

The Wardens' Wire

ISSUE # 45 DECEMBER 15 2024
- JANUARY 1ST 2025

Sunday Dec 15th ADVENT III

8.30 am St Mary's Church service
10.30 am St George's Morning Prayer
2.30 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lang service

Wednesday Dec 18th

1.30 pm Bible Study

Wednesday December 18th

7 pm Caroling with the HSC
at Extencicare *please join them
if you are able*

Thursday December 19th

2.00 pm Extencicare service

Friday December 20th

6 pm Park Group AA

Sunday December 22nd ADVENT IV

**10.30 am CHRISTMAS LESSONS &
CAROLS**

Tuesday December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

**7 PM EUCHARIST with ST MARYS
INDEPENDENT ANGLICAN .**

Wednesday December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30 AM HOLY COMMUNION

Friday December 27th Prof Rev W Renwick &
Rev Brandon Wild

Observation of the Liturgical hours of the day
according to the Use of Sarum, commencing 7
am with Communion at 10.30 and completion at
3 pm. – *all welcome to attend at any hour*

Sunday December 29th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

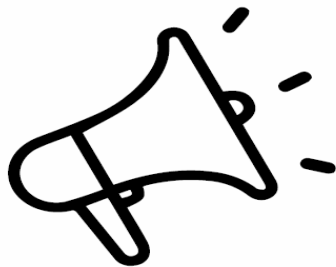
**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ARE SENT TO
YOU, OUR READERS, FROM YOUR
WARDENS, JUDY & ALISON. YOUR
COMMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE
MADE THIS A LABOUR OF LOVE FOR US
BOTH, AND WE ARE BUOYED TO
CONTINUE BRINGING YOU OUR MESSAGE
INTO 2025. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
ALWAYS WELCOMED.**

The Friendship Circle

We've had two wonderful meetings this month.
Two weeks ago there were thirty of us with many
thanks to Arpine for inviting her friends from a
group that folded during the pandemic. We enjoyed
fellowship, festive treats and singing, with many
thanks to Linda at the piano. Joyce Shanlin spoke
for a few minutes about her childhood at St.
Margaret's and her adulthood at St. George's,
which in modern terms makes Joyce a hybrid
model. As always, Joyce's talk was short, sweet
and full of Grace. We hope our new friends will
return.

Many thanks to Louise Powell for the fun we had
this past week. Louise, a Florist by profession,
taught us how to arrange our own Christmas
displays with cedar, pine boughs, ribbons, pine
cones. We might have been her worst nightmare
but we sure had fun. Thank you Louise. We thought
your Helper did a great job too. Bet you'd love to do
that again at Easter with us.

We will take a little break and resume on
Monday, Jan. 13th from 12:30-2:30. Let's each
bring a piece of poetry to share and a New Years'
Resolution. Thanks for being YOU! - Judy



The Wardens' Wire

If you are thinking about the cold winter evenings and wonder what you can do after the busy Christmas season this may be for you

REFORMATION HISTORY COURSE



Starting in January 2025 join online to learn about the Reformation.

Learn about:

- The People: Martin Luther, John Calvin, Henry VIII, Thomas Cranmer, and many others.
- The Issues: indulgences, King Henry's divorce, influence of printing, Luther and the Jews, the Bible in English.
- The Consequences: rise of capitalism, different denominations, the modern nation state, and much else.

When: Starting Tuesday, 7 January, 2025, 7-8 p.m.

How: By zoom from the comfort of your own home!

Email Tom Power for the zoom link:

thomppower@gmail.com

Cost: Zero!

No prior knowledge necessary.

No preparation necessary.

Bring your questions.

Invite your friends.

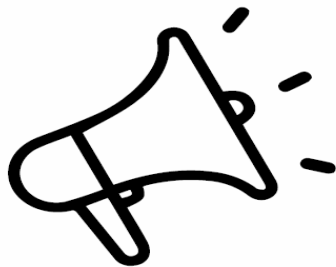
Hosted by Tom Power

Refugee Sponsorship Update

You will, no doubt, be anxious to hear what is happening with our sponsorship project. We were excited to hear from Mrs Filomena Tassi MPP, that their office has an inside track to the goings-on of the IRCC and Canadian Embassy around the world. They were able to tell us that our refugee who is waiting very patiently on the other side of the world for entry to Canada is definitely on the 'Active' list, and apparently waiting along with numerous others for the call to attend his interview. Knowing that it shouldn't be long now before he gets called is reassuring to us. He really is in a desperate situation, hardly going outside the door for fear of being taken in for questioning, even though he has papers to say he has sanction there. Please pray for his safe keeping while he awaits the call. The funds are waiting, the quilt is ready, the plans for a welcome party are in hand, let's keep him and his sister and niece in our thoughts as they wait for Helen's wish to come true. We have dipped in to the sponsorship fund to provide his sister with a small amount of money to help him while he is in hiding so that he can buy food, and continue to take lessons to improve his English. This is possible because of your very generous monetary support of this project over the past year. The Refugee Sponsorship Envelopes are again in the pews this Christmas season for your consideration. Thank you.

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**SENDING A MESSAGE OF HOPE, PEACE, LOVE,
AND JOY TO ALL OUR REFORMED EPISCOPAL
MEMBERS AROUND THE GLOBE, AND CLOSER
TO HOME THOSE WHO CARE FOR US, AND WE
FOR THEM....**



The Wardens' Wire

Fun thinkingthanks Linda

- What did Snow White say when she came out of the photo booth? Someday my prints will come.
- A girl said she recognized me from her vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Short.
- I've finally told my suitcases there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with the emotional baggage.
- If you're not supposed to eat at night, why is there a light bulb in the refrigerator?

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Book Club

We are happy to tell you that our book club has a new name in honour of our Marlene Power. Marlene was a church member, a dear friend to all of us, and among many other things organized the library book kits pick-up and returns for us. Although she was unable to attend the discussions in person she did so by speaker phone and always added her wisdom to the conversation. Many of you know that Marlene was also the Librarian at Redeemer University.

We are very saddened by her recent passing and are pleased that book club member Richard Van Holst suggested the fine idea of having our book club renamed The BiblioMPower Book Club. Books do empower us so it's a perfect fit. We give thanks for Marlene's life and strong witness to her Christian faith.

The next BiblioMPower session will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 1:30-3:00 in the Parish Hall. The book under discussion will be 'Outspoken', by Dr. Sima Samar, the Afghan politician who fled Afghanistan for her safety. She is currently a Visiting Scholar at Tufts University in New York state. The session will be led by Tom Power who has coordinated our efforts to bring our young man out of Afghanistan to Hamilton. You are welcome to come even if you don't come regularly. The church has several copies of the book and you might like to read it yourself.

Thank you Richard for your fine suggestion. - Judy

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Thank you to Melanie Harrold for again setting up the Christmas Tree for donations to the Streetlight Church. After two weeks the goods were sent off to Streetlight just in time for the cold winter weather. Now two weeks later it is adorned again with hats, scarves, mitts, socks, etc. What a wonderful way to show our love for those who have less than us. Thank you to the crafters for their beautiful work. Alison

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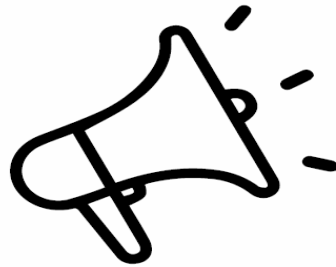
Many of us enjoyed another beautiful Evensong, led by Prof Renwick on December 2nd, with the Hamilton Schola Cantorum using their talents to bring us peace at the end of a busy day. If you are able to come out on a cold winter evening you will be happy you did....watch for the next Evensong. We are so fortunate to have these talented people in our midst. Alison

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CHURCH GATHERING

Thank you to Tom Power for organizing the Saturday morning get together so we could brainstorm on the present and future of St Georges. There were 20 people in attendance who participated and came away reminded of all the strengths of the church, and the need to look for opportunities to do better. The steering committee will review the points and come up with goals that we can achieve. A report will be available at the Annual General Meeting – in March. Thanks to Tina and family for providing the refreshments and the lunch for all in attendance.

CHRISTMAS POT LUCK .



The Wardens' Wire

If you were not at St George's on Saturday December 7th you missed a wonderful evening. Remind me not to get stressed before 'pot lucks' wondering if there will be enough food for everyone.! Thank you to all who brought platters, crockpots, bowls, filled to the brim. There was such a variety of food, one really had to go to the buffet at least three times to check everything out ! Having over 50 people in attendance certainly let the neighbours know there was good stuff going on in that hall. The evening finished with a bit of singing, thanks to Linda M for her piano accompaniment. Thanks to Louise for the beautiful table decorations, and to Sandra for decorating the hall, and to Pam and Michael for setting up the tables, dishes, etc. and to all those who helped in the kitchen getting everything on to the dining buffet in a timely manner, and to all those very helpful people who stacked, rinsed, cleaned and put away everythingready for Sunday morning.

Alison

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CAROLS DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE?

If you've ever wondered when Christmas carols first came about, the answer lies in the 14th century – although their evolution dates back even further. Even before Christianity, it is thought that midwinter songs existed to keep up people's spirits, along with dances, plays and feasts. Christianity spread across Europe from the fourth to the 14th centuries, and the first carols were produced by Franciscan friars who were followers of Saint Francis of Assisi. These took the form of a dance in a circle with linked hands and everybody singing the song. Huge numbers of Christmas carols survive from the 15th century, making it the best-preserved aspect of English medieval music.

Not every well-known carol has English roots. In particular, 'Away in a Manger' first appeared in a number of American magazines in the 1880s. Intriguingly, the anonymous donor who sent it to them claimed it was a 16th-century German lullaby – but Hutton is not convinced. 'The anonymous donor credited it to Martin Luther the great German

reformer,' he says. 'Experts in Luther are convinced this cannot be possible. So it's almost certainly a fake in that sense, written by clearly quite a brilliant American in the late 19th century who chose to conceal her or his identity. It is the tenderest of all our carols. And it was called "Luther's Cradle Song" for decades.

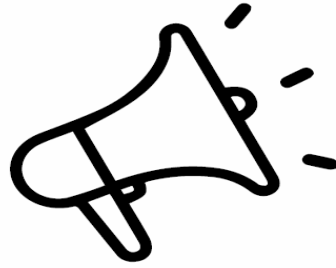
Another carol that has gone through various iterations over the years is 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. The lyric was originally written by Charles Wesley (1707–88) who, with his brother John, founded the Christian denomination of Methodism.

'The original first two lines are, "Hark how all the welkin rings, Glorious the king of kings." And quite obviously, this is pretty obscure,' says Hutton. 'Even in the early 18th century, "welkin" was a rather old-fashioned way of saying heaven or sky. And so quietly and tactfully, the Methodist preacher George Whitefield tidied the thing up and, in 1754, [added] the two opening lines that have remained ever since.' However, the carol didn't get the tune we know today until the composer Felix Mendelssohn (pictured) wrote it in 1840. More recently, a descant) was added in the 1960s.

But the carol with the most complicated history is 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. It can be traced back to a Latin version, 'Adeste Fideles', which is known to have existed as far back as 1640 – and may go back even further. Apparently there are a whole range of candidates to whom the lyrics could be attributed . It may have been the musical king of Portugal in the mid-17th century, John IV, or Cistercian monks and English composers.. We just don't know.' Further complicating matters is that the standard version we now use was put together by John Francis Wade (1711–86), a Jacobite.

TAKEN FROM INTERNET SOURCESalison

It all began with the Magi and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Christ Child.



The Wardens' Wire

If I could take back one moment of time it would be the Christmas when my mother knocked herself sideways to surprise me.

There was certainly no money for gold or myrrh back in the 1950s. But there was a strong societal will to make Christmas feel like, well, Christmas.

The focus for many was based on the real meaning of Christmas, on the knowledge that a child, God's child in fact, had entered the world as His long promised gift to humankind. This was a child who would carve a new path, who would teach forgiveness and a new brand of love that was unconditional, a child who would forge ahead with His politically charged incorrectness and then ask us to follow Him all the days of our lives.

In the 1950s there were no fibre-optic Christmas trees, no shopping malls with crammed car parks, no flyers for plastic wares engendered by greed.

There was love enough though, love enough to make my own mom sit at her Singer treadle sewing machine for hours creating gifts.

I wanted a skating skirt for Christmas when I was ten years old. It couldn't be any old style. Ten year old girls know exactly how things should be. I wanted a skating skirt just like Margaret's.

I described it to my mom.

"Short. Just to my hips. In navy and green tartan like Margaret's. With pleats so that when I twirl on the ice they'll flip inside out in the breeze."

Somewhere in my excited description I missed the maternal "that won't be happening part" in her eyes.

In those days I spent every Saturday winter afternoon at the arena with my cousins and my sister. We were crazy about looking tricky on the ice. We did figure eights, we shot the duck, and we tried axels but only the girls who took lessons were any good at those things. Only girls like Margaret.

I thought about how lovely it would be, how much better I'd feel after Christmas when I'd show up at the arena wearing my own pleated little number, and how it would flip when I twirled, shoot out behind me when I flew past the other skaters.

Christmas morning came. It lay under the tree. My mom had wrapped it in a grey Eatons' dress box.

It was such exquisite pain, the idea of joining the glamorous Margaret in joyful pursuit across the frozen surface of the Preston arena, that place where all that was worthy unfolded in my ten-year-old life.

I picked off the tape from the sides of the box.

Layer after layer of white tissue paper flew into the air as if it were cold to the touch as I tossed it aside to get to the bottom.

And then, the bottom. And, the skirt.

It bore no similarity to the skirt of my dreams. It was long, below the knee, made of turquoise felt, the original poodle skirt. Gored. Full. Swingy.

Not. At. All. Like. Margaret's.

My mom had painstakingly cut out dozens of felt flowers and glued a garden of botanicals around the hem. Roses bloomed beside daffodils. Violets and pansies, tulips and zinnias grew together regardless of season. Red. Yellow. Orange. Pink. Mauve.

It was all there for the whole arena world to see.

I'm hoping that my expression didn't crash like a figure eight gone wrong.

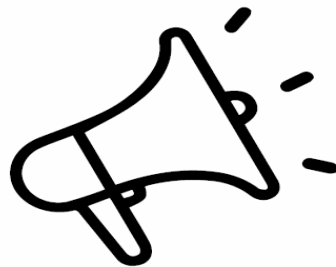
"I hope you like it," she said. "It took me weeks!"

I'd love to think that I kissed her, told her how beautiful it was and how much I fake-loved it but I'm betting jingle bells to mistletoe that I did not.

My mom had the gift-giving part right. I was the one who had it backwards, upside down and inside out despite the Christmas story I'd been taught since birth.

Gifts given in love reflect the trouble it takes to get to their destination, the honouring of the recipient, the adoring with which they are given, just like the Magi's gifts to The Christ Child.

And the layers and layers of love with which they are swaddled.-Judy



The Wardens' Wire

Since we sang this hymn a few weeks it has been going around in mind. I have listened to it on Youtube and heard another Schola Cantorum of St Peter's in the Loop, Chicago sing it beautifully, perhaps our own Hamilton Schola Cantorum will sing itbut the people of St George's did a fine job too... I hope we sing it again soon ! The words are magnificent and powerful. Imagine my surprise when I found the author lived in Canada and is buried in Toronto !

THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING JAMES Lewis Milligan 1876-1961

*There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord, our God, may go !*

*O Christians, you bring good tidings;
get up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flow'rs of the field they perish;
like grass our works decay.
The pow'r and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.*

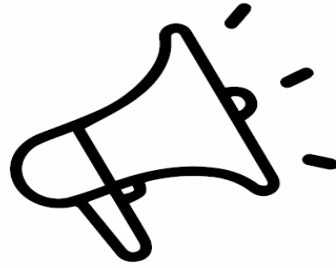
*But the Word of our God is eternal;
the arm of our God is strong.
He stands in the midst of the nations,
and he shall right the wrong.
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
the lambs shall gently hold,
to pastures of peace shall lead them,
and bring them to his fold.*

James Lewis Milligan was born in Liverpool England February 1, 1876. The son of Anglican parents his early and only formal education was obtained at Anglican schools. Going to work in the building trades at the age of 12 he applied himself to self study and soon began contributing to London papers. In 1910 a collection of his verse was published resulting in him receiving the Hemans Prize for Lyrical Poetry. The next year with his family he emigrated to Canada. He became a pastor on the Methodist circuit in Hastings Count, Ontario. Several of his writings and verse were published and he was an editor with the Peterborough Review. After World War I he wrote for The Globe. He died at age 85 in 1962 and is buried in St James Cemetery in Toronto.

Alison

My "morning window music" continues. I've switched it up a bit considering that we're in Advent. So now in the mornings rather than hearing Mendelssohn's Psalm 42 those students and dog-walkers who bustle past my front window hear music from The Messiah. I turn it up loud enough for them to hear it. The woman down the street called to me this past week. She had her dog with her and she threw her arms up in the air and said "I love this! It makes me happy!" I replied that I hoped it wasn't annoying anybody . She replied with "Who could possibly be annoyed with this? It is Celestial!" – Judy

JPS/AB 45



The Wardens' Wire