

# Chimes

St Paul's Cathedral

*Volume 23 Issue 4 Advent & Christmas 2016*



Advent & Christmas  
2016

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**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

London, Ontario | Anglican Diocese of Huron

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*Bishop of Huron*

**The Right Reverend Barry Clarke**

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## Regular Worship Times

Sunday †	8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist † with Children's Program at 9:00am Sunday School Classes during the 10:00am service Nursery available from 9:00 - 11:30am
Monday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Wednesday	8:15am Morning Prayer 12:15pm Holy Eucharist 7:30pm Holy Eucharist * * Taizé during Advent
Thursday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Friday	8:45am Morning Prayer
Third Sunday	4:00pm Choral Evensong

## St Paul's Social Services

Fellowship Centre Lunch Program  
Monday and Wednesday: 11:30am - 12:30pm

Daily Bread Food Bank  
Monday - Friday: 9:30am - 12:00pm

## Monthly Seniors Home Services

First Tuesday	2:30pm Extencicare
Second Tuesday	10:30am Mount Hope 2:30pm Chartwell

*Chimes is the news magazine of St Paul's Cathedral in the Diocese of Huron and is published four times annually. We welcome your submissions although we cannot guarantee all submissions will be printed. Please send them to the Church Office.*

*On the cover: A detail of the "Nativity" window created by Christopher Wallis and installed in the south wall of St Paul's Cathedral. Bold use of colour and a striking design makes the Nativity of the Gospels come alive and the window is a welcome focus for thoughtful reflection for visitors to the Cathedral.*

# Welcome!

We're pleased that you are with us as we make a spiritual journey through Advent toward the celebration of Christ's birth. It's a time rich with meaning, accompanied by a warmth of spirit, enlivened by beauty in words and music, and guided by the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

When I was very young, the weeks leading up to Christmas seemed unnaturally long and the anticipation of the Day was almost unbearable. Finally, though, Christmas Eve arrived and the somber news of the time—the war in Vietnam, Watergate, shootings, hijackings, and bombings, none of which I understood but must have caused my parents endless worry—was replaced by updates from NORAD on Santa's progress south from the North Pole. My brothers and I prepared gifts of cookies and milk for Santa, and carrots for the reindeer, then we went to bed.

In the morning the living room was transformed, and the decorated tree had somehow become even more beautiful. We rushed to wake everyone to this miracle, then gathered together to open the gifts. And every year, my father calmly asked us to wait, and he opened the family Bible (King James version) and read from Luke 2:8-14.

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Even though we attended church every week, we didn't regularly read the Bible together at home and so this Christmas-morning tradition was something very special. We heard this wondrous story, and our world-weary cares and selfish excitements yielded to transforming love. It may not have seemed so significant to a seven-year old boy at the time, but the years that have been unkind to so many memories haven't obscured this reading of the Christmas story. I was blessed to receive many gifts as a child but this, in so many ways, was the greatest gift of all. — *John Sproule*

## Advent and Christmas at St Paul's Cathedral

**Sunday, November 27 @ 4pm**

*Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent*

**Wednesdays,**

**November 30, December 7, 14, 21 @ 7:30pm**

*Taizé Evening Prayer*

**Saturday, December 3 @ 4pm**

*Children's Messiah*

**Sunday, December 18 @ 4pm**

*Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

**Saturday, December 24 @ 4pm**

*Children's Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist*

**Saturday, December 24 @ 7:30pm**

*Christmas Holy Eucharist*

with St Paul's Cathedral Choir  
and St Paul's Cathedral Brass

**Saturday, December 24 @ 11pm**

*Christmas Holy Eucharist*

with St Paul's Cathedral Choir  
and St Paul's Cathedral Brass

**Sunday, December 25 @ 8am**

*Holy Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer*

**Sunday, December 25 @ 10am**

*Choral Holy Eucharist*

with St Paul's Cathedral Choir

# Music at the Cathedral

*Experiencing Beauty and Peace Throughout Advent and Christmas*

**Andrew Keegan Mackriell**

As we prepare for Advent and Christmas, and all the wonderful musical items that come up at this time of the Liturgical Year, I'd like first to take the opportunity to thank the choir and the parish community for the tremendous understanding and support that you have all provided since September 20<sup>th</sup> when I broke two bones in my left hand. While it is incredibly stressful on many fronts not to be playing at all, I have been humbled and deeply grateful for how much work others have done in order to keep everything going smoothly in the music department.

In particular, I would like to single out Rein de Wit and David Greenslade, who immediately offered to play through October - and Rein especially, who on that first Thursday offered to play the hymns on the following Sunday I was out of action. I, and the whole cathedral parish, owe you both a profound depth of gratitude for your generous sharing of your talents during September and October.

From the beginning of November, Angus, our Affiliate Organist, has been more available and, together with Ian Sadler, will take on the playing duties here until the end of the year. While I may be able to return to playing at some point in December, we are being cautious about expectations and I hope to resume full playing responsibility at the beginning of January.

In the meantime, there are some exciting musical events coming up.

Of course, we have both carol services as usual - **Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm** sees our annual *Service of Advent Lessons and Carols*, and **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm** we will have our traditional *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*. Each service will feature a world première performance of a carol by English composer, David Fawcett together with familiar hymns, readings, and choral items. These are definitely great services to bring your friends and neighbours for an experience of all that is best in our cathedral music and liturgy!

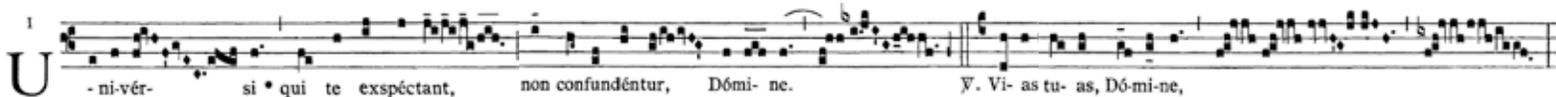
The other very exciting news is that we will be

bringing the *Children's Messiah* to London and St Paul's for the first time this year. This wonderful outreach project has been incredibly successful at St Mary Magdalene Church in Toronto for many years, and with their permission we are presenting it here at the cathedral on Saturday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:00pm**. This is a short, one-hour performance of some of the favourite arias and choruses from Handel's *Messiah*, with a narration specifically designed to tell the story to children. Children are invited to sit wherever they like - bring a cushion to sit on the floor right in front of the instrumentalists - and to experience *Messiah* in whatever way speaks to them. Their parents are also invited to join us! There are no "right" or "wrong" ways for children to experience the music on this occasion, and, they are entirely free to behave as their age-appropriate selves.

We are especially delighted that the world-renowned German violinist Annette-Barbara Vogel (of UWO's Don Wright Faculty of Music) has agreed for her new instrumental group, *Magisterra Soloists*, to partner with us in this new outreach programme. (Read more about this exciting group at <http://www.magisterra.com/>) The Cathedral Choir will be joined by other singers from London-based choirs, for this very special afternoon concert. Please share this event with all the children in your lives (and their parents!)

One other date to keep in your calendars is **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**. This will be the Sunday we celebrate our Patronal Festival (The Conversion of St Paul) and, as last year, the Cathedral Choir is very much looking forward to serving a parish luncheon that day after our coffee hour.

As always, the musicians at St Paul's are grateful for the many expressions of appreciation we receive on a regular basis and look forward to their ministry in the coming weeks and months. Please do feel free to talk to any of us if you have particular requests or comments. Enjoy the wonderful music of Advent and Christmas!



# Preparing the Way

*Advent Reflection for Wednesday, December 7, 2016 - Theme: Peace*

**Phyllis Beauchamp, Oblate, SSJD**

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

John 14:27 (NKJV)

In April 2012, the physician at the walk-in clinic immediately directed me to the emergency department at the hospital after she thrice checked my increasing blood pressure. First I went home to leave my car and jewellery, picked up my book of God’s promises, and called a cab.

My systolic blood pressure measure climbed to 240 in the hospital so the attending physician ordered a CT scan as he thought I likely had a TIA (mini-stroke), once I described the symptoms I had the previous night. The immediate concern was that I could now have a major stroke.

I asked God to lead me to a Scripture verse in my book to help me stay calm. After rejecting the first few I read, John 14:27 resonated with my spirit, specifically the words, “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” I repeated the comforting Gospel words of Jesus silently throughout the wait, and prayed fervently that I hadn’t already had a TIA, and I wouldn’t suffer a major stroke.

Four long hours passed before the physician returned and said—to his surprise the CT scan was clear—I did not have a TIA! He then ordered medication to lower my blood pressure intravenously.

It took several months to discover the right combination of medications to control my blood pressure, and that crisis and recovery time left me with some residual effects. But I remain grateful, for the kind of peace only my Saviour could give, and that my prayers were answered. To God be the glory.



The Oblates and Sisters of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine have again published their annual Advent Reflection Booklet for 2016:

## **Preparing the Way.**

As a member of St. Paul’s Cathedral I am sharing my contribution as an Oblate with SSJD with my cathedral family.

If you would like to receive the daily Advent Reflection from our booklet online, throughout Advent, you may sign up on:

**The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (SSJD)** website at: [www.ssjd.ca](http://www.ssjd.ca)

or

**The Anglican Church** website at:  
<http://www.anglican.ca/about/advent2016/>



# St. Paul's Social Services

*Helping Those in Need*

**Lynn Prentice, Executive Director**

It's hard to believe it's November already—and on the other side of another gardening season. On Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> participants and volunteers from our Garden Buddy Program met at St. Andrew Memorial Anglican Church's community garden to "put our gardens to bed". We finished pulling out the remaining tomato and pepper plants; dug up a sprawling mint plant, and turned the soil then pulled any remaining weeds. We have left the kale plants in and expect to be able to continue harvesting them until January, at least. The kale harvest will go to our Fellowship Centre lunch program for use as a nutritious addition to their salads and soups.

The Garden Buddy Program gardeners, who are all people who live with limited financial resources, were already talking about what they would like to plant next year. Our garden program supported three families and one individual. None of these people could have gardened without the financial assistance, social support and garden expertise that were provided in this program. We feel the program was very successful, and hope to offer it again in 2017. The 2016 garden program was made possible by a City of London grant, a donation of all our plants and seeds from Crowell's Greenhouses, St. Andrew Memorial for hosting the gardens, as well as many hours of volunteer time. Thank you all!

At St. Paul's Social Services (SPSS), we try hard to offer healthy food, despite limited resources. We are grateful to have received produce from several market vendors during garden season. This abundance of fresh food allowed us to save big time—we did not need to purchase produce for the Daily Bread Food Bank for the past 6 months!

From 2017 – 2019 SPSS will be the recipient of a grant from the City of London. This grant will allow us to offer cooking and socially connecting programs to people who live in poverty, as well as new Canadians. Look for more news about these two programs: Breaking Bread Together and Around the Table in the new year.

We've had some changes at the Fellowship Centre (FC). Lisandra, our former FC Coordinator was offered a position at a law office.

We were sad to see her go in August, but happy she is doing this interesting work. Lisandra wants to stay connected to SPSS. She will be one of our volunteers at the Around The Table (ATT) program for new Canadians, starting in 2017. We welcomed a new FC Coordinator, Jaime, in September. We feel lucky to have Jaime (who was recommended by one of our volunteers) with us—she is keenly interested in her work here and is giving it her "all"!

Due to declining financial donations we have reduced the Fellowship Centre drop-in lunch program to Monday and Wednesday only. We will still be offering Breaking Bread Together, on Tuesdays. The Daily Bread Food Bank continues to be open its regular hours: every weekday from 9:30 to noon.

## Early Bird Christmas Market

*Welcoming Londoners to the Cathedral*

**The Evening Women's Group**



*On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> the Evening Womens' Group hosted the annual Christmas Market at the Cathedral. A heartfelt "Thank you!" goes out to everyone who participated and worked so hard to make the event a success. All proceeds from the Market will be donated to the "Project Jericho" fund in aid of repairing the trusses supporting our cathedral's roof. It was a joy to attend on Saturday and experience first-hand the wonderful, warm welcome extended to all visitors to the Cathedral. — JS*

# Welcoming Our Second Syrian Family

*A Reunited Family*

**The Rev'd Deacon Pat Henderson**

The parish was delighted to receive our second Syrian Family at the 10am service on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Okba was away so his brother Talhat and his young son came and spoke on behalf of the family to thank the members of St. Paul's Cathedral for their support.

Osama, and Khadija were proud to introduce their children Zaid (6yrs old) Dana (5 years old) and User (3 years old) to our parish. Grandma tells me she is overwhelmed at having her children with her safe in Canada and is so thankful for all the support. (She is standing next to Deacon Pat.)

Our prayers will continue for both our Syrian families as they find a new home in Canada and settle into school and work in London.



*Both families are in need of winter clothing. If you would like to help please contact Deacon Pat at 519-455-7119 or [deacon@stpaulscathedral.on.ca](mailto:deacon@stpaulscathedral.on.ca).*

## Renew the Cathedral

*Accessibility and Dignity*

**Bette Ferguson**

The Renew Team is pleased to announce that the accessible washrooms (women's, men's, and universal) are completed. They opened in time for the Spaghetti Dinner held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> .... and were admired and used!

As announced this past summer, Renew the Cathedral Capital Campaign has stepped back and is on hiatus until the spring of 2018. There will be no fundraising for Renew during this time. We hope all parishioners will work to support the fundraising needed to repair the cathedral (Project Jericho).

Many of the Renew Special Events Team are now working on the fundraising for Jericho. The Renew Special Events Team, chaired by Martha Stratford, hosted the Spaghetti Dinner on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and raised about \$4000, which was donated to the Jericho Fund. Congratulations to them!

The last event of this hard working Renew team, which was planned many months ago—the sale of Poinsettias—will be finished when

the plants are delivered to the Cathedral on the weekend of December 3/4. All the proceeds from the poinsettia sale will also be given to support the Jericho Fund.

It is important that the fundraising being planned now should support the effort to raise money for Project Jericho. Our Cathedral needs all our assistance!



# Knitting for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

*An Ongoing Advent Experience*

Stacey Clark

Saturday mornings at St. Paul's are busy with the sound of clicking needles accompanied by friendly laughter: this is when the *Knitting For Peace* group gathers for their weekly time of fellowship. During the season of Advent, the knitters will be preparing hats, mittens, scarves and hygiene kits (including a hand-knitted face cloth) to be distributed to guests of the Fellowship Centre here at St. Paul's, as they've done for the past four years. They are also responding to a request for hygiene kits from two women's shelters in London, to be included in Christmas parcels for their clients.

Heather Clark began this ministry at St. Paul's in February of 2012, inviting people from across London to join with members of our Cathedral family in this special project. Since then around fifty parishioners and Londoners have been involved at one time or another, and these talented and generous people have knit more than 4,900 items for Londoners in need.



Members of *Knitting For Peace* (women and men!) represent different faiths and denominations, but all share a common concern for their fellow Londoners and a passion for helping others. From September through June, 12 to 15 knitters attend the weekly gathering at St. Paul's, of whom about one third are members of the Cathedral. Through the thank-you notes they've received, they know that their ministry has deeply touched the lives of the many people who have received their hand-knitted items. However, those who participate have spoken of

how their involvement has enriched their lives as well. They have learned or taught new skills, formed friendships, shared experiences, and supported causes that are close to their hearts.

Every gathering begins with a time of peaceful contemplation, thanking God for guiding each of them through their days, and for the knitters' willing hands and open hearts. At weekly meetings knitters receive updates on community appeals, learn new knitting skills, stock up on supplies and patterns, hand in finished projects and enjoy a time of fellowship.

A number of participants-at-large are unable to come to weekly meetings due to illness or infirmity, work schedules or family commitments, and so knit as their schedule or health permits. Heather and other members of the team have delivered yarn, needles and supplies to shut-ins, and often coordinate members' exchanges of yarn for finished items at times that are more convenient for participants.

*Knitting For Peace* is grateful to have received support from St. Paul's parishioners and Londoners in the form of donations of yarn or funds for supplies. While it is very difficult when a knitter is no longer able to pursue their pastime or passion, many individuals or their families have donated materials and yarn, comforted by the thought that these will be well-used and will improve the lives of others in the future.

The motto of this group is "Warm Up London", and these committed artisans have been doing so one heartwarming, cozy item at a time. Not only do the products of their work contribute to the health and well-being of the recipients, but in working together they have, at the same time, knit together a rich, welcoming community. Members of this ministry team also often donate their own yarn and funds, when supplies are running low or to support a project that is particularly meaningful to them.

The items that are made and given so generously throughout the year by this group encompass all of the themes of Advent... I discovered this a few years ago when Heather and I were

giving out hats to guests of the Fellowship Centre just before Christmas. People were excited that they could choose whichever hat they wanted (Joy). Some said, “Thanks, I’m doing ok, I don’t need one right now” (Peace). Others asked if, instead of taking a hat for themselves, could they have one to give to their child (Hope). And then one man said, in astonishment: “You made these for us? For US?” Yes, for you, with Love.

As days progress through the season of Advent, so do they become darker and colder for many vulnerable Londoners. If you happen to have yarn that you can’t use, or are willing to make a small contribution for supplies, these would be gratefully received. Your gift will be transformed into a tangible blessing, a real Christmas gift that will be long-cherished by the recipient. Come along and learn to knit yourself if you wish! All are welcome to join this life-changing ministry.



Here is a list of local charities which the dedicated *Knitting for Peace* volunteers have supported:

- St. Paul’s Social Services: hats, mittens, scarves and facecloths (with toiletry items) for guests of the Fellowship Centre;
- The Salvation Army Centre of Hope: blankets for people moving out of the shelter into their own home;
- The John Howard Society: blankets, mittens, hats, scarves, socks, and slippers for at-risk youth;
- London Health Sciences Centre: purple hats for newborns, to educate parents and caregivers about ‘purple crying’ when infants cry inconsolably, in hopes of avoiding instances of shaken baby syndrome;
- St. Joseph’s Hospital: visually and tactilely stimulating ‘twiddle muffs’ for Alzheimer’s patients, which also provide comfort and security;
- Knitted Knockers of Canada: soft, comfortable, knit prosthetics for breast cancer survivors;
- The Men’s Mission & Rehabilitation Centre (through Mission Services of London): mittens, hats and scarves for men staying in their emergency shelter;
- London HIV/AIDS Connection: scarves for the Red Scarf Project, to raise awareness of the local significance of HIV/AIDS and educate the broader London community;
- My Sister’s Place: hats, scarves, cowls, mittens, socks, facecloths and tote bags, supporting women and their children as they seek safety and shelter;
- Three public schools in London distribute hats, mitts and neck warmers to children from low-income families;
- McCormick Home: lap blankets for long-term care residents;
- Women’s Community House: hats, scarves, mittens and hygiene packs;
- Rotholme Women’s & Family Shelter (through Mission Services of London): baby blankets, slippers for children and adults, hats, mittens for adults and children, scarves for adults, neck warmers for children and hygiene packs;
- Warm clothing has also been knit for St. Paul’s two Syrian refugee families; and
- During winter months the *Knitting For Peace* team make sure that Tim and other St. Paul’s staff always have a few pair of mittens available to hand out to anyone in need passing by the Cathedral.

# Christmas Memorial Flowers

*Giving in Memory and With Love*

**Audrey Smith**

The Altar Guild welcomes donations towards the cost of decorating the Cathedral for the Christmas season. If you would like to help in this way, please place your donation on the collection plate this Sunday or have it into the office by **Monday, December 12th**. Please

include your name and envelope number, and if it is a memorial donation, the name(s) of those to be remembered. Flower offering envelopes are available from the Greeters. The last page of the Christmas bulletin will be reserved for this special Christmas remembering of loved ones.

## *The Holly and the Ivy*

We joyfully give and receive flowers, delighting in their vibrant colours and intoxicating scents. While a floral gift is welcome throughout the year it is especially welcome during the darkest days of winter, after the leaves have fallen, the grasses withered, and life appears to have fled before the blowing wind, ice, and snow.

Today, florists are well-stocked with exotic blooms even in winter, but not so long ago, flowers in the midst of winter would have been a rare luxury.

In ancient Britain, evergreens such as holly and ivy were revered for their ability to withstand the killing frosts and maintain the “everlasting” green of life when everything else in the landscape was dead or dormant. As such, these plants were used for winter decoration indoors, and provided a welcome reminder of the life that would return in the Spring.

Traditional practice merged with Christianity and over generations the symbolism of these



evergreens and other native plants was adapted and became ingrained in folklore and, eventually, in the celebratory carols of Christmas.

— JS

1

*The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
The rising of the sun  
And the running of the deer,  
The playing of the merry organ,  
Sweet singing in the choir.*

2

*The holly bears a blossom,  
As white as the lily flower,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
To be our sweet Saviour.  
The rising of the sun, etc.*

3

*The holly bears a berry,  
As red as any blood,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to do us sinners good.  
The rising of the sun, etc.*

4

*The holly bears a prickle,  
As sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
On Christmas Day in the morn.  
The rising of the sun, etc.*

5

*The holly bears a bark,  
As bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
For to redeem us all.  
The rising of the sun, etc.*

6

*The holly and the ivy,  
When they are both full grown,  
Of all the trees that are in the wood,  
The holly bears the crown.  
The rising of the sun, etc.*

# Taizé

*Advent Reflection and Prayer*

**John Sproule**

Immerse yourself in the unfolding mystery that is the Advent season, and join us at Taizé-style worship services on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Some of you may be unfamiliar with this beautiful, rich yet simple form of worship—here is what a few past participants have to say about their Taizé worship experiences:

“I decided to attend Taizé services last year as a Lenten discipline. It was the first time I’d ever taken part in this type of worship, and I wasn’t sure what to expect. I found it to be very, very peaceful. Music, lighting and incense can all serve as catalysts for spiritual moments for me, and all three of these elements were present in these worship services. The evenings were uplifting in an unexpected way.”

*John Allen*

“These services provide a different way for me to express my faith. I like the periods of silence, which give me time away from the busyness of the world around me and everyday concerns. The contemplative nature of the services provides an opportunity to experience the divine in the world around me.”

*Mary Ann McDowell*

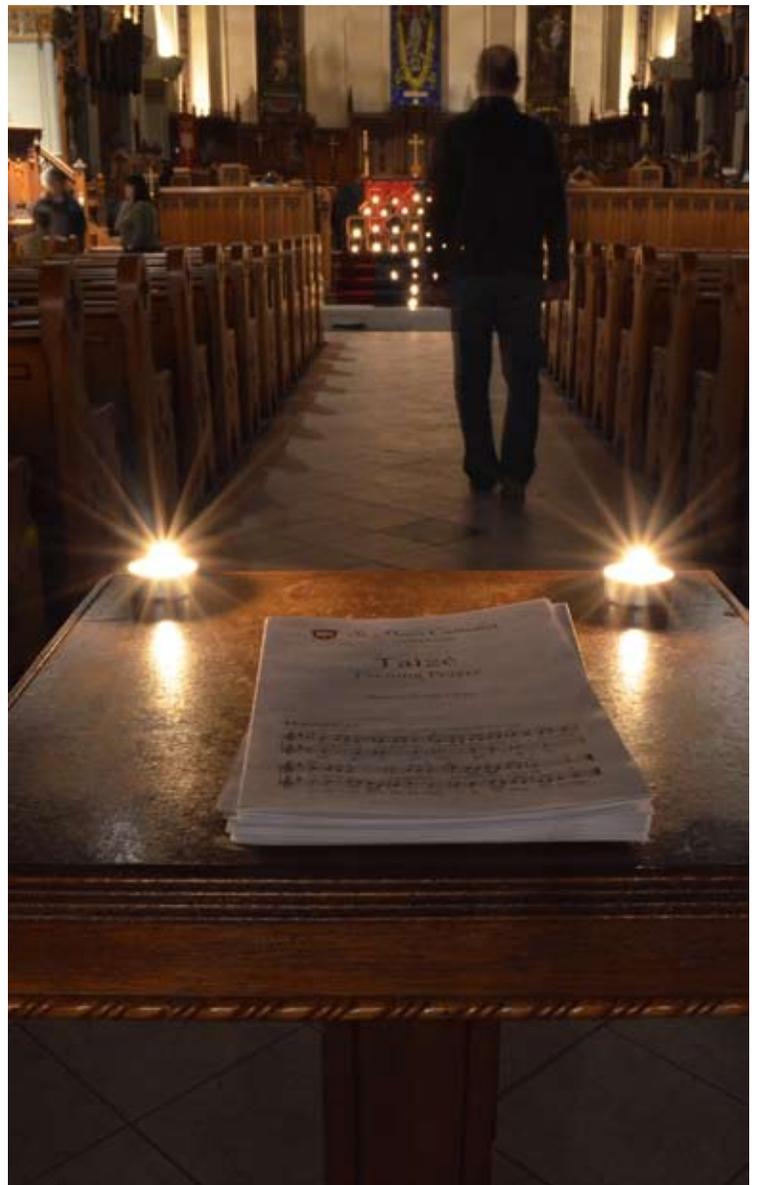
“I encourage people to try it—they might be surprised to find the Holy Spirit moving in their lives during these moments.”

*Angus Sinclair*

Taizé services are not formally led; rather, every participant’s presence and contribution is essential, as we sing (or listen), pray and meditate together in a beautiful, calm setting. All are welcome as we journey in faith together, contemplating the true meaning of the season.



*Pilgrims to the Taizé community in France often leave with a dove-cross pendant. This symbol was created by the Brothers around 1970, and serves as a reminder of spiritual transformations people have experienced in their lives and through worship.*



## Child and Youth and Transitional Ministries:

*Growing and having fun, trying new things!*

**The Rev'd Rosalyn M.J. Elm**

Wondering why there are young people congregating in St. Paul's? Wonder no more! We are very excited to share the many things the St. Paul's Cathedral Child, Youth & Transitional Ministry Team are involved in currently. Our nursery team is continuing in their wonderful ministry to our youngest members, keeping the little ones happy and spirited on Sunday mornings. Godly Play is also continuing under Heather Clark, with more Biblical stories for our younger Sunday group to experience. We have added Godly Play to our Evensong programming, allowing us to share and experience faith through tactile learning and enhancing our children's wonder through play. The Jr. Youth Sunday group has undergone a curriculum and leadership change, adding three new leaders to our Sunday roster: Hana Scorrar, Matt Selman, and Adam Aldcroft. Together we support Lea Patchett as she transitions into the M.Div program at Huron... YAY LEA!!!!



Our new curriculum will be looking at religious themes such as prayer, sacrament, worship, and discipleship, and has opened Sunday exploration up with music and new activities.

We continue on with our Wednesday night Sr. Youth Group meetings, beginning with Eucharist or evening prayer and culminating in dinner. We have welcomed back a few returning members, and opened our doors to youth from other churches in London looking for a place to engage in worship, Bible study, and lots of fun! We are looking forward to more inter-parish ministry, as we gain new Sr. Youth members,

and the opportunity to connect with teens in ways that deepen their faith and encourage spiritual expressions that make sense to them as they move through transitions between Sunday School and university.

Also meeting on Wednesday nights is our College and Careers: Coffee with Christ (C4) transitional ministry group. We have been gathering to discuss our understanding of the Bible since June 2016. Our group has grown, and we are welcoming new members regularly, with not only St. Paul's congregants joining us, but other denominations being represented. We are currently under the fearless leadership of Lauren Brierley and Matt Selman, who have managed to keep us on track with a video series designed to engage us in our understanding of the Bible as a document, tool, guidebook, etc.

We are looking forward to other ministry opportunities as they arise, with a hopeful expansion of our Sr. Youth ministry and our transitional ministry. We are planning fellowship events to support our youth and young adult members, and are currently involved in a discipleship undertaking. Some of the Christmas discipleship activities we have planned for this season are: Operation Hot Chocolate at the Santa Clause Parade, (photo, left), and the Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. We have ordered and plan to fill 25 boxes for underprivileged children and youth, in an effort to participate in practical ethical ministry and example for our young people the power of compassion and generosity. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be on hand for crafts and fun at the *Children's Messiah* and afternoon of music for kids. Don't forget to plan to be here at St Paul's to support the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

The Child, Youth & Transitional Ministry Team thank you for your support of us as we embark on these ministry opportunities, and ask for your prayers as we move forward in our goal of encouraging children in their faith and empowering youth and young adults on their spiritual journeys.