



NIAGARA ANGLICAN

A Gathering Place and a Sounding Board for the People of the Diocese of Niagara – Since 1955

DECEMBER 2016



“God is pleased with you ... You will have a son ... His name will be Jesus,” An angel said to Mary.

Hush Little Boy

Rebecca Clifford

Hush little boy, I'll warm Your bed
A downy pillow for Your head.
So soft and gentle Your place in the hay-
And so I'd wish Your life to be.

Hang young man, upon Your cross-
The price of salvation, a princely cost.
So hard and cruel is the death You are given
To regain God's right hand, Your seat in heaven.

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Gift of Love

Monoprint, composite image
©Rob Roi. Used with Permission

Community and church

Grace Church Milton reaches out to the community in local forum.

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A Christmas message

Bishop Michael brings his greetings for the Christmas season.

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Encounter with a twist

Doug Crosbie tells the story of an encounter that must have been divinely destined.

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Two languages, one act of worship

The combination of both the English and Sinhala languages added an extra dimension to a remarkable worship service on Thanksgiving Sunday (October 9) at All Saints Dain City (Welland).

The exciting celebration, conducted by Rector Nirmal Mendis also included the baptism of Liara Rosy, the infant girl of a young Srilankan family from Brampton.

Nirmal is the godfather of Liara Rosey's grandfather and baptized her grandmother when he served in Srilanka. Now he has had the privilege of baptizing Liara Rosey during that very special Thanksgiving.

Over 65 visitors from the Srilankan Canadian community in the Greater Toronto Area attended, which increased the congregation to 107 and packed the church. In addition to Anglicans, Roman Catholics and others belonging to various Christian denominations, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims were present as well. "They all were friends and relatives of the baptismal party," commented Nirmal.



THE LORDS PRAYER	සර්වමයන් උපදෙස්
Our Father, who art in heaven	අප්පාත පියා ඔබේ අපාසු සොයා.
hallowed be thy name,	ඔබේ නමට සෙසුම වේවා.
thy kingdom come,	ඔබේ රාජ්‍යය එළඹ.
thy will be done, on earth	ඔබේ කැපවීම පවත්වාගන්න එළඹ
as it is in heaven.	සර්වමයන්ගේ මග පෙන්ව.
Give us this day our daily bread,	අපේ දිනපතා කාන්සා අපට පාලන වෙත.
And forgive us our trespasses, as	අපේ වැරදි මගේ අපරාධ අපට මගේ සල්ලාසි
we forgive those who trespass	අපේ කල්පිත වැරදි මගේ වැරදි
against us.	
And lead us not into temptation,	අප ඔබේ උදාසීනතාවයට.
nor deliver us from evil.	අපේ වැරදි මගේ වැරදි.
For thine is the kingdom,	ඔබේ රාජ්‍යය ඔබේය.
the power, and the glory,	ඔබේය, ඔබේය.
for ever and ever. Amen.	අප්පාත ඔබ ඔබේ සැලසුම අපේ

The congregation of All Saints Dain City extended excellent "language hospitality" to the visitors.

The Gospel was chanted in Sinhala. Music director Dianne Williams and the choir made a special effort to learn and sing

Top left: Assisted by Deacon George Henry, the Reverend Nirmal Mendis baptized Liara Rosey in Canada. Years earlier he had baptized her grandmother when he served in Srilanka. Photos from Liara Rosey's family

Left: The Lord's Prayer was prayed in English and Sinhala.

Above: The parents and sponsors present Liara Rosey for baptism in an exciting Thanksgiving worship at All Saints Dain City (Welland).

the responses to the gospel in Sinhala. They also learned the tune and words (which was more challenging) of the offertory hymn—Ronata Wadina—written by a very popular Srilankan song writer who is a Roman Catholic priest. Parts of the Eucharistic prayer were also done in Sinhala. "Our visitors were so pleased," concluded Nirmal, "that they

made a request to All Saints before they left us. They wanted to know whether All Saints would consider hosting a Sinhala service for them at least twice each year."

Contributed by the Reverend Nirmal Mendis, Rector of All Saints Dain City (Welland). nirmalmendis@hotmail.com

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 4:30 p.m. • Family-Friendly Communion Service
 9:00 p.m. • Candlelight Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day & New Year's Day
 9:00 a.m. Traditional Eucharist with Hymns

Mary's greatest treasure

REBECCA CLIFFORD

In this rude cave, cold beyond measure
 Your life on earth embarks ...
 My child, you are my greatest treasure.
 My angel, my dove, my heart.
 Mon ange, il mia colomba, mi cora_on.

Were it my choice, were it in my power
 I would, for you, a life of hope and cheer
 In this, and every coming future hour.
 My love, my darling, my dear.
 Meu amor, meine Liebbling, mon cher.

Your death shall mean our living;
 Your destiny brings salvation for all.
 Your sacrifice is our forgiving -
 My boy, my child, my life, my all.
 Meu menino, mi niño, mijn leven, mein alles.

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Song of the Grand

A Musical

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"Say your grace before you eat"



Maurice Moss attends Holy Trinity Church Hamilton

He writes, "In 1994, I had finished a hand-lettered prayer book for my wife, Brenda. The last few pages of this book are devoted to graces before meals. There are 11 graces." Brenda used the book until her death this year. It will be passed on to her daughter.

Maurice wrote this prayer in 1993 ...

"For these and all thy blessings, Lord Bestowed on such as we,
 We lift our hearts with one accord
 And give our thanks to Thee."

HOLLISTorial

A letter from Mary

My dear friends:
I'm sitting in our temporary lodgings in Egypt—a foreign country—but I'd rather be home in Nazareth.
However, while hugging Jesus close to me I feel safe and hopeful.
You see, my special child is also God's son.
It's all overwhelming for me. I am still a teenager.
Recently my life has been a whirlwind.



Electronic greeting card from Christ's Church Cathedral, with a detail of the Annunciation window. (see story page 8.)

It all started when I went to fetch water from our community well in Nazareth.
A strange figure approached me, saying he had a message from God.
I was suspicious, but also intrigued.
Gabriel, an angel, said I was chosen to bear God's son and I should call him Jesus.
I laughed inwardly but respecting God's wishes, I agreed.
The angel said my cousin Elizabeth, although beyond childbearing years, was pregnant.
Weeks later, when I walked into her home, she felt her baby

leap in her womb. Elizabeth said she was honoured because her Lord's mother had come to visit her.
I was frightened when I told Joseph, to whom I was promised in marriage, about my condition, but my kind, caring carpenter suggested a quiet divorce to avoid any public disgrace.
Tears washed my face as I headed towards my parents' house.
Days later an excited, smiling Joseph visited me.

An angel had appeared to him in a dream and explained that my baby was indeed God's son and he should marry me. We were married a short time later.
That year the emperor issued a decree forcing everyone to be registered in their home town. For us it meant an arduous three day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Joseph's birthplace.
Riding a donkey and staying wherever we could find shelter was not a pleasant experience.



When we arrived in Bethlehem we discovered every inn was overbooked. I cried profusely.
Joseph continued searching. The only place he could find was a stable. I smiled and said we would manage. I was disappointed and upset. I wanted God's son to be born in a proper place.
Strangers rushed to help. I was exhausted and then overjoyed when I heard Jesus' first cry.
Visitors came continually. A group of shepherds hurriedly arrived. They seemed so excited and happy, telling everyone about angels, appearing on their hillside, telling them "a saviour was born in Bethlehem." The angels sang about praising God and bringing peace to all people. I treasured everything they said.
Later an awesome, impressive entourage paid a visit—astrologers from the east who had spent nearly two years following a special star. They brought Jesus gifts: gold, myrrh and frankincense.
They mentioned visiting King Herod who wanted to know

where the Saviour would be born so he could come and worship him. The astrologers, leery of Herod, decided to travel home by another road. We suggested one.
Following our custom, we brought our firstborn to the Temple in Jerusalem. There an old man, Simeon, scared me when he predicted a harsh future for Jesus, but Anna, a widow, reassured us with her words of comfort and hope.
While preparing to return home to Nazareth, Joseph had another dream. He was warned about Herod killing all young boys. So in the middle of the night, we quietly left Bethlehem and fled to Egypt.
So here we are, waiting and wondering when we can safely return home.
I thank God for choosing me to be Jesus' earthly mother. I snuggle him closer, look into his eyes and see the reflection of God's love, peace, hope and joy for all people.
I am truly blessed.
Mary

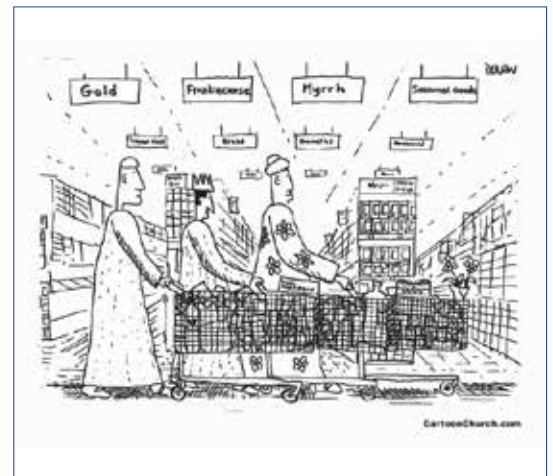
The Front Cover – Gift of Love

The Reverend Rob Roi, parish deacon at St. James Dundas, writes ...
"Gift of Love is a portion from a mono print that was part of the display entitled Parent and Child, held at the Art Gallery of St. James Dundas in 2002.
When creating a new background for this picture I was careful not to detract from the figures, while at the same time not indicating who they might be.
They represent the love of the creator that has given us the ability to create love ourselves

through our children.
The viewer may decide, for himself or herself, who these figures represent."
Rob, a printmaker, has had many shows over the years, his first in Gallery 252 at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton in 1976. He has done multiple designs—certificates, banners, altar frontals, posters and bulletin covers—for individuals, Niagara Diocese and his parish church.
Since retiring from the position of Visual Arts Coordinator with the Wentworth County

Board of Education 25 years ago, he spends more time at his art and reading.
Rob also reviews book for the Niagara Anglican.
He can be contacted at margrob1@sympatico.ca

Correction
In the November 2016 Niagara Anglican in the article *War memorials—a link to our past* (page 2) "Captain Nathan Cirillo" should have read "Corporal Nathan Cirillo".
We apologise for the mistake.



Copyright © 2015 Dave Walker. This cartoon originally appeared in the Church Times.

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Church and community engaging each other

TIM GIBSON

Milton is the fastest growing city in Canada, and has been since 2006.

For us living here, this means a lot of construction, rush hour traffic and many portable classrooms for kids.

It is also one of the youngest cities in Canada, where more than half the population is under the age of 35. The population graph is bulging in the "under the age of 12" category.

For many in Milton, slow rush hour commutes are the least of their problems. Unfortunately, our fast growing town also has a fast growing low income population. The percentage of low income residents has more than doubled in the last five years, leaving many social services, charities and support programs stretched in their capacity to help.

Many parishioners of Grace have seen the town change dramatically over the last ten years. So it's not surprising that when surveyed for priorities for our strategic planning in 2015, we identified "Community Engagement" as the top priority.

Even before the survey was conducted Grace was already very much engaged in the community, hosting a monthly



Conversation groups helped participants focus on key issues related to making a difference in Milton.

community dinner open to all and facilitating distribution of Halton Fresh Food Boxes, which allow many people in the downtown core access to fresh food. Grace also sponsors numerous fund raising events, such as the annual Spring Fayre, which include many in the community.

However, even with these initiatives in the community the parish survey made it clear that parishioners thought we could do more to help.

I was thankful for the invitation from the Reverend Sue Nicolls, who has had past experience with community engagement, to get involved. I had been a member of Grace for just over a year, and was look-

ing for a way to help out with community initiatives. I joined several other parishioners on the Grace Church Community Engagement Committee, and we set off to figure out what it would mean to engage with the community and how Grace might be able to help.

For nearly a year we explored the idea of facilitating social justice and charity in Milton and what it meant for Grace Church to do this.

We quickly learned that deciding where to put our efforts would not be an easy task. With so many people in need and so many agencies, charities, groups and churches doing their part to help, it was difficult to deter-



Asma Ahmad of HMC Connections indicated which discussion group she would like to join.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

mine where we should start. Eventually, we decided to do two things to get the ball rolling. Firstly, we felt we needed to engage our own parish to discuss community engagement and what it meant for Grace to be more involved. We did this in September and were very happy with the turnout.

Secondly, in October we held a one day workshop, open to all who live, work or worship in Milton. They were asked to join us in determining what we could do to "Strengthen the Community". We had 57 people in attendance from various charities, faiths, social services and groups. We learned about the needs of people in Milton

and brainstormed solutions. Our plan is to take these ideas back to our committee to help mobilize Grace to further engage in helping the community. I left the day energized and thankful.

We have just started, but my time on the Grace Church Community Engagement Committee over the past year has helped me make new friends, brought me closer to the church and has given me an outlet to help others.

I can't wait to see where this journey will lead us.

Tim Gibson can be reached at tim.gibson@siemens.com

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Share your Christmas happenings



Christmas is coming ...

We know you will be extra busy ...

We know some exciting events and worship will be happening in churches and parishes around Niagara Diocese ...

We would like for you to share your "Christmas glad tidings" with readers of the Niagara Anglican, both in print and online.

Send us ...

- * Photos (high resolution, action shots, captions, photographer's name, permission to publish children's pictures from parents or guardians, etc)
- * Short article (300 words or less) about your Christmas experiences

Because of our deadline dates, timing is crucial. We need to receive your Christmas items **by January 3, 2017 at the absolute latest** (earlier would be greatly appreciated).

Send items to editor@niagaraanglican.ca

Thanks and have a hope filled Christmas.

Holiday House Tour celebrates 41st anniversary

ANNE WASHINGTON

Christmas is a time of tradition, celebration and inspiration. What better expression of this than attending the St. James Dundas annual Holiday House Tour?

Since 1975 thousands of guests have been welcomed into 175 homes of distinction in Dundas, each festooned in seasonal splendour.

This popular fundraiser was the brain child of church secretary-treasurer Irene Mitchinson, who believed such an event, showcasing the historic dwellings of Old Dundas, would be fun for visitors and homeowners alike. Throughout its evolution, this has proved to be true.

Each year, tea and Christmas cake has been formally served in the church parlour. In subsequent years Dickens Lane, where artisans sell their hand crafted items, was established, and Santa's Kitchen provides baked goods and preserves for sale.

In the calmness of the sanctuary, visitors enjoy the music and display of original art.

During this 41st year, visitors will experience the flavour of the past in three of the five stunning homes. The first is a stone home built above Spencer Creek in 1840 with deep window sills and original glass. The



This brewery, once a foundry, is an added attraction to the five houses people can visit during the 2016 Holiday House Tour.

Photo: Li Stewart

second, constructed in 1884, features a raised fireplace in the kitchen and a portrait of Robbie Burns in the living room. The third is a compact, comfortable cottage built in 1884 and rented to labourers who lived nearby, and beautifully renovated in 2014.

Visitors with a taste for modern architecture will appreciate an elegant dwelling built in 2000, since renovated, featuring a gallery overlooking the living area, a pub on the lower level and an outdoor kitchen. The fifth is an open concept home, with an indoor pool, built in 1997 on a site overlooking a picturesque ravine.

An added attraction this year is the red brick building constructed in the 1860s and used

as a foundry. It has recently been meticulously converted to the Shawn and Ed Brewing Company.

It is only with the generous contribution and support of the homeowners, plus assistance from local florists and merchants, that these memorable Holiday House Tour can happen.

Proceeds support the ministries within and beyond the parish of St. James Dundas.

The Holiday House Tour takes place on December 3. For information and tickets check the accompanying ad or go to st.jamesanglican@bellnet.ca

Anne Washington is a member of St. James Holiday House Tour Committee.

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Tickets: \$20.00
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st.jamesanglican@bellnet.ca
St. James Anglican Church, 137 Melville St., Dundas

A Gift Divine

VICTORIA BALDWIN

Into a world that's lost, drowning in night
Is born a child, a beacon of hope and light
In a lowly manger, beneath a star
The baby sleeps, while others travel from afar
As gifts are bestowed, the angels sing
Celebrating the life of a newborn King
Born in a stable, a humble start
For a Savior who came to touch each heart
Though centuries have passed since that
bless'ed day

Each year we celebrate that baby in the hay
We celebrate this precious gift of love
The divine human who was sent from above
Within so many hearts, His light does shine
We share His love, both tender and divine
May we always treasure His gift sublime
Remembering as we celebrate Christmas time.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 11
4:00pm Lessons & Carols
Pot Luck after the service
All Welcome!

December 18
9:30am Sunday School
Christmas Pageant

December 24 Christmas Eve Services
4:30pm Family Service
8:30pm Choral Eucharist
11:00pm Midnight Mass

December 25
9:30am - Christmas Day Service
Choral Eucharist

December 28
7:00pm - New Year Taizé Service

A Christmas message from Bishop Michael

Our 2016 world needs to hear and respond once again to the true message of the first Christmas.

Like Mary, we as God's people, living in varying world locations and under wide-ranging conditions, need to respond positively to the new challenges and missions to which God is calling us.

Like the shepherds, we need to hear God's message of "peace on earth and goodwill to ALL people" daily, and then excitedly and with great hope broadcast the good news to a wanting world.

Like the Magi or wise men, we need to travel to those places, figuratively and literally, where our gifts of time, talents and treasures can be employed to make the lives of all God's people as whole as humanly imaginable.

By so doing we are bringing God's world to what God wants our world to be.

Susan joins me as we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

+Michael Bird



Christians share Advent experiences on social media

MARTHA HOLMEN

During Advent, Christians and Anglicans around the world are turning to social media to share their common experience of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

The Anglican Communion, partnering with the Society of St. John the Evangelist, is once again inviting Anglicans to join its global online Advent calendar. Everyone who signs up will receive a daily prayer and photo based on a different word each



day. They'll also be invited to respond on social media with their own prayers and photos using the hashtag #AdventWord

and the word of the day (for example, #Shine, #Hope or #Awaken). Those contributions appear with others from around the world in the Advent calendar at adventword.org.

For those not sure where to start, the Anglican Communion has provided resources explaining how to contribute and encourage others to join in. Newcomers can watch a tutorial video, clergy and parish leaders can download posters and bulletin inserts, and participants can see the full list of daily words so

they can plan ahead. To see the resources or sign up for daily emails, visit aco.org/adventword.

Participants can choose to receive emails in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamil or American Sign Language.

Those looking to explore the meaning and mystery of Advent through social media can also join the Occupy Advent movement. Entering its sixth year, it describes its purpose as "reclaiming the holy season of waiting and watching for

the Lord." Using the hashtag #OccupyAdvent, social media users share their thoughts and reflections as they try to resist commercialism and focus instead on Advent as a time to slow down and simplify their lives. To join the conversation, visit OccupyAdvent.com or follow @OccupyAdvent on Twitter.

Martha Holmen is the Digital Communications Coordinator for Toronto Diocese.

Five dollars can buy a lot of winter clothing

MICHAEL HAHN

A new program to collect winter clothes and give them to migrant farmworkers has been launched by St. Alban's Beamsville.

Every fall and winter hundreds of migrant farmworkers arrive for greenhouse work. They come from a climate where they cannot buy winter clothing and once here they suffer from the cold.

Many arrive in summer clothes and have to work in cold, unheated greenhouses 10-12 hours a day. They must buy and prepare their own food, yet live out in the country far from stores. They lack transportation so volunteers deliver the clothes to the farms. Often new arrivals

on a four year contract can't buy winter clothing because their entire first year's income goes to a recruiter. In subsequent years most of the \$11 per hour earned is sent home to support their families.

You can now donate winter clothes to migrant workers. Coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, footwear, male and female sizes small to large are all needed. Also needed are blankets and personal hygiene supplies.

Two area thrift shops give St. Alban's significant discounts so your financial donation is also welcome. Five dollars can buy a lot of winter clothing.

For more information, contact Caron Edwards 905-563-4753 or caron.edwards@sympatico.ca



Michael Hahn is Chairperson of the Migrant Farmworkers Outreach Program at St. Alban's Beamsville. mhahn@cib.ca

Ronoldo and friends, new arrivals from Guatemala, get winter clothes.

Photo: Michael Hahn

The Cross and the Country

a Check-up with Rex Murphy

ELEANOR JOHNSTON AND WAYNE FRASER

"Let's hear what Rex has to say tonight!" After all these years of interfering with a generation's bedtime, Rex Murphy, speaker for the 2016 Bishop's Company Dinner, won again. Rex kept us engaged despite the natural impulse, for back pew types, to catch a nap after a delicious meal.

There's always more going on at a live show. Nobody cut to a commercial when a young waitress hoisted a tray of dinner plates onto her shoulder and lost her balance. Three of the Bishop's Company sprang to steady her and all the plates and leftovers she was straining to carry. They continued on their way, not needing praise or thanks.

Master of Ceremonies Max Woolaver, a poet/priest native to Cape Breton, aware that Newfoundland Rex Murphy was well-known to the Bishop's Company, focused only briefly on the facts of his illustrious career, offering instead his own heartfelt praise of the journalist, calling him "a living voice whose native impulse and care for the nation we do not doubt."

In his entertaining, free-wheeling style, Rex Murphy lived up to that tribute. Connecting stories of Barbara Winters' compassion in Corporal Nathan Cirillo's dying moments on the steps of the Ottawa cenotaph, Western farmers' gratitude for Newfoundland's generosity during the Great Depression and Newfoundland hospitality to thousands of stranded international travelers on 9/11, Rex sought to illustrate the essence of what it is to live in this country, Canada.

Each of those events, Rex said, offered the "understory of Canadian values," the "ability to give to those who need it." The people of small town Gambo in Newfoundland, for example, sheltered the strangers in their midst on 9/11 with a hospitality "that doesn't proclaim itself," that expects no compensation or reward. All the folk in his examples demonstrated "what we would wish to see of civic value."

Conscious of his audience, Rex stressed that this national impulse stems from the core value of the religious system



Clockwise from top left: Rex Murphy spoke to 310 members of the Bishop's Company and their guests. • Bishop Michael, Master of Ceremonies Max Woolaver and Guest Speaker Rex Murphy • Contributors Eleanor Johnston and Wayne Fraser had fun in the photo booth. (Photo courtesy of SmartBooth Images, a PhotoBooth Company) • The Cathedral Chamber Ensemble welcomed guests as they arrived for the annual dinner. • Susan Bird (right) presented a gift to Mary Anne Grant, thanking her for her many hours of work in making the 2016 Bishop's Company dinner such a huge success. • Shirley Brontab and Cindy Blades from St. Albans' Acton enjoyed having their photos taken at the gala.

Other photos: Alison D'Atri and Hollis Hiscock

that, over time, has embedded itself in the DNA of the entire culture. To help others is the essence of the religious impulse and in Canada, a nation of small towns and regions; the strong sense of community fosters that desire. We are a nation conscious that everyone is our neighbor.

Rex mused that this national virtue has become a habit and then he took it even deeper. As he noted in his conclusion, the whole point of the Bishop's

Company that very evening—to raise funds for clergy and lay-people in financial need—enacts the national core value of caring for one another in every Good Samaritan gesture.

This is the Canadian, the Christian that we claim to be. We are the Bishop's Company in budget and mission statement, existing to help others. The miracle is that we, church and nation, do get it right, much of the time. Barbara

Winters confessed our shared faith in love that proved to be Nathan Cirillo's last rite. "Truly, a Pietà moment." Our cathedral provided the structure for the huge numbers of people who needed to mourn and to establish a sense of meaning in the face of the senseless act of the lone gunman.

At the beginning of his speech, Rex quoted Samuel Johnson, the eighteenth-century poet and man of letters, author

of *The Dictionary of the English Language*: "People need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed." In doing just that for us, Rex Murphy gave voice, as Max Woolaver said he would, to our national and spiritual character.

Eleanor Johnston can be reached at eleanorjohnston@gmail.com and the Reverend Wayne Fraser at fraserwayne@gmail.com

An encounter with a twist

DOUG CROSBIE

Nancy and I are volunteers for Meals on Wheels in Dundas, something we've been doing monthly for the past six years. In November 2013, our delivery was to an apartment building, where we had three clients—one on the top floor and the other two on the fourth. We flipped as to who would go where; I lost as usual and headed for the top floor. Surprisingly, the elevator was quite fast, very few stops, so I was the first to finish.

Arriving back in the lobby, I saw the apartment superintendent Mike and his wife hanging Christmas decorations. I hollered hello and commented on their activity.

"A lot of low-income seniors live here," said Mike. "They rely on us to provide them with a Christmas tree and all the decorations."

"Well, you do a fine job and I'm sure it's much appreciated," said I.

"Decorating this tree reminds me of a story that happened around this time of year," replied



Photo: iStock/Giulio Fornasar

Mike and he told me his amazing story.

While superintendent of an apartment building in Toronto a few years earlier, Mike was decorating a Christmas tree in that lobby, when an older lady, with a European accent, approached and asked if any apartments were available.

Mike showed her a two bed unit which she liked. He said if she wanted it, she'd better sign the papers right then and there because those units were scarce. The lady said OK, and accompanied Mike to his office to prepare

the paper work.

The lady had removed her coat, and Mike could see a blue, numbered tattoo on her wrist. He commented on it. The lady said she had been in a concentration camp during the war, and had lost her family there.

Mike noticed after she moved in she kept to herself and while pleasant, didn't socialize with anyone in the apartment building.

Shortly after this lady moved in, another older lady, also with a European accent, inquired about the availability of apart-

ments. Mike showed her a unit similar to the one the first lady had rented, and she decided to take it.

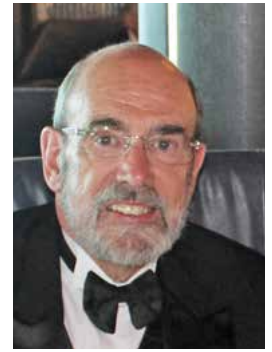
Like the first lady she also had a blue numbered tattoo on her wrist, and told Mike she had been in a concentration camp during WWII. Mike told her about the first lady and asked her if she'd like to meet her. She said she would. Mike said he would arrange it.

The first lady was not agreeable to meeting anyone, and did not want to talk about such a terrible event in her life—it would only make her sad and unhappy.

Mike, however, talked to her from time to time and also to the second lady who said she understood the first lady's feelings.

One day he encountered the first lady, who said she'd been thinking about it, and maybe she would like to meet the second lady—they wouldn't have to talk about the war but maybe they would have something in common.

So Mike set up the meet-



ing and took the second lady to meet the first lady at her apartment.

He knocked on the door, the first lady answered, looked past him at the second lady and screamed, "Mein Gott, meine schwester, meine schwester" — my God, my sister, my sister!"

I thought after Mike told me this story: Was it a mere coincidence that the two ladies had rented apartments in the same building, or do you think that God may have had a hand in this unique reunion?

This article first appeared in Glen Echo, a quarterly publication in Flamborough and then in Happenings, St. James Dundas newsletter. Doug Crosbie can be reached at fitzuss@colegco.ca

Electronic Christmas cards available

ALEXANDER (SANDY) L. DARLING

In 2007 a member of the clergy suggested Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton could fulfil a need by providing Christmas cards that carried Nativity scenes, and unabashedly use the word "Christmas" rather than the politically correct greeting of "Happy Holidays".

In the first year six scenes were used and the cards were prepackaged into sets of one dozen. They sold well, but some purchasers did not like all the cards and some wanted the freedom to select, so we quickly changed to meet our customers' desires.

Over the years we have introduced new cards and retired others for a few years and normally sell at least 800 cards per year.

We have eight cards for sale this year.

This is our tenth year of operation, and we are introducing a new feature in response to the increasing number of people who are sending e-mails at Christmas in place of Christmas cards.



Electronic greeting card with two angels, details from Christ's Church Cathedral windows.

We have three e-cards to offer this year.

One card shows a traditional Nativity scene, one portrays Simeon holding Jesus as he said what we know as the Nunc Dimittis and the third has two angels that have been popular over the years on our traditional cards.

On payment of \$35, a purchaser will receive one of the cards in both PDF and Word

format and can use the images multiple times; the Word version allows a sender to insert a message on the card.

Enquiries and purchase requests should be directed to cathedral@niagaraanglican.ca

Organist and Music Director

St Cuthbert's in Oakville is seeking a new organist and music director to guide us in the next phase of our growth as a parish community. Opportunity exists to work with adults, children and youth in providing a music program (choral and instrumental) that includes both traditional and contemporary expressions of worship. The parish has a newly installed Allen RL 58 organ with a recently refurbished baby grand piano. Familiarity with liturgical worship music is an asset and demonstrated skills in volunteer recruitment and empowerment required. 15 hours per week with remuneration in accordance with RCCO scale. A full job description and more details are available upon request. To apply or to seek more information please contact the Reverend Canon Joseph Asselin at #905-844-6200 or email: rector.stcuthbert@bellnet.ca For more information on St Cuthbert's please visit us at: www.stcuthbertoakville.ca

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The dynamic music ministry duo

INFINITELY MORE

DOREEN M. MCFARLANE

There can be little doubt music enhances worship, but it is also true music, beautifully presented, can BE worship.

This is the case with the dynamic duo—Infinitely More—whose voices blend in perfect harmony. Allison Lynn and Gerald Flemming have been married and singing together for 10 years. Although deeply rooted in the Anglican Church, their music ministry is ecumenical and appeals to all ages. Their popularity is growing within Niagara region and throughout Canada: travelling over 40,000 km annually in every province.

Their name, Infinitely More, is inspired by Ephesians 3:20. The passage is well known from the closing prayer of our Communion service, "Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

The couple is part of World Vision Artist Collective, artists of various genres working to overcome poverty and injustice worldwide.

Last summer, in order to reach out to their new home area of St. Catharines and support their new World Vision ministry, they offered a series of freewill offering concerts to churches in Niagara Diocese. Churches hosting concerts included St. John's Campbellville, St. George's St. Catharines, St. Christopher's Burlington, Church of the Incarnation Oakville and Church of the Epiphany Oakville.

Over a dozen children were sponsored through these concerts!

They lived in Nashville for three years, singing worship music with a unique blend of folk, pop, jazz and country. These musical forms now make their way into their original contemporary songs and arrangements of classic hymns.

Allison experienced her initial calling into full-time ministry while visiting Nashville for the first time, and Gerald's came through his song writing. Along the way, they became aware of God's plan, and remain open to where God wants them to go next. Making the switch to full-time touring was a huge leap of



Above: St. George's St. Catharines: Infinitely More with Rector Martha Tarnic, Gordon Tarnic, Cecilia Tarnic and planning committee members Sharon Vermolen and Charles Burton.

Right: St. Christopher's Burlington: Infinitely More with Director of Music Andy Elmhirst.

Below: Church of the Incarnation Oakville: Infinitely More with Rector Michael Patterson and Music Director Charlene Pauls.

Photos: Infinitely More



faith, but "God has been faithful, often in unexpected ways." They passionately love creating new music, recording, teaching, leading worship and singing concerts.

There are people who love touring and others who do not. This couple loves it! They imagine doing this for many years, expanding their touring base and reaching out to more churches and communities. Allison notes, "There's nothing like singing in local churches and seeing how that church is serving its own unique community."

Singing together brings them closer, deepening their connections to God and blessing their married life. They make their best friends through music and creating worship together. Gerald, an accomplished guitar player, sings and writes songs—almost every morning—as a vital part of their ministry.

They perform new songs in concerts to see how deeply each one touches the listeners. That kind of response plays a large part in choosing the songs they ultimately decide to record.

So far they have six studio albums, all recorded with the top session players in Nashville.

Infinitely More has received 10 national music awards nominations. Their latest CD, *How the Light Gets In*, was inspired by real life stories of people they've met travelling. *Tonight, Everywhere is Bethlehem*, their Christmas CD, contains live tracks recorded at a Christmas carol service featuring band, organ, choir and hand bells.

Each month, Infinitely More leads music at Advent Café, the new contemporary Wednesday evening service at St. George's St. Catharines—their work is appreciated and loved.

This inspiring couple is musically on the rise, both in our



Niagara region and throughout Canada! They are continually reaching out to work with more churches. Their personalities are sparkling, their hearts are warm, and their dedication to the work of God is sincere.

You and your church will want to meet and hear Infinitely More.

The Reverend Doreen M. McFarlane, is the Ecumenical Honourary Assistant at St. George's St. Catharines. doctdor@yahoo.com

(To learn more about Infinitely More, book an event or purchase CDs go to InfinitelyMore.ca)

Lullaby for the Lamb

REBECCA CLIFFORD

My little babe, your bed I'll warm.
My breast and body will save from harm.
My arms will cradle you in the hay.
My wish for your life is peace and joy.
Lula lula, little one,
My dove, my heart, my own
Hush my dove, my little one, my dearest heart.

How low and mean this shelter tonight;
How strange are those who do you greet.
So blessed is your coming here on earth;
So long and awaited has been your birth.
Lula lula, little one,
My lamb, my soul, my own
Hush my lamb, my little one, my dearest heart.

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Who is Santa Claus?

MARIE LEONE

A man dressed up
in funny clothes;
A smile and a twinkle
from head to toe.
The everywhere man,
who knows everything,
The joys and the laughter,
about which we sing,
Remembered and loved
by us all.
Forever.



The Gift of Christmas

VICTORIA BALDWIN

Decking the halls and singing out songs
Everyone shopping in multiple throngs
People lose sight of the season's true meaning
Caught up as they are in the glistening and gleaming
It's a time to be with family in love and joy
Celebrating the birth of Mary's little boy
So forget about all of the glittering things
And remember the gifts that Jesus brings
Peace, love and joy to each open heart
Hope, that from Him, we'll never depart
So remember Christmas as a gift pure and true
And open yourself up, and let the Spirit fill you.



Old wooden pew becomes new model



John Reaume holds the model of the sanctuary of St. George's Georgetown, which he carved from an old wooden pew.

Photo: Rob Park

ROB PARK

Many Sundays, you will be greeted by the smiling faces of John and Linda Reaume as they volunteer as Sidespeople, welcoming folks to St. George's Georgetown.

One day last spring they were both at the church. Linda was working at her Altar Guild duties and John, who has a passion for wood, had an idea.

He said, "Admiring the beauty of our church, I thought trying to make a model of our sanctuary would test my ability."

John was impressed by the intricate wood designs around the sanctuary, so he took some reference photos and set to work.

"I've always enjoyed working with wood," he admitted, "and watching my father-in-law, Ian Farrar, working with a scroll saw, I thought it might be something I would like to try after my retirement."

That was 5½ years ago, and he is really enjoying it.

John created other small

models and some bigger projects to help the church, like a pair of collection boxes—one for collecting food for the local food bank and the other for collecting donations for a local Christmas hamper program.

"As my skill level increased I wanted a project that would challenge me," he said about the model of the sanctuary. "One of the most challenging parts for me was creating the template from the pictures and then cutting the pattern to be as close as possible to the actual wood design."

John presented his model, made from the repurposed wood of an old church pew, to the church in late October, where it is proudly on display.

John said, "I find working with wood is very relaxing and re-creating a part of our church was very fulfilling."

The Reverend Canon Robert Park is Rector of St. George's Georgetown. Rwap88@gmail.com

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(See Luke 2:1-16) 12-21-2012
**LOOK HOW MANY BABY JESUSES THERE ARE
... HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHICH STAR
TO FOLLOW?**

Growing Young Leaders

LANCE WRIGHT

This past summer, 13 young people ages 15–16 participated in the LIT (Leader in Training) program at Canterbury Hills Camp. This experience helped each LIT discover and deploy their unique gifts. It was a safe environment for experimentation with permission to take on new challenges without fear of failure.

Over the summer, our LITs participated in weekly Eucharist services, contributing songs, stories, dances or crafts with their cabin group. In daily Chapel services, our LITs were key leaders who helped campers reflect on our Faith in Action theme.

Seeing such a vibrant and competent group of young leaders this past summer has given us great hope and confidence in the quality of leadership at Canterbury Hills Camp for many years to come. Here is a sampling:

"The LIT program has taught me many things. I have gained hard skills, organization skills, responsibility and confidence. I



began my LIT 1 summer lacking self-confidence. However, at the end of my LIT 2 summer, I found that I gained a great amount of confidence. This summer I was given more independence in organizing and facilitating activities. I also found that the training was focused on giving me the support I need to be an independent leader. I am grateful for the friendships and memories I have from the program, including the memories made during the Adventure. The LIT Adventure is by far the best part of the LIT program. It is really great to work with your peers to plan a week where you learn and bond with each other. I definitely learned more games and

ideas from my peers during the Adventure which I used when we returned to camp. Overall, I believe this program has helped me become more responsible and confident in myself."
~ Cheyanne

"My experience as an LIT 1 at Canterbury Hills Camp was one for the books. Over the course of just four weeks, I felt my leadership abilities enhanced greatly. Focusing on each branch of leadership ensured we were well-rounded. Not only did we get classroom setting learning sessions, but we also got hands-on experience. We had many opportunities to plan and lead our own camp activities.

Applying the skills we learned to the real camp world was very beneficial. Being an LIT, I never felt I was treated differently, just like another camp leader. Everyone at camp was very welcoming, accepting and willing to help and talk when you needed it. I am forever thankful for this experience. It helped me grow as a person. I am so happy to say that Canterbury is like a second home to me."

~ Jillian

"Over my four years as a camper, Canterbury Hills Camp soon became my happy place. But after spending a whole month there as an LIT 1, it truly has become my second home.

The youth involved in the Leader in Training program also take time out for fun and enjoyment.

Photo: Canterbury Hills Camp

What makes it home? Well, for me, a home is purely defined by the friendly faces of your family members, and at camp, all my fellow leaders are like my brothers and sisters. Going through the whole experience alongside them resulted in the most rewarding feeling ever. Another aspect of 'LIT life' that impacted me greatly over the summer was the learning sessions. The things I learned have stuck with me and I've even been using them in my everyday life! The countdown until next summer is already on. It's going to be the best one yet!!"

~ Tara

Niagara Diocese supported the 2016 LIT program with a Leadership Grant to Canterbury Hills Camp.

Christmas

VICTORIA BALDWIN

It's a time of joy and caring
 It's a time for peace and sharing
 And every single loving heart
 Shines its brightest from the start
 Voices sing out in the night
 Singing songs of hope and light
 Though some may only think of gifts
 Most will notice how their spirits lift
 It's a time when people are at their best
 Showing love, compassion and all the rest
 It's a time when the city is all aglow
 And the rooftops and ground are dusted with snow
 But more important than the garland, gifts or trees
 Is the time spent with family and the memories
 So through this season of love and giving
 Remember to enjoy the spirit of living

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Original cartoons or art – contact the Editor
Photos – very large, high resolution, action pictures (people doing something).
 Include name of photographer. Written permission of parent/guardian must be obtained if photo includes a child.

All submissions must include writer's full name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit or refuse submissions.

Questions or information:
 contact the Editor at editor@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-635-9463.

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New possibilities for the Niagara Anglican

ROB PARK

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The website will make finding information about the ministry being done by the people and parishes across our diocese much easier.

From now on, you will be able

to find the insightful and informative articles that are written for each print issue online with a Google search or directly from the search bar on the new website.

Lastly, each individual article can be shared by a separate link.

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This is great news and you can find it online at niagaraanglican.news or follow us on twitter at @NANewspaper

The Reverend Canon Robert Park is Rector of St. George's Georgetown. rwap88@gmail.com



The *Niagara Anglican*, now more readable, searchable and shareable online through your computer, tablet or smartphone, is now available as a website. This also opens up opportunities for conversations on Facebook and can be followed on Twitter.

Photo: Rob Park

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