

The Wardens' Wire

Issue 32 May 12 – 31, 2024

Sundays
10.30 am MORNING PRAYER

Mondays
9.30- am 12.00 noon Craft Circle
12.30-2.30 pm Friendship Circle
7.30 pm HSC choir practice

Wednesdays
2.00 pm Bible Study

Thursdays
7. pm Evening bible study

Fridays
6 – 9 pm Park Group AA

Up coming

- Vestry Meeting: Thursday May 16th 2 pm**
- Pentecost – Sunday May 26th Holy Communion**
- Book Club: Tuesday 21st 1.30**
- Evensong Monday 27th 7.30 pm**
- Bishop's Pot Luck Saturday June 1st 5 pm**
- Garage sale: Saturday June 15th 10 am-2 pm**

Each Sunday:

St Mary's Independent Church at 8.30 am
Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh at 2 pm

CIRCLE THE DATE;

Saturday June 1st – Pot Luck with the Bishop 5 – 7 PM ...Please join us... a chance to chat with Bishop Jenkins and his wife and give a warm welcome to Bishop Jenkins on his first solo Episcopal visit to St George's CANADA !

A Day to Celebrate Mothers

Jesus last words from the Cross were "Woman here is your son. Son here is your mother." John 19:26-27.

That tender comment shows His great love for both his mother, Mary, and for whom many scholars believe was his beloved disciple, John. Jesus was making tender arrangements for them before his death so he'd know they wouldn't be alone. I love knowing that Jesus was so caring about those He loved in His own final moments, so caring in fact that He was giving up His place in the family to John.

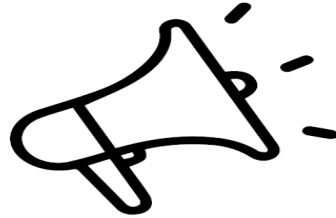
There are many mentions of mothers in the Bible. One of the things that makes me smile is the mention of Hannah making a new coat for her little Samuel every year for her visit to the temple where Samuel served Eli. I thought somewhere I had read that it was a " little blue coat" but can't find reference to that today. Perhaps it was a product of my overactive imagination.

We can all think of regrets we've had too I'm sure, like when I was ten years old and my mother spent hours on the sewing machine making me a skating skirt. I'm so afraid I didn't say thank you. It wasn't my idea of how it should look and I think my face fell from gleeful anticipation to high level disappointment. Now *there's* a moment in time I'd take back if I could! But otherwise I'm sure she knew how much I loved and appreciated her. Mothers Day brings back a knitting basket full of memories, doesn't it?

I'm happy to "rise up" and call my own mom "blessed" (Proverbs 31:28) and I think Hallmark should put that on their greeting cards. It's a good reminder of our mother's love.

Happy Mother's Day for those of you who are, and for those of you who aren't I'm as sure as I sit here that on many occasions you have mothered someone, child or adult, who needed some loving, no matter their age or stage. It's human nature to do so. I think that particular gene is a gift from Above. - Judy

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Extencicare visits. This wonderful outreach service gets better each month ! There were so many residents at the last service there wasn't room for one more. Wheelchairs, walkers, chairs, some singing, some humming, some clapping, some napping, but all enjoying it so much. Thank you to our Rev Paul and Dr William on the piano, and to Dolph for making this happen.



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Catching up with the Chat & Chew Book Club...

The Remains of The Day, by Kazuo Ishiguro, (published 1989) comes up for discussion on Tuesday, May 21 at 1:30, Parish Hall.

Some of us have read it previously and some have watched it recently on screen. And one of us has fallen asleep, (*twice!*) trying to get to the end of it. Whoever she is must be scurrying like mad through the book trying to get to the end.

It is a seemingly ("seemingly" I said) gentle story of life in a great English country house and the interactions between the servants and the landed gentry . Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson did a sterling job in the movie as servants. There are all kinds of questions to be asked about who and what are important and why.

It's not just for those who have read the book. Anything that happens at St. George's is meant for every person who wants to be there, church member, neighbours, anyone. The discussions are meaningful as are the biscuits and the teapot.

As for now I'm scurrying like mad through the book trying to get to the end.

- Judy

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WAY TO GO !!

You may have noticed that the large paper thermometer on the wall in the Parish Hall for refugee donations has reached the top. Thank you to all of you who made this possible both through both your monetary donations and your prayers. They are of equal value.

There's a lovely little story embedded in this situation. The last cheque we received was from a man who himself was a refugee from VietNam and arrived in Canada in 1984. He has made this generous outpouring of love because of his own thankfulness and because he too cares about the young man whom we haven't yet met. Life is a big circle when we are open to God's love.

The Bible verse in Ecclesiastes 11:1 about casting your bread upon the waters has truth and depth. What we put out there in love and faith *does* come back to us! - Judy

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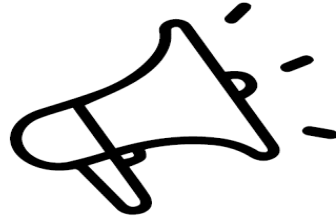
The Canticles

William Renwick

At St. George's we enjoy singing the canticles at Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. The Canticles, as presented in the Book of Common Prayer, are a heritage that can be traced back to the earliest times of the Christian Church.

The Book of Common Prayer provides for two at Morning Prayer (Te Deum and Benedictus) and two at Evening Prayer (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis). The Venite (Psalm 95), often also thought of as a Canticle, is really like an opening hymn for Morning Prayer; its liturgical place is derived from the medieval office of Matins, where the Venite is the first hymn of praise that is sung each day. Te Deum is a hymn of praise to the Almighty God, first sung by Saint Augustine and Saint Ambrose as the former came up from the water at his baptism. In medieval times it was the final chant that was sung at the end of Matins on days of celebration--Sundays and Feasts outside of Advent and Lent. The Benedictus, a New Testament Canticle, from the Gospel of Saint Luke, celebrates God's great mercy in sending to us his Only-begotten Son. In medieval times it was the culmination of the morning service of praise. The Magnificat, Mary's Song of Praise, also from the Gospel of Saint Luke, sets the tone for Evensong, as it expresses our joy in God's power and love by the incarnation of Jesus Christ. In medieval times the Magnificat was the culmination of the evening Vespers. The Nunc Dimittis, Simeon's Song, in which our confidence in God's saving action through Jesus is expressed, suitably closing our daily praise, was in medieval times sung daily at Compline, the final service of the day.

But there is more! At St. George's we have been singing the Benedicite--O all ye works of the Lord--in Advent and Lent. This canticle, from the Daniel 3 in the Apocrypha of the King James Bible (see also Psalm 148 and Psalm 136), tells of our confidence in God and our delight in his creation in spite of our hardships and sufferings; it was sung by the three boys as they endured the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar. The BCP also provides two selections from Isaiah, Cantate Domino and Surge, Illuminare. Cantate Domino is a shorter hymn of praise; Surge, Illuminare, with its proclamation, 'Thy Light is come', is especially suited to Epiphany.



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Love in abundance

We were thrilled to see Edith Smith at church last Sunday... Edith is one of those early members from St George's on Tom Street, and has kept in touch with us even though she lives some distance away. Edith brought with her a handmade dress given to her sister Margaret as a baby; this dress was made by Margaret MacLennan, wife of Donald H. MacLennan when the MacLennan's were in the Lord's service in St Johns Winona, in the 1930s. Later the Rev Mac and family were favourites at St George's Tom Street, Hamilton and their gifts of love and generosity were spread further we know, but oh how nice it is to actually see this beautiful piece of handiwork.

Fast forward to 2024.... Our dear friend Pat who lives close to Edith has just completed the signature quilt for our friend who is making his life journey to Canada from his war torn country. His parents will be so comforted to know that he will be wrapping himself in our love, thanks to Pat. He too will have a story to tell. *Alison*

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HONING IN ON HYMNS

While searching for the next hymn to highlight I am, as usual, awed, inspired and in tears reading of the marvelous men and women who have given us these beautiful words and music to live our lives by.

Horatius Bonar's story is one of many to be told. For now I will share one of his beloved hymns only....

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, Come unto Me and rest
Lay down thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad,
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, Behold I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live
I came to Jesus and I drank of that life giving stream,
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, I am this dark world's light,
Look unto Me thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my star, my sun
And in that light of life I'll walk, till traveling days are done.*

Among the early hymnists, none connected with youngsters better than Horatius Bonar. Born in Scotland in 1808 he was one of 11 children, three of whom became preachers and were part of the Great Disruption of 1843, changing the practice of worship in Scotland. Until that time only the Scottish version of psalms were sung by adults; only children were allowed to sing hymns. In those times church members stormed out when a hymn was announced, the children loved his visits to their Sunday School as he would lead them in exuberant singing.

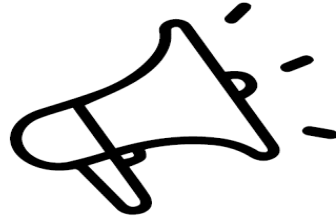
I heard the voice of Jesus say ...was written for the children of his Sunday School and based on three promises of Jesus - in Matthew 11:28, John 4:14 and John 8:12, the first half of the stanza echoes the Lord's promise, the second half, our response.

Where did his love of children come from? He and his wife had lost five children in rapid success. Later in his life a surviving Bonar daughter was widowed and returned to live with her parents. She had five young children, when writing to a friend Horatius said "God took five children from life some years ago and He has given me another five to bring up for Him in my old age." He preached for the last time when 80, His last request was that no biography be written for him; he wanted all the glory to be Christ's alone.

Horatius is buried in Canongate Cemetery, Edinburgh, alongside his family

Taken from 'Then sings my soul'.

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Jo-Anne sent this amusing poem ... 'found while sorting out the loft of a Victorian church prior to the eventual close'

The Little Church Men
 Ten little church men went to church when fine, but it started raining and then there were nine

Nine little churchmen stayed up very late, one overslept himself and then there were eight

Eight little churchmen on the road to Heaven, one joined a cycling club and then there were seven

Seven little churchmen heard of Sunday 'flicks', one thought he'd like to go and then there were six.

Six little churchmen kept the place alive, but one bought a telly, and then there were five.

Five little church seemed loyal to the core, the Vicar upset one of them and then there were four.

Four little churchmen argued heatedly over ceremonial and then there were three.

Three little churchmen sang the service through, got a hymn they didn't know and then there were two.

Two little churchmen disputed who should run the next parochial concert, then there was one.

One faithful churchman knowing what to do, got a friend Shoals and shoals at every service, cramming every

to come to church and then there were two.

Two sincere churchmen each brought in one more, so their number doubled and then there were four.

Four sturdy churchmen simply couldn't wait till they found four others and then there were eight.

Eight eager churchmen searching round for souls, praying, working, witnessing, drew others in by shoals.

Shoals and shoals at every service, cramming every pew, O God supply this grace and zeal, to our Parish too.

Catching up with The Friendship Circle...

We *do* have our fun.. Our wonderful pianist Linda was away this week so we improvised with a Bose speaker and Spotify. It's not our fault that the only good rendition we could find so we could sing along to 'In The Garden' was Elvis. Yes. *That* Elvis. He did a fine job of it and so did we. And then we sang with Amy Grant for Pam's favourite, which we have happily adopted, 'Thy Word.' The Cambridge Singers got in there too for the next hymn The King of Love my Shepherd is, just now and then Dora's favourite, 'It Is Well' sung beautifully by The Celebration Choir.

We had a jumbled word quiz. There will be a fight next word game to see who gets Sandra on their team. I'll leave you to figure out why.

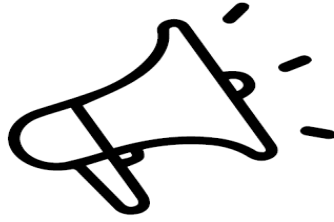
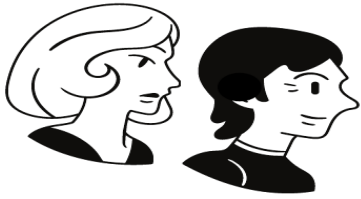
We talked about a quote from one of my favourite books. 'Women Rowing North' was written by Mary Pipher, a writer in Wisconsin who deals with all forms of human things but the question from her book we asked ourselves this week was Ms. Pipher's challenge about our willingness to either fossilize or transfigure. Are we willing to take another look at what we've held onto for years regarding our ideas about people, place, cultures, things we'd like to try, things we're afraid to try? Bev gets off the hook on this one. She's the only one I know who went up in a hot air balloon.

We miss you when you can't come. Anyone and everyone can come. And tea and biscuits. There's always *that*. James is the constant male presence although we hooked Keith in a couple of weeks ago. As you know it was originally designed to bring in the neighbourhood but that never happened. God has His own plans. We just keep going where He leads.

Join us Mondays from 12.30-2.30 Judy

June 15th -- garage, bake, book, BBQ ...everyone welcome, tell your friends and neighbours ... bring goods to be contributed to the church over the next few weeks, will be stored in the lower level until the day.... (not the baked goods though...we need those fresh !)

JPS./AB 32



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