

News for Scattered Pews

Spring 2023



Val's Voice

What a whirlwind of a week, and more to come...

What a gift it has been so far, to travel where we have been in England. Seeing cathedrals and museums in London and

Coventry and York, going to eucharists at little parish churches (with coffee after), wandering through crypts and graveyards, even catching *Wicked* - a piece of musical theatre! To catch glimpses of history I have never crossed paths with before. To think of centuries gone by, and peoples I haven't encountered, on landscapes that I have never walked.

All of it stretches me to realize the obvious, that there are people around the world - even in a country where the language is the same as the one I know the best - who have different habits of speech and thought; who let their kids play on a dock when I would be nervous of the water; who travel from Germany and Holland and France to the UK all the time. And yet all have come to learn something new, people whose lives are similar to mine in some ways, and different in others.

But as much as that is the case in this time, there are people who have lived through centuries I can't imagine.

That has been the same for every century through time... all the habits and insights and power struggles that have changed, back through the years of the Reformation, and the Roman Empire, the saints and sinners of generations of explorers and evangelists, and the times of so many others - the good and faithful, as well as the cad(s).

All of that, and we still hear the stories of Jesus' resurrection, (and a bit later, His ascension). In the midst of this myriad of tales we need to discern what it means for us: the life that comes beyond death, the one who returns to the side of his Father in the heavens and sends the Spirit to walk with us, the one who calls us and all people to love our neighbours, to love God, to know that there is always life beyond where we are.

Somehow in the midst of all the unfamiliar and ancient things I have seen these last few days, it becomes clear that there are not easy or obvious answers to how to live and walk in this faith. Or at least not the same answers for all time.

But still, as Jesus appeared to and walked with his disciples in that particular time, there is a sense that He does so today, appearing in the midst of our current fears, current heartbreaks, current joys. And when we need insight again, or always, there is the Spirit of Jesus, leading us and breathing light and hope and also radical turns of thought into our particular days, as has always been the case.

Blessings to you and yours in this moment.

Val



The Cathedral Church of Saint Michael, commonly known as Coventry Cathedral - Coventry, West Midlands, England.

Coventry has had three cathedrals. The first was St. Mary's, a monastic building, from 1102-1539, of which only a few ruins remain. The second was St. Michael's, a 14th-century Gothic church designated as a cathedral in 1918, which remains a ruined shell after its bombing during WWII. The third is the new St. Michael's Cathedral, built immediately adjacent after the destruction of the former and consecrated in 1962.

(Source: Wikipedia)

Vestry Notes from May 2

(Note: the April Vestry meeting was re-scheduled from April 25. May's meeting will be pushed forward a week to May 30.)

The question for vestry members when we met was "what will our Parish look like in five years?" The last few years have presented our community with many challenges but we have been able to hold firm and adapt. The general feeling among our members is one of optimism that we can face ongoing change if we have a positive attitude and flexibility towards the prompting of the Holy Spirit. This is mirrored in our opening devotional reading which was from the Gospel of John 3:8. Jesus said, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the spirit."

We are happy to report and give thanks for a number of things this month:

- a steady increase in the number of people worshipping with us in church
- the arrival of our long-awaited sponsored refugee Obed Sharayar, who is originally from Pakistan but found refuge in Thailand where he has been for nine long years
- a successful Garage Sale which while having financial value, as the convenor Cathy Mondor will attest, also creates fellowship and gives support to people in need in our neighbourhood and beyond. More than 600 people passed through our doors during the one and a half day sale.

All these things are surely signs of God at work in our midst.

Judy Asker reports that our financial situation is on track which is very encouraging. Our donation to the Kasaga school in our companion Diocese of Central Buganda has been sent and received.

In addition to the Finance Report we received the ministry reports from Property, Worship, Communications, Refugee Sponsorship, and also the Rectors report.

Our Rector Val is away on combined vacation and study leave. She is due to return May 25. Services in her absence will be conducted by lay readers, the Rev Canon Mary Lysecki (our former Rector) and Bishop Elaine Sauer from the ELCIC. While Val is away, anyone in need of pastoral care should contact the church office at 204-253-0555.

Thank you to Heather Birtles for compiling this month's Vestry notes.



"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Matthew 6:28-29

The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene is on Treaty 1 territory.

3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg MB R2M 1Z2
stmarymagdalenenwpg.org

Phone: 204-253-0555 (church office) 204-930-7253 (Val's cell)
Email: stmary@mymts.net

St. Mary Magdalene Church Calendar

May 2023 <i>May Flowers</i>	June 2023 <i>School's Out for the Summer ;)</i>
4 Vestry meeting 7 pm (rescheduled)	4 1st Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
6 Coronation of King Charles III	6 Service at Vista Park Lodge 2:15 pm
7 5 th Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	11 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
14 <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i> 6th Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	15 Service at River Park Gardens 10:30 am
21 Ascension Sunday 7th Sunday of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	18 <i>Happy Father's Day!</i> 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
22 Victoria Day	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day
28 Day of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am ACF Service 7 pm	25 4 th Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am ACF Service 7 pm
30 Vestry meeting 7 pm	27 Vestry meeting 7 pm

ACF = Asian Christian Fellowship service in Urdu

Weekly Activities

Bible Study	Wednesdays 1 pm	Contact: Val
Christian Meditation	Thursdays 7:30 pm	Contact: Barbara B
Choir Practice	Sundays 9 am	Contact: Nancy
Book Club	n/a	Contact: Val