



# Messenger

October 2021

Issue 239

Harvest Thanksgiving  
Sunday, October 10  
9am - In-person and Live-streamed  
11am - Church & Chat





# FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY



**T**oday, I began distributing the call for applications for our new, full time Director of Children's and Youth Ministry. Information about our congregation and words about the kind of person we want to recruit are out there for the world to see. It feels good. No, it feels great to arrive at this point along with a team of smart and committed members of the search committee who have been reaching out to parents in our congregation, analyzing their feedback, and shaping our search process. If you're interested, you can find the job ad on our website [Link](#). The application deadline is October 15. Please join your prayers with my ongoing prayers for our search process and for the candidates we will attract.

I trust you have seen my letter about requiring proof of vaccination for members of our staff and for almost all our volunteers at St. Christopher's. There is a copy of my letter on our church website. Our procedures at St. Christopher's comply with the Diocese of Niagara COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. I welcome the policy, and I am grateful to the staff and volunteers who are

arranging to view your proof of vaccination documents.

How does our vaccination policy work? All staff must show proof of being fully vaccinated. And volunteers involved in putting on our in-person worship services need to show proof they have received their first dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine by September 30, and they must show proof they have received a second dose by October 31, 2021. The same is true for volunteers ministering with vulnerable or marginalized populations, including food security and other outreach ministries. Those attending public worship are not required to show proof of vaccination, although we will require proof of vaccination from anyone attending any indoor meeting or event not associated with worship. This includes any approved gatherings, like planning meetings or faith formation activities.

Why aren't we asking worshippers for proof of vaccination? The short answer is that worship is not covered by the provincial vaccine mandate. It may well be excluded from the Province of Ontario's mandate because of the freedoms enshrined in the Canadian Charter of

Rights and Freedoms, I'm not sure. But I do know our attention to sanitizing, screening, tracing, masking, and distancing is helping to keep us safe at church. I welcome your questions and comments about our rollout of the diocesan vaccine policy. Let's talk!

We are becoming a place of learning and action around matters of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. I hope all you avid readers have been able to look at the reviews of books by Indigenous authors Carol Henley and others have been writing for our weekly e-blasts! I was so pleased that some members of Parish Council participated in the Niagara in Action program, Mapping the Ground We Stand On, back on September 25. The event explored Indigenous presence and Settler arrival on the map of Turtle Island/Canada. I look forward to seeing all the ways they share their learning within our congregation in the coming months. I was pleased so many members of our congregation participated in our event on September 30 for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. And I am grateful to Archdeacon Val Kerr and Deirdre Pike

for leading us in learning. Coming up, St. Christopher's will have an opportunity to participate in a virtual tour of the former residential school at Six Nations. That event will take place on Thursday, November 4, at 10am. Please save the date.

Our online family service is back! After a hiatus in August and September, we are excited to gather with parents and kids on the first Saturday of the month, October 2, at 4pm via Zoom. There will be learning and laughter and age appropriate activities, plus time to visit, all in the space of about 45 minutes. Please register, and please spread the word!

Were you able to watch the recording of Michael Coren's ordination to the priesthood on September 26? It was an uplifting service. The next big ecclesial event for Michael will be his first celebration of the Eucharist at St. Christopher's. This will happen on Sunday October 3. I know many of you will want to support Michael on this moving and important occasion. We are going to have a little reception

for Michael on Zoom after the in-person service. Information about this Zoom gathering, along with a link to join the celebration, appears elsewhere in this edition of the Messenger.

On the eve of Thanksgiving I want to tell you there will be another opportunity to join in our Thanksgiving worship. We will certainly gather in-person at 9am on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10. This service will be live-streamed on YouTube. We will also gather on Zoom for Church at Chat on October 10 at 11am. I hope we will all sense the energy and togetherness that is possible on Zoom. I look forward to seeing you!

I send you all my good wishes,



REV. CANON DR.  
PENNY ANDERSON  
RECTOR

# WARDENS' REPORT

## My House Story

In 1982 I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. At the time, I worked for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the group that I worked with was being relocated to Dorset Ontario, 50 km. east of Bracebridge.

We were looking for a home in the area when I suddenly had a thought: "I might want to build a house some day. I don't know where my MS is going but I'd better build it now because I might not be able to later." Sue was onboard with the idea and so we did build our first house the next year.

The house was very close to where I worked. I was able to drive, walk, canoe, ski, or even snowshoe to work. It was on a lake, was a hybrid solar house built to R-2000 standards and was wheelchair accessible (just in case). The project was one of the most fulfilling in my life.

Why do I share this story at this time? Sometimes there is a right time to do something. We are faced with that at St. Christopher's today. Hiring Canon Penny was part of that.

### Also:

- The position for Youth Ministry has been posted. Applications will close on October 15th. Parents have had input into the process.
- For some time, the streaming of services on YouTube has been plagued with problems. We are moving towards hiring someone dedicated to facilitating this task on a per-service basis.
- Winston Tinglin, our



property manager, is continuing with several capital projects. Recently LED lighting has been installed throughout the building, and an audio loop has been installed in Great Hall.

### Mapping the Ground We Stand On

As I write this I've come from the Niagara in Action virtual event, Mapping the Ground We Stand On.

Picture this: you're playing a game, say basketball, and some new people join in without invitation. You welcome them cheerfully. They learn the game, even make some changes, and at the end they leave. They also take the ball and put a lock on the court that you shared. The next day these newcomers are playing on the court with the same ball, but somehow you are not welcome. You feel excluded and somehow lost.

This is like the situation that First Nations people, the Metis and the Inuit find themselves in today. It is a layered and complex situation that we can all aspire to learn more about.

Visit [Link](#). Also look for more opportunities to learn in the future.

### Vaccination Policy:

As you know Penny has distributed a letter concerning our implementation of the diocesan vaccination policy. To see this policy, visit Covid-19 Vaccination Policy (September 2021) [Link](#)

If you are not vaccinated:

- Please consider getting vaccinated as soon as possible. You might not think you need to because most others are, but that's the point. Getting vaccinated and wearing masks properly protects others.

- Consider attending the service on YouTube rather than in-person.

Congratulations to The Reverend Michael Coren on his ordination to the priesthood on September 26th!

Congratulations also to Bob Loree on his receipt of the Order of Niagara.

Parish council has

resumed meeting after breaking for the summer.

This afternoon I took Murphy and Akita for a walk up to Dundurn Castle. Signs of fall were apparent; the grass has lost its green luster and some leaves have already fallen. It has been a good summer and now we can look forward to a colourful fall. Enjoy.

*Al Nicolls is one of the four wardens (Erick Nettel, Amy Collard, Al Nicolls, & Carolyn Henderson) who, along with our Rector, Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson, make up St. Christopher's Corporation*

AL NICOLLS  
WARDEN





# MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS



**Y**ou may have heard, through the grapevine, that I broke my scaphoid bone. I figure this is worthy of being parish-wide news because the scaphoid accounts for 1/10th of the bones in the wrist joint. Which is to say that my left hand and forearm is in a cast and my performance capabilities are severely reduced.

Scaphoid fractures are common and often result from falling with an outstretched arm and landing on the heel of the palm. That's exactly what I did when I fell off my bike in an unspectacular incident that was caused entirely by a lapse of attention. It happened on my way to church and, as the pain was not immediately severe, I proceeded to record the August installment of my 12-part Tchaikovsky series. After an hour or so I had to abandon the effort. I'm obviously a bit bummed about this

because the project had been going pretty well up to this point. If you want to check out the first seven months of "The Seasons", look up the playlist on the St. Christopher's YouTube page.

The scaphoid is an unusual bone. Its Greek name means "boat-like" and is a description of its irregular shape. Another of its charming characteristics is low blood circulation. This means that healing can take as long as six months. For comparison, some long bones can heal in just six weeks. Fortunately, I don't appear to be at risk of complications and there is a possibility that I'm out of a cast by November. Despite this prognosis, I remain understandably concerned about having a complete and prompt recovery. Your thoughts and prayers are welcome.

Besides the opportunity to learn more than I ever wanted to know about the scaphoid, this injury

offers a couple other silver linings. First, since playing music has become so mechanically different than what I'm used to, I'm forced to interact with the keyboard in different ways and I hope that some of this ingenuity will translate to more variety while playing with two hands. Secondly, in case you didn't know, singing does not require the use of one's hands. It seems like a good idea, then, to take this opportunity to resume voice lessons. I am grateful to all of you for the professional development money in the music budget that supports me in this venture. I'm eager to bring new skills and approaches to my work – particularly choir practices.

I am still able to play on Sunday mornings but don't expect anything fancy. I'm very appreciative of the members of the pick-up choir who help provide music on a rotating basis. After a year and a half that has seen too many changes,

this approach to Sunday music is going to be around for a while. The only way it stops is if we're forced to stop.

Hopefully, though, we'll be able to expand the number of singers. Who knows? In some Anglican dioceses, like Ottawa and Montreal, choirs have been rehearsing and performing for months. So there is some

reason for optimism. To state the obvious, safety is, and should be, the top priority.

Thanks for listening to the sad story of my wrist. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before I'm out of this cast and can return to writing Messenger articles about ambitious musical undertakings, like recitals and Christmas concerts, once again.



ANDY ELMHIRST  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC





## Syrian Family Reunification

We were delighted to learn that members of the Syrian family waiting in Turkey to be reunited with family in Canada had a successful meeting with staff at the Canadian embassy in Ankara. At the conclusion of their interview, they were told their application for permanent residency in Canada has been approved! We are so pleased! The next step will be travel visas for their trip to Canada.

This superb news means it's time for St. Christopher's and our community partners to swing into action!

In the meantime, you can find out about the work of our reunification team here <https://syrianfamily.ca>



## ORDER OF NIAGARA BOB LOREE, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

## Parents of Queer and Trans Youth

Tuesday, Oct 19 2021 at 7:00 PM



Hosted by Penny, this group of parents of transgender and queer youth gathers monthly for support and community. Although it happens at St. Christopher's, the group is not restricted to members of our congregation, so please spread the word among people you know who might benefit from spending time with others who may be going through some of the same things. It is necessary to pre-register for the Zoom meeting. Please share the [registration link](#) widely.



## VIRTUAL TOUR: MOHAWK INSTITUTE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Please save the date for St. Christopher's virtual tour of the former residential school at Six Nations — Thursday, November 4th at 10am. It will be a time of story-telling and learning in community. Together we will reflect upon the history of Indian Residential Schools in Canada, the experiences of survivors, and the continuing impacts in Indigenous communities. We will be sharing details about how to connect to the tour closer to the event.





# OPEN DOORS

*every person. every table.*

## Mission

Together, building a diverse and inclusive community that supports our shared dignity and well being

## Vision

Every Person Has a Seat at the Table

**A** huge THANK YOU for all of those who tuned in on Friday for our "Welcome to the Table" Open Doors Fundraising event. It was so important to us in our Open Doors ministry, that all of you had an opportunity to hear about and see all the incredible

changes that have been happening in our space throughout 2021, (despite a pandemic).

Final tallies are not in at the time of composing this message, but I know it was a success in so many ways, far more than the money raised! Our work here at St. Christopher's is vibrant

and exciting and we look forward to continuing to share this ministry with our neighbours and to building a community where we all have a place, a voice, and a seat.

I hope you liked our updated logo and are as inspired as I am by our renewed Mission and Vision.

If you didn't get a chance to watch the video live on October 1st, you can see it by going to the St. Christopher's YouTube [page](#). And if you would like to contribute to the fundraising efforts, please call the office to make arrangements to do so.

A special thank you to all of the volunteers involved in

making this happen, there are too many to name, but you know who you are, and we couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to the fundraising committee; Gerry Anthony, Fred Grigsby, Gail Grant, Heather Bonser, and Sharon Aitken. Your dedication and commitment are tops!



Open Doors will be offering our "What's for Dinner?" program on October 6th, 2021 & October 20th, 2021

"What's for Dinner?" will provide access to cooking literacy programs open to community members to build new skills and confidence in the kitchen. All ingredients and materials will be supplied by Open Doors.



**Calling all garden lovers and outdoor volunteers!**

Our staff at the Open Doors Community Garden would like to invite you to join us for a Saturday garden cleanup on October 16th and 30th from 11 am - 2 pm. We will be finishing our last harvests, cutting down any remaining vegetation, and covering the raised beds for the winter. If you have any questions or would like to confirm your interest, please email Dáire at [gardenmarket@stcb.ca](mailto:gardenmarket@stcb.ca).

P.S. Yes, these are also Soup-er Saturdays! Why not pick up some soup to enjoy after all that hard work? :)





OPEN DOORS INVITES YOU TO

# SOUP-ER Saturdays

WE ARE AT IT AGAIN!  
 DRIVE THRU FOR YOUR HOMEMADE  
 DELICIOUS SOUPS AND STEWS AND HELP  
 US RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR  
 THE PROGRAMS WE OFFER FOR THE  
 COMMUNITY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2021 11AM - 2PM  
 ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARKING LOT  
 CONTACTLESS PURCHASE  
 CREDIT AND DEBIT PREFERRED



**\$5-  
\$20**

*All proceeds to go to Open Doors and their efforts to support the community through good food.*

## Saturday Oct. 30th - Charcuterie Box Drive-Thru




Pictures are examples only, items may vary

Place your order by calling 905-634-1809 on or before October 25th. Limited quantities available – all crafted with care!

- Large Box (serves 3 - 4) - \$40
- Small Box (serves 1 - 2) - \$30
- Kids Box (serves 3 - 4) - \$20



Follow us on Facebook @opendoorsatstchrisophers or Instagram @opendoorsburlington to watch for when these sell out!!

We have begun our planning already! Keep watch mid October for social media and eblast announcements inviting neighbours to register for the Christmas Families program. A suggested donation list and volunteer jobs will be shared in November's Messenger.



We are accepting donations of clean, fashionable, and seasonally appropriate clothing for our Clothing Store every Wednesday from 9:30am - 4pm. Please be sure items are checked for functionality (buttons and zippers work), and cleanliness (no stains or rips). Bring clothes (bagged) to the north doors of the church and you can leave them in the black bin provided. WINTER COATS will be accepted beginning in November, please hold onto them until then as we do not have the space to store them.

With sadness we received Sue Littleton's resignation from the position of Good Food Coordinator in September. Sue was our lead staff person who worked alongside volunteers to plan and coordinate the Community Meals every Tuesday and was working on ways in which we could reduce our food waste. She participated in many events over the year she was with us and her contribution to all things she was involved in was impactful in many ways. She will be missed as a valued member of the Open Doors team by colleagues, volunteers, parishioners and the community we serve. We accepted her resignation with regret, and wish her all the very best in her journey ahead. - Christina

CHRISTINA MULDER  
 OPEN DOORS  
 DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS



# DID YOU KNOW?



Where in the church building, would you find the following?

1. The paschal candle\_\_\_\_\_

2. Used clothing \_\_\_\_\_

3. A patten \_\_\_\_\_

4. The postage machine \_\_\_\_\_

5. Garbage bags \_\_\_\_\_

6. Couches \_\_\_\_\_

7. Drums \_\_\_\_\_

8. Pianos (2) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Zamboni \_\_\_\_\_
10. T-loop (2) \_\_\_\_\_

11. Choir robes \_\_\_\_\_

12. Reserved sacrament \_\_\_\_\_

13. Altar frontals \_\_\_\_\_

14. Shredder \_\_\_\_\_

15. Freezers \_\_\_\_\_

16. Ovens \_\_\_\_\_

17. Cushions – Seating aids: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Fresh vegetables \_\_\_\_\_

The answers are below! Do not look, until you have completed the test!

1-church, 2-clothing store, 3-sacristy, 4-office, 5-utility room (off the narthex), 6-family room, 7-church, 8-music room, and church, 9-utility room, 10-church, Great Hall 11-choir room, 12-church (ombre), 13-sacristy, -14-office, 15-hallway (opposite the music room), 16-kitchen, 17-narthex, 18-outdoor garden

JUDY JUPP





## G.I.F.T. Online Family Service

Once we turn the calendar over to October, Thanksgiving is suddenly in view. Of course, gratitude is always in season! But gratitude will be a focus for our time together when we gather on Saturday, October 2nd, at 4pm on Zoom. The service will celebrate the things our children are good at, and we'll use these aptitudes and gifts as lenses for thinking about gratitude. We will use breakout spaces so like-aged children will have a chance to spend time together.

It's necessary to register ahead of time — this allows us to control access to the meeting and keep our children safe in an online environment. Use this [link](#) to sign-up.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please spread the word to the people you know who have children in their lives. We look forward to seeing you!

## Blessing of the Animals October 3 at 11:30am

Our pets are part of the family! Please join us as we celebrate our connections to the animals who live with us on the Eve of St. Francis' Day, October 3rd at 11:30am.

Join us in the garden facing Guelph Line for an informal service of prayer and blessing.



## All Saints' Day Service

Sunday, October 31, @ 9.00 am



## All Souls' Day Service

Remembering those who have died

A quiet, reflective service of reassurance, healing, and hope.

Tuesday, November 2, @ 7 pm







## RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE MICHAEL'S ORDINATION

Our parish celebration of Michael's ordination to the priesthood will take place via Zoom on Sunday, October 3 at 10am. This follows Michael's first opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist at St. Christopher's at our in-person 9am service, also on October 3. This [link](#) will bring you to our gathering. See you there!

## You Are Not Alone

Join us once each month for a virtual evening of prayer, scripture and conversation, as we remember those we have lost. The next opportunity to gather will be Tuesday, October 12 at 7 pm, hosted by Rev. Michael Coren. Details to connect will be found in the eblast.

All are welcome.



## Tuesday Contemplative Prayer

This group meets every Tuesday morning at 8 am. Contemplative prayer is centered on silence. Leadership is exchanged each week. Rev. Michael is the host.

The format includes a reading or prayer at the beginning, 10 minutes of silence, a concluding prayer or comment, discussion and sharing. Everyone welcome. See the link in the latest eblast or call the church at 905.634.1809.

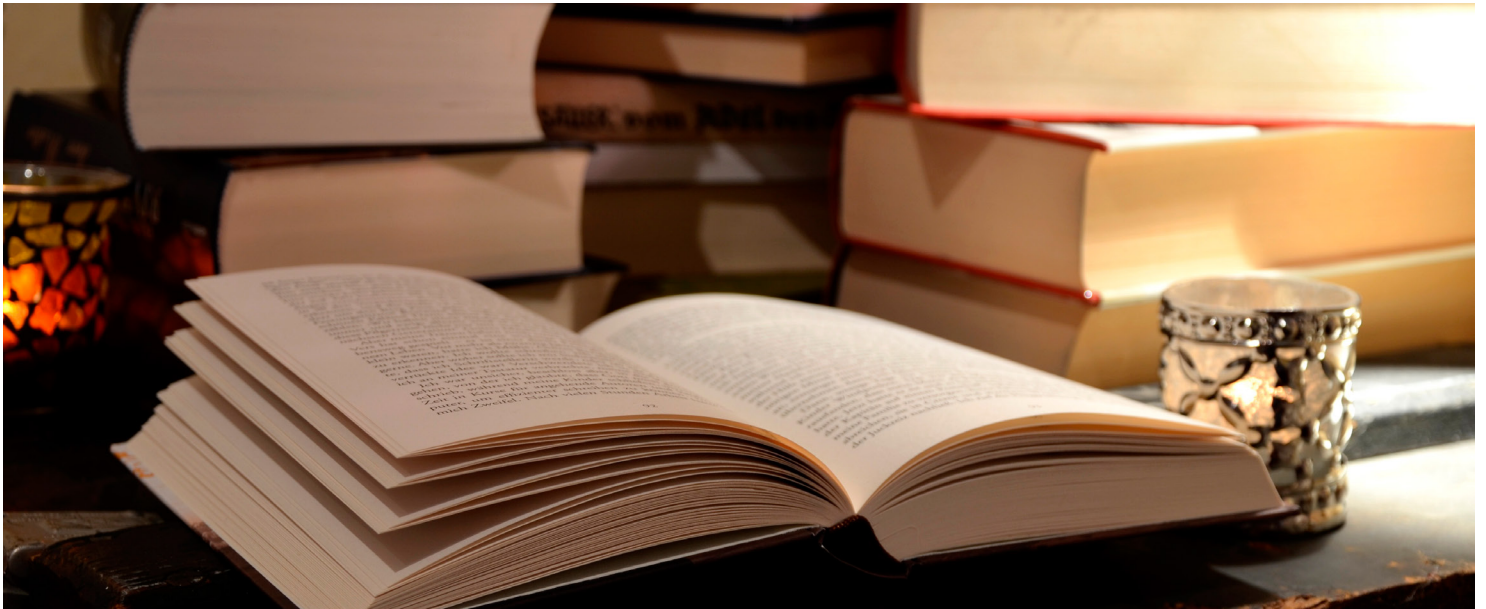


## Thursday Morning Prayer with Michael

Please join Michael for Thursday Morning Prayer at 9 am. The session lasts around 20 minutes, includes prayers and Bible readings, and is a wonderful way to start the day! We stay afterward to chat for a short time. If you would like assistance with entering or calling in to the Zoom room, please call the church office at 905.634.1809.



# PASTORAL CARE



I've a new book out in October, called *The Rebel Christ*. I mention this not to boast – I'm hardly a literary star – but to explain where I stand, as someone who tries to be of service to you and to St. Christopher's.

The book's starting point is really a question, based on a claim. Why is it that the purest, most supremely liberating philosophy and theology in all of history is now seen by so many people around the world as an intolerant, legalistic, and even irrelevant religion embraced only by the gullible, the foolish, and the judgmental? If that shocks you, so be it. That's a good and not a bad thing, and the truth is often shocking. As a Christian, as someone whose faith informs his entire life and meaning, I pose this question with no relish and with a great deal of remorse, but I pose it nevertheless because it's real and it's proven, and unless Christians admit the problem and struggle to remedy it, matters will only

deteriorate. For Christians and for non-Christians alike, for the sake of public discourse, for the sake of the church, and for the sake of generations to come, we have to set matters right.

An authentic relationship with God is a dialogue, and one that involves questions, arguments, and even doubt. We're made — and if we're Christians we believe we're made by God — to be thinking individuals who want answers, and not robotic creatures who simply obey. A mature belief in Scripture necessitates an understanding that the Bible is not divine dictation but an inspired history of God's relationship with humanity, which is a wonderful guide to life but doesn't solve every modern problem and hourly challenge. It can be complex; it's often nuanced; some would argue, although I disagree, that it's even contradictory; but at heart it's about absolute love.

And that love culminates in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ,

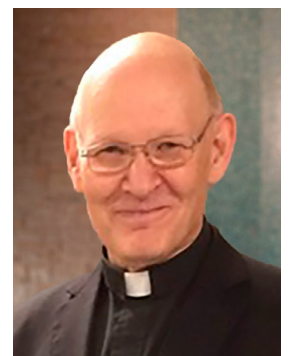
who says not a word about, for example, abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, pornography, or the so-called traditional family, but demands justice, forgiveness, equality, care for the poor and for the marginalized and for strangers, and compassion even for enemies; who insists on peace, and on the abandonment of materialism; and who constantly speaks of the blistering risks of wealth and prestige. He turns the world upside down, he challenges the comfortable and the complacent, sides with the outcast and the prisoner, and has no regard for earthly power and worldly ambition. Love and hope.

Christianity isn't safe and was never supposed to be. Christianity is dangerous. Yet, truth be told, we have often transformed a faith that should revel in saying yes into a religion that cries no. Its founder died so that we would change the world but many of his followers fight to defend the establishment,

they try to link Jesus to nationalism and military force, and they dismiss those who campaign for social change as being radical and even Godless. Of course, this is only a culture within Christianity, and not Christianity itself but ask most people what they think of when they consider the public face of the Christian faith and they speak of American conservative politicians, anti-abortion activists, or campaigners against sex education or equal marriage. Worse than this, many Christians themselves — especially in North America — have retreated into a bunker mentality, seeing persecution around every corner and retreating into literalism and small-mindedness. They have built an alternative culture,

not one that's anchored in the simplicity and altruism of the early church, but that's hinged on nationalism and insularity.

We at this wonderful church get it right much of the time, and we know what matters and what doesn't. It's a privilege to be part of this living, vibrant, Christian community but we can never be complacent, never rest on our achievements. If anyone has taught me that, it's you guys in Burlington. Thank you for it. God bless.



REV. MICHAEL COREN  
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE



## From the Registry

*Baptism:* William Martyn Worth Barton September 12

*Death:* Gwen Dugeon March 18

## Thanksgiving

There are three ways to connect to our annual Thanksgiving celebration coming up on Sunday, October 10:

- 1 Sign-up using Eventbrite to attend our 9am service in-person,
- 2 Watch the live-stream of our 9am service on YouTube, and
- 3 Join Church and Chat on Zoom at 11am.

That's right, our 11am Zoom Church and Chat service is back! It will be a spirited, informal worship experience with an emphasis on togetherness in our virtual space.

Watch for the October 7 parish email blast for details about how to connect with our virtual offerings.



## Remembrance Day Service Sunday, Nov. 7



## JAZZ VESPERS

Kevin Mak – piano  
Dan Cunningham – bass  
Tommy-Lee Metcalfe – drums

In Person | Sunday, Oct. 17<sup>TH</sup> | 4.00pm

