spirit.... That’s all I have to say.’ And he left.

Attagutsiak said she wondered about that many times later and questioned herself, “What does that mean?” Later, the answer came to her. “I’m with God. If you don’t know anything, ask God. It says in the Bible, whenever you ask, God will give it to you.”

And indeed, Attagutsiak went on to serve God and the community faithfully and with great devotion. In 2022, then-Bishop Shane Parker appointed her to the Cathedral Canonry of Saint Mary Magdalene.

“So,” she said to everyone in the church at her retirement service, “I’m giving those words to you. ... God used Derek to speak to me, and I pass it on to you. The more we can be in the Holy Spirit to help people, to help one another... Jesus will come again.”

The emotional service included drumming by Timothy Erkloo, and ‘Amazing Grace’ sung in Inuktitut. After the Eucharist, the service ended with many tears and hugs and gifts of appreciation for Attagutsiak. Then everyone was invited into the parish hall to enjoy lunch with delicious caribou stew and cake.

CLERGY REFLECTION

Why a King?

BY THE VEN. ROB DAVIS

“My kingdom is not from this world.” said Jesus. “If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. “So you are a king!” said Pilate, clearly missing the point entirely. To be fair we ourselves, in spite of knowing how the story turns out, miss the point more often than not.

The thing is, we understand power and strength; some people or organizations have the ability to control what is done, they are able to make things happen; that is power. And we quite understand how one’s followers would fight to prevent their leader, the symbol of their power, from being

handed over to his enemies.

But we don’t understand power that refuses to act. We don’t understand a leader who has the power to destroy his enemies and yet forbids his followers to protect him and allows himself to be handed over to his enemies and killed. This doesn’t look like power to us, it looks like weakness. It looks like losing, making yourself a doormat for others to just walk right over! We miss the point.

There is a story told of an Emperor of Japan who was growing old. And it happened that there was a young ambitious prince who was sure that he could do a better job of ruling the empire, so he was plotting to assassinate the Emperor and take his place. Then, one day, the prince



The Ven. Rob Davis is a retired priest of the diocese.

was summoned to meet with the Emperor in his private garden. The prince had to surrender his swords to the emperor’s guards

as he entered the garden for his private meeting with the Emperor and he was filled with fear. Had his plot been discovered? Was the Emperor planning to execute him in the garden? But, as he entered, the Emperor greeted him warmly and suggested that they walk together. “But I am an old man,” he said, “and grow tired easily. Would you carry my swords for me as we walk?” So, they walked together, through the beauty and peace of the garden, talking as the young man carried the Emperor’s swords. And from then on, the prince became the Emperor’s most faithful supporter. Amazingly, as the Emperor used his power to put himself completely into the

► **Reflection, to page 15**

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Saint John's interior circa 1890s
Ottawa Centre Deanery

Safekeeping a
Photograph

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

Here we are inside Saint John's Church, Ottawa, built in 1860 as a chapel of ease for the parish of Christ Church, Ottawa at the corner of Sussex and George streets, facing north. It was taken over by Bishop John Travers Lewis in the 1870s and later enlarged as the Bishop's Chapel in the late Victorian period.

Its site was expropriated by the federal government, but the church happened to burn down in 1912. Consequently, the congregation of Saint John's Church amalgamated and moved in with Grace Church at the corner of Elgin and Somerset streets, where they have been ever since.

We see the interior of the Bishop's Chapel here as photographed by William James Topley in the 1890s. The Diocesan Archives acquired a copy of this image from the Topley collection at Library and Archives Canada years ago, but in 2019 as preparations began to renovate and restore 71 Bronson Avenue, an original sepia print of this photograph was discovered in a basement safe and brought by Sanjay Grover to the Archives for safekeeping.

Alas, no photograph seems to survive of the interior of this house of worship as originally built in 1860. We are standing in a later section built circa the 1890s looking north into the original part of the church. We can only guess as to the original 1860 layout. All pews in 1860, as here, may have faced north, with the altar and liturgical centre on the north wall, with the huge pointed window in the east wall bathing the interior with light. Sound confusing? Yes, but at the mother church on Sparks Street, after all, the altar was on the south wall, and the liturgical west window was on the north wall.

Or maybe not. Perhaps the Chapel of Ease already was following Tractarian ideas by placing the



DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 04 25

chancel and sanctuary on the east wall, forcing members during the service to face the blinding light coming in the huge east window. Evidence that Tractarian notions were beginning to take hold here is evident in all the exposed beams and boards of the timber ceiling.

What is remarkable about this photograph is how visually striking everything appears, aided perhaps by the photographer's flash and numerous electric lights. Our initial impression is one of bold contrasts, an impression created by the bold diagonals of the ceiling beams, the arrangement of boards in the ceiling in diamond formation, the striking band of trefoils on the upper walls, the bold band of stencils both below

the band of trefoils and above the wainscoting, and the gilded words above the chancel window "Praise God in His Holiness."

There is more than that to take in here. The eye goes on to note the pointed arches of the pew ends, the gleaming altar rail, the windows with a combination of stained and leaded glass to permit a maximum amount of light to enter the house of worship, the carved wooden panels on three sides in the chancel with painted insert panels, the prominent pulpit on the left side with the font in front of it across from the lectern on the right in front of the choir pews, with a large organ behind them, and perhaps a small choir vestry tucked in behind the

large organ pipes. The hymn boards on each side echo the main reredos of the altar. The placing of the altar as we see it here may have been due to there being two entrances to the church on the west wall, one for people coming in from Mackenzie Avenue, and the other leading in from Sussex Street.

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.

► Reflection, from page 14

power of his enemy, he transformed the enemy into friend.

And that is Jesus's point; not to crush opposition, nor to destroy those who opposed him, nor even to force compliance but simply to change hearts, to transform enemies into friends. Which should not be any surprise to us since Jesus is the incarnation of the God who said, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live!" (Ezekiel 33: 11)

Therefore, that is our point also, we who follow Jesus as our King. We simply do not get to use power in the ways that we have always considered normal and proper. Our point cannot be to destroy, not even to destroy those we consider evil in this world. Our point cannot be to force compliance, to make people be good. Who are we to do what God has refused to do?

Our point is to transform hearts, to love our enemies until they become our friends. And it will certainly take all our power and more to accomplish that. It is

much harder than our normal use of power; after all, it's not actually that difficult to compel obedience, or to destroy, is it? But to change someone's heart, to transform enemies into friends, that is hugely more difficult and takes immense strength, courage, imagination, and love; far more of all of those than we actually have, in fact.

So, we have to turn to Jesus, our King (which is really the central point in all of this!) and ask for his help. Then we find that we have all of his strength, patience, courage, and love, available to us,

and what was impossible moments before becomes now not only quite possible but even huge fun. We find, often to our surprise, that we are able to trust even the untrustworthy, able to love even the unlovable, able to follow Jesus even into the most difficult places of our lives. And, by the grace of God, sometimes we even see hearts changed, we see the love grow, and we see the Kingdom spread.

CALENDAR

Sept. 15
Together for Nature
(see article, right)

Sept. 30
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
A public commemoration is planned for Parliament Hill to honour residential school survivors, families, and children lost. Contact your local parish to ask about the ways they may be planning to mark the day locally.

Oct. 18
Journeying with Allies discusses Aglukark memoir
St. Margaret’s Vanier (205 Montreal Road) 2 pm to 4 pm
The diocesan All My Relations book group warmly invites you to read and join in Sunday afternoon discussions of books by Indigenous authors. The 2026-2027 season starts up with *Kihiani: A Memoir of Healing* by award winning Inuk musician Susan Aglukark (with Andrea Warner). Paper and audio copies are available through the public library and local bookstores; Try to read at least the first five chapters in advance. All welcome!

Oct. 22
Synod Eucharist
Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa (414 Sparks St.) 7 pm
All are welcome for the opening Eucharist service. The service will also be livestreamed.

PHOTO: LA WILLIAMS



Oct. 23-24
Diocesan Synod Meetings
St. Elias Centre (750 Ridgewood Ave., Ottawa.) 9 am to 4:30 pm (Oct. 23) 8:30 am to noon (Oct. 24)

Delegates and clergy from across the Diocese gather for a prayerful and collaborative time to reflect on shared mission and ministry. Online registration is open from Sept. 25 to Oct. 11. For more information: ottawa.anglican.ca/synod

Listening to Indigenous voices: Together for Nature tour
The All My Relations Episcopal Panel wants to draw attention to the **Together for Nature** tour, which will have an event in Ottawa on **Sept. 15**, as an opportunity to listen and learn from Indigenous artists, musicians and land protectors. There will be musical performances by renowned Inuit singer Susan Aglukark at each of the four events (Ottawa, Toronto, Kitchener and London, Ont.) In Ottawa, Juno-nominate singer-songwriter Terra Lightfoot will also perform. There will be keynote addresses from Indigenous youth-led movements Okiniwak and Here We Stand, as well as Friends of the Attawapiskat River. There will also be a screening of the short film, *Here We Stand*.

“This is just the kind of collaboration that we need to encourage,” AMR co-chair Kathryn Fournier told *Perspective*. “We can think of reconciliation as a goal that is somehow happening at some distance from our own lives.... I am more and more convinced that deep and lasting change comes when we hear stories, share in song and performance and use our creative spirits to build relationships. I hope this event will be part of that process.”
The Ottawa event will be held at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church at 7 pm. Tickets are \$30, but some aid may be available if cost is a barrier. ontarionature.org/events/together-for-nature-tour/

St Mark's Anglican Church

FALL & EARLY WINTER 2026

a weekly gathering for seniors in the community

SENIORS – COME & JOIN US

September 10 to December 17

Thursdays at 10:00 am

St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa

For more information contact: St Mark's at 613 224 7431

WE ARE BACK! THURSDAYS AT 10AM

UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

September 10	Welcome Back: an 'Ice Cream' morning with coffee, CCC goodies, and a Fun Activity
September 17	Creative Writing & Koffee Klatsch
September 24	Guest: Keith McCuaig , musician and teacher; University of Ottawa professor, presenter at international musicology conferences – blues, country and 50s/60s rock
October 1	Guest: Mary Reid of Green Thumb Garden Centre (master gardener and guest expert on CBC radio) – 'Putting Your Garden to Bed and/or Bringing Your Garden Inside'
October 8	Games & Koffee Klatsch
October 15	Guest: Alan Sandeman – 'music man about town' – singer/composer, playing in bands for over 40 years, with a repertoire of iconic songs ranging from rock to reggae
October 22	Creative Writing & Koffee Klatsch
October 29	'Hallowe'en Horror' & Hijinks !
November 5	Games & Koffee Klatsch
November 12	Post Remembrance – Honouring the Royal Canadian Legion's 100 th anniversary
November 19	Creative Writing & Koffee Klatsch
November 26	Guests: Mike Martin (<i>Sgt. Wildflower Mysteries</i>) – Volume II of the Capitol Crime Writers short story mysteries with writers Kim Blanche and Maya Valenzuela
December 3	Getting Ready for Christmas at CCC
December 10	Christmas Stories Shared
December 17	'Christmas Joy' - CCC's Traditional Singalong – led by Joy Bowerman on piano

Christmas Break until January 2027

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