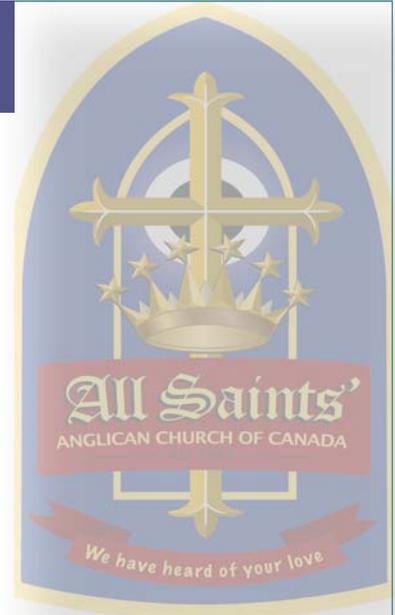


Saints Alive!

Editor:
A. Ralph

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Issue No.3



New Beginnings, New Family

Spring is a time of new beginnings. For me, this has been especially true. I started out in my ministry as a deacon and joined the All Saints Whitby family! And that is really what our church is—a community of people learning together what it means to follow Jesus. This community—the Church, which is the Body of Christ—is so different from any other kind of community. Some of us belong to various kinds of clubs and committees, but when we gather together as disciples to worship, something very special is happening. In just my first few weeks amongst you, I can see what a wonderful, caring, and committed community you have created here. Wow! And I wonder what new thing God has in store for us as we move forward in faith? I love the prophet Isaiah's words: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* (Is. 43:19) While our amazing Church is built on a great tradition, we worship a creative and living God who longs to invite all people into his life-giving community. I can't wait to see what new things he has in our store for our family of faith in the months ahead.

~ Molly Finlay

EDITOR'S VIEW: Choice of Words

There's a particular word that gets used a lot these days in churchland communications and it has been driving me crazy. It's the word *context*, as in "Tell me a bit about your ministry context" or "Will this make sense in the context of your church?" I have even heard someone say, "Why don't I come and observe you in your everyday context?" I wasn't even sure what that meant but it made me think of zoo animals.

Context has become largely meaningless by its overuse. It's the consultant's go-to word for what my Haligonian landlady simply called, "where you're at."

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DON'T MISS ...

- June 21: Legacy Giving Workshop
- June 24: Men's Breakfast
- June 25: Church Picnic & Bursary Presentation
- June 28: Walking and the Word #1

All Saints Anglican Church
www.allsaintswhitby.org





INCUMBENT'S MESSAGE

Belong. This is a powerful word. Maybe one of the most powerful. All people long to be in relationship with others, to be part of the group. Providing people with a real sense of belonging is one of the greatest gifts the Church has to offer.

But this sense of belonging is not just sociological and psychological; it is theological. In fact, I think belonging is one of the key concepts of Christian teaching. When someone is baptized into the fellowship of the Church, the person doing the baptizing makes an amazing declaration: "I sign you with the cross,

and mark you as Christ's own forever."

In other words, those who are baptized belong to Christ, and they belong to him forever in a bond of relationship that nothing, not even death, can break. It is the deepest kind of belonging we can imagine. We belong to God forever.

This is why helping people experience this belonging is essential to the ministry of our parish. God planted us in Whitby a century and a half ago to draw people into relationship with God. And so, how we welcome people and incorporate them into the life of the parish — how we help them belong and help them *know* that they belong — is critical.

What will you do to help people feel included at All Saints? What will you do to let them know they matter to us and to God? What will you do to engage in God's profound mission of belonging?

~ Stephen+

"helping people experience this belonging is essential to the ministry of our parish"

Prayer for Pentecost

For the Spirit of Peace
that calms our mind
and stills our life,
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Love
that touches hearts
and reaches out,
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy
that lifts our soul
and gives us faith
we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Power,
that gift of grace
for this your church,
we give you thanks.

www.faithandworship.com

PRAYER CYCLES & INTERCESSIONS

There are many resources out there to expand the breadth of your personal intercessions. Following the well-known *Anglican Cycle of Prayer*, you could pray every day for a year for a different bishop and diocese of the Anglican Communion. There's also the *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer* in which we pray for our sister parishes in the Diocese; the *Diocesan Social Justice & Advocacy Cycle of Prayer*, through which we give thanks for the good news of Anglicans reaching out to people in need; and the *Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer*, weekly biddings that include our Lutheran communion partners. At All Saints, in weekly worship we pray for members of our

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Confirmation
~ *Class of 2017*

PHOTO CREDIT: TIM RALPH

The Biblio-File

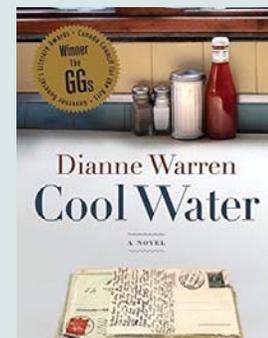
Cool Water
Dianne Warren (2010)

Juliet, Saskatchewan, is a blink-of-an-eye kind of town—the welcome sign announces a population of 1,011 people—and it’s easy to imagine that nothing happens on its hot and dusty streets. Situated on the edge of the Little Snake sand hills, Juliet and its inhabitants are caught in limbo between a century-old promise of prosperity and whatever lies ahead.

But the heart of the town beats in the rich and overlapping stories of its people: the foundling who now owns the farm his adoptive family left him; the pregnant teenager and her mother, planning a fairytale wedding; a shy couple, well beyond middle age, struggling with the recognition of their feelings for one another; a camel named Antoinette; and the ubiquitous wind and sand that forever shift the landscape....

This wonderfully entertaining, witty and deeply felt novel brims with forgiveness as its flawed people stumble towards the future.

~ Review courtesy of
HarperCollinsCanada



Could you make such a leap of faith?

In Canada, the journey began about 18 months ago.

In Syria, the journey began nearly 5 years ago in August 2012 when Mohammad and Ahlam made the decision to leave behind their home, their culture, and their community, to seek a better life for their children somewhere else in the world.

As our Canadian group, known as ROAD, started to think about what and who we would support, we knew only that it would be a family from the Middle East in greatest need. What size family? What training? What education? How much English? So many questions that could not be answered until we were matched with a family, and so many more questions that would not and could not be answered until they arrived. So we learned about sponsorship in general, we talked to other sponsorship groups in the area, we talked to the Welcome Centre and we made some general plans and lists of what we would do “when the time came.”

On the other side of the ocean, now living in a camp in Turkey, the family is given the chance to come to Canada. They are told that Canada is always cold and so they bring only heavy clothing. They are told they won’t be able to find the food and spices they like in Canada and so they fill their suitcases with favourite foods and flavours. They are told nothing about their sponsorship group, only that they have been accepted to come to Toronto.

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Prayer Cycles & Intercessions *continued from p. 2*

Parish family in our intercessions. We also have healing prayers and anointing with oil, a small but mighty urgent-need prayer chain, and a quietly steady prayer group for long-term care needs.

Prayer is God's love action. It is what Christ calls us to do. And our human family is large with many who need to be upheld in times of illness and despair and many for whom we should give thanks to God. Consider looking at prayer cycle resources and our parish prayer ministries and folding even more of your brothers and sisters into your personal prayers and the love of Christ.

~ Staff Writer



On July 22nd, 2017, a group of cyclists will be meeting in Innisfil, Ontario for a day of two-wheeled fun and fellowship. Many Anglicans will recognize the name of this event name — Anglican Cycle of Prayer — as a reference to the well-known prayer cycle that is part of our regular worship.

All levels of riders inside and outside the church are welcome. You may ride your bicycle prayerfully or playfully, have a relaxing ride chatting with friends old and new, or take an opportunity to push your body beyond your expectations. It is up to you how and why you ride.

The plan is for a shorter ride of 17 km and longer ride of 100 km on paved roads with only a few gentle hills. We may add a middle distance ride on bike paths if there is enough interest. Rides will begin and end at St. Andrew's By The Lake, 3833 Stone Gate Place, Innisfil, ON L9S 2V7.

Cost is \$60 per adult with proceeds going to PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund). Lunch will be provided and there will be opportunities to swim after the ride.

Please note:

- ▶ Rides leave on time. Start times TBD.
- ▶ Bicycles need to be in good working condition.
- ▶ All participants must sign a waiver.
- ▶ Helmets are mandatory.
- ▶ Please bring sufficient water bottles.
- ▶ Obey all traffic signs.
- ▶ No riders will be left behind.

To register or learn more, contact me at prayer.bike.ride@gmail.com or 647-518-1575.

~ Jana Shaw

Leap of Faith *continued from p. 3*

After almost two days of travel, they arrive at the airport to be greeted by a small group with a translator, with their names in Arabic, with backpacks for each of the kids, with temporary accommodation filled with pots, pans, dishes, glasses, food supplies, toiletries, all the things they need to begin.

When they are taken to the grocery store they are very happy to find many things they thought they would not see again. When they tell us that they did not bring any summer clothing, donations arrive from all five ROAD parishes.

In these early days, we sit down to talk (always with the help of a translator or a translation app on the cellphone) about who we are and our role in their lives for

the next 12 months. About the financial, emotional and personal support we will provide. They ask about schools for their kids and about college for their oldest son. They ask about jobs and their desire to learn English so they can be successful in Canada.

And so we discover across the miles and across the language barrier, different faith but same values ... faith, family, education, peace and opportunity.

They began the journey in faith that this life would be better than the one they left behind. We walk in faith together believing that it will be so. Inshallah .

~Lee Carter

Notes & Queries: On Confirmation

This spring, our congregation was blessed to celebrate a Confirmation service led by Archbishop Colin Johnson. After the service, while chatting with my little band of Anglican history buffs (and enjoying some lovely leftover cucumber sandwiches), it occurred to us that we were foggy on the deeper roots of this church rite called Confirmation.

Thereafter, ensconced in my liturgical library, I pulled out my earliest research and writings on Confirmation in order to fill in the blanks on why we, as Anglicans, use this ancient rite of spiritual passage. I include my findings here for those who might also enjoy a brief refresher.

In the ancient church, Christians would confirm or “seal the Holy Spirit” upon a person directly after the sacrament of Baptism. Indeed, the act of Baptism was not complete until the sealing the Holy Spirit upon the newly Baptized happened.

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WHO'S in the PEWS

Isabel Etherden

I've been at all Saints since May 2015.

Once upon a time we had a Bishop and his wife from Japan stay with us in the rectory in Burlington.



I find a lot of joy in sharing time with our family.

It's not fashionable but I like to listen to classical music when I am baking.

If my life was a book, the title would be *Verna Vacuum and Nelly Neat.*

I came to All Saints because it was Christmas Eve and we were in Whitby for dinner.

The things I love about All Saints are the service, the sermons and that everyone is friendly.

Liz Leishman

I've been at All Saints technically since 1979, with periodic return visits while I lived in Toronto. I've been attending regularly since about 2013.

Once upon a time I was face-to-face with Pierce Brosnan and had no idea. The same was with Gord Downey. If I don't immediately recognize you, don't take it personally.

I find a lot of joy in nature, decorating, baking, cleaning, but most of all spending time with Rich and Evelyn.

It's not fashionable but I love to be in my pyjamas as soon as I get home from work. All Saints should have a pyjama day!



If my life was a book, the title would be *I Have An Idea...*

I came to All Saints' because I have roots here. It is where I grew up. I was confirmed at All Saints'. It's where my parents and family still attend. I have many fond memories here. It feels like home. I want Evelyn to have the same experience as I have.

One thing I love about All Saints' is the memories it holds (and Fr. Stephen, but that is two things.)

Your Name Here

Take the WHO'S in the PEWS challenge yourself. Voluntarily answer the questionnaire and send it with a selfie to editorsaintsalive@gmail.com

(We know you're out there with stories to share.)

I've been at all Saints since ...

Once upon a time I ...

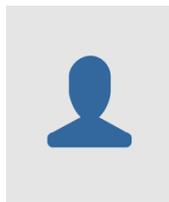
I find a lot of joy in ...

It's not fashionable but ...

If my life was a book, the title would be ...

I came to All Saints because ...

One thing I love about All Saints is ...



Q: How does Moses make coffee?

A: Hebrews it.

Choice of Words *continued from p. 1*

I was going to rant some more about this, when I discovered that Father Stephen's message (pg. 2) also focused on words, or rather one single word: *belong*. It's a good word, so different from *join* or *attend*. It's richer, more edifying, and seems full of love.

Somehow, *belong* was an antidote to my crabby ruminations about meaningless and overused terminology.

But, let me say this: when we use hollow buzzwords like *context*, we are actually shying away from saying exactly "where we're at." We end up saying nothing precisely about who we are. Or worse, we get stuck on naming our values and characteristics—we have a *vision*; we are *welcoming*—and don't get around to actually demonstrating them.

The articles in this issue all speak to forms of community, fellowship, and family, and they are essentially all invitations to belong. The activities we pursue within our community, the ways we act towards each other, these convey a message about us that is loud, clear, and concise. They illustrate our identity above and beyond our context.

Frankly, no one wants to join a *context*, but everyone wants to belong. Even the most introverted among us want the opportunity to do something alongside other people – whether it's walk or cycle, preach, or teach, or be confirmed. And we all want to see and feel the benefit of that belonging and know that it is true and durable.



American psychiatrist Scott Peck, an expert on intentional community, describes the achievement of true community as "transforming," a stage of celebration or 'glory' [that] reflects a deep yearning in every human soul for compassionate understanding from one's fellows." Or, like Molly says in her article (p.1), when we gather together "something very special is happening." True community.

That's a context I can get into.

That's belonging.

~ Arlene Ralph

If you are interested in other terms that are getting overused in churchland communications, you should read this clever post by Mark MacDonald on 10 words/concepts that churches should stop using. See www.sundaymag.tv/10-words-concepts-churches-overuse-communications/. Some are obvious; others may surprise you. I had a few cringey moments as I saw some of my own bad choices on the list. Spoiler: "context" did not make the top ten. It must be #11 . :)

On Confirmation *continued from p. 5*

The rite (not a sacrament) tracks back to the early acts of the apostles:

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Over time, we know that the two acts were separated, as Confirmation (or “Chrismation” as our Roman brethren call it) became reserved for those in early adolescence, having achieved an age of “reason.” Many compare this act of reaffirmation of faith to the Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the Judaic tradition, so it is interesting to note that the reformed traditions of the Jewish community have now adopted a Confirmation of their own after the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

The confirmation rite allows an individual to take on the promises made by his or her sponsors during Baptism. It is today also an opportunity for a young or a new Anglican to join the greater community of church (as represented by the Bishop), to reaffirm the power of the Holy Spirit and to proclaim the intention to live a life of discipleship through the laying on of hands as was done at All Saints this month, and so many centuries ago by Peter and John in that beautiful, mountainous land in northern Israel that we now call the West Bank.

~ Bertie Weatherbottom

NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS

Summer Offertory: A reminder that the operating expenses of the church don't take a summer vacation. If you are an envelope user, keep up your financial gifts, even if you are away.

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Walking and the Word: For a lovely combination of outdoor activity, fellowship, and Biblical study, join fellow parishioners

for directed 40-minute walks on Wednesday evenings (at 6:45pm on June 28, July 12, July 26 & August 9). It is not necessary to attend every session. Contact Jacky Bramma if you wish to participate.

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Church School Help: There is in an urgent need of volunteers to provide Sunday instruction to our young members. Chat with Kelly Reeves to learn more about what's involved.

Dry Bones SUNDAY SCHOOL



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Contact: editorsaintsalive@gmail.com

**The next issue will be available in mid-September.
The deadline for comments or submissions is
September 10, 2017.**