

## **WARDENS' REPORT**

This report highlights some of the key achievements and activities since the Wardens' last report to Vestry.

### **Changes in the Faces at St. Thomas's**

At the end of December 2018, Matthew Larkin left the position of Organist and Director of Music. We are grateful for the time Matthew spent with St. Thomas's. Beginning on January 1, 2019, Matthew Whitfield became our Director of Music. We are pleased to welcome Matthew and his wife, Jessika, to St. Thomas's. Jessika is also a musician; we look forward to enjoying the musical gifts they bring to the parish.

There was also a change in the Sexton position in 2018. Bret Mecredy-Williams retired from the role, and Elijah McNeilly became our new Sexton. Thank you, Bret, for your service, and welcome, Elijah.

During the winter and spring of 2018, the Rector took a well-deserved sabbatical. During his leave, including for Vestry 2018, we were fortunate to have Fr. David Brinton as our Interim Priest in Charge and we are grateful for the time he spent with us.

### **Property**

Meredith Thomas has devoted considerable time to our property, for which we are very grateful. Tenacious follow-up work on our roof replacement project, periodic boiler issues, and other important property maintenance projects received excellent attention and care from Meredith.

Also in 2018, our solar panels were installed on the roof of the Parish Hall, and they have started generating electricity! The Wardens are thankful for the dedication of Rob Kennedy to seeing that project through from vision to implementation.

### **Stewardship**

As reported elsewhere to Vestry, an extraordinary stewardship initiative was led by Michael Rowland and Willem Hart, coinciding with the 125th anniversary of the Church building. Our Heritage is Our Future has included in 2018: extensive parish, diocesan, and community consultation; the development (with Janet Stewart and the Rector and our architects) of a fabulous master plan for our buildings; and a spectacular kick-off party at the Wychwood Barns.

The Wardens are extremely grateful for the commitments made to this very significant initiative. As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Church building, Michael and Willem are helping us look forward to the next 125 years of mission in our beautiful parish campus.

### **The Life of the Parish**

The website, posters, flyers and weekly bulletins evidence how much goes on at St. Thomas's inside and outside the Church. The Wardens wish to thank the members of the clergy, lay staff and Corporation for their service to the life of the parish in 2018:

- Fr Mark, Fr Chris and the honorary clergy;
- Elizabeth Anderson, the Section Leads from the Choir, and the members of the Music Director Search Committee;
- Christine Cover and James Shire;
- Choristers, acolytes, altar guild members, readers;

- All those who minister by welcoming and providing refreshment: sidespeople and members of the Friars Guild and the Friday Food Ministry;
- All those who minister in child-care and education;
- Other committee and guild members, the garden team and Advisory Board members;
- Julia Armstrong, for our refreshed parish website; and
- all those responsible for the financial well-being of St. Thomas's: our treasurer, Tim Wright, the Finance Committee, our bookkeeper, and Barbara Obrai and Marilyn Ramsingh who keep track of all donations.

The 125th anniversary celebrations included wonderful special events (which continue into 2019). The completion of the work on the Baptistry windows, the visit of Archbishop Colin Johnson on the Feast of the Dedication, the special armistice service, and the parish mission with the Rev'd Dr George Westhaver were splendid and inspiring ways to mark this milestone in the life of the parish and help us look with confidence into the future. The Wardens are grateful to the Rector and all those who committed time and resources to make these events possible.

Corporation is so grateful for the tremendous efforts of all of the volunteers who, throughout the year, are responsible for the pastoral, outreach, educational, creative, and social activities that distinguish life at St. Thomas's. There are simply too many people to name – which is itself remarkable – but the Wardens are very appreciative of your commitment to the parish. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Andrew Gray  
People's Warden