



Mark This Word

The Parish Newsletter of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

Issue number 51

Lent 2019

Bishop Peter: Thank you. Farewell but not Goodbye

Thank You and Farewell was the title Bishop Peter gave to his article for this newsletter. We could respond likewise, with a small change: *Thank You. Farewell but not Goodbye. St Mark's doors will always be open.*

January 27 was Bishop Peter's last Sunday with us. His wife Deborah joined us as the parish thanked him with an ode written by Brenda Zanin, presented vocally by the choir and in written form by chorister Jeremy Close. He also received a prayer shawl knitted by Gillian Morris, denoting the seasonal and festival colours during his time at St Mark's, and a special card by Janis Perkin.

Ode to Bishop Peter v3 to 'Good Christians All Rejoice'

So swiftly time has passed
This Sunday is your last
Time to say Godspeed to you
And may God send his blessings too
Fare you well and thanks again
You'll always be a St Mark's friend
Now our song is done,
Now our song is done.

Thank You and Farewell

When I came to St Mark's at the beginning of October, it was to be just for a month during Jessica's recovery. That was extended twice, and I will have been with you for four months when I move on to the Parish of Huntley (Carp). It's a commitment that I made before I came to you. I am sorry that Jessica has not been able to get back sooner, and we continue and will always hold her and her family up in prayer, however, I was pleased to have been with you, albeit in a limited way. You have been very welcoming to me, and to Deborah when she was able to join us after fulfilling commitments at Christ Church, Bell's Corners, our home parish.

I realize that things may seem a little uncertain at the moment with temporary clergy, but there are considerable leadership resources and gifts within the congregation. Also, you will be well led and accompanied by Fr Rob Davis, who is an absolutely wonderful priest. And Cathy, who is also a priest, is equally a blessing.

So, thank you for this time together. It has been a great experience for me and just good to be included. For that, I give thanks to Archdeacon Chris Dunn, our Bishop and first and foremost to you, the good people of St Mark's. God bless you all in whatever ministry lies ahead as you seek to be a presence of our Lord in and from this community.

+Peter





Transition: Changes at St Mark's

by Cynthia Greer & Pauline Adams, Wardens

September marked another turning point for St Mark's. Pauline and I were at The Perley for the Friday eucharist, with the team, waiting for Rev Jessica. A short phone call told us of her heart attack. We soon heard that she would need a month to recover. Later, this became 'until the end of December', and then we were told that Bishop Peter would be with us through January. He would have stayed longer, except he had a prior commitment.

We have been blessed to have had Bishop Peter with us. His wealth of knowledge of the Bible, his wisdom and experience, his sermons and his calm, gentle demeanor have been very well suited to keeping our parish stable and content. He was sent to us for 'two per diems' a week: Sundays and another day, when he could visit the sick, do practical work, and generally keep things going.

Lucky for us, he generously spent a fair bit more time than was agreed upon doing all those things!

In December we learned that Rev Jessica needed to go on long term disability, to allow further time for recovery, with no specific end date. Now, as of February 1st, we are welcoming the Ven Rob Davis into our midst, newly retired from Pembroke, as our interim priest-in-charge. We have been assured that, as our half-time priest, he has the authority and the desire to move us forward, and is able to make decisions for the parish. We are also happy to have Rob's wife, the Rev Cathy Davis with us. We are looking forward to working with, and getting to know, Rob and Cathy.

Thank You:

We would be very remiss if we did not say a special *thank you* to our Wardens, Cynthia and Pauline, and Joy our administrator, for their extra work in keeping everything running smoothly. *Ed*

Welcome Back 39 years later

Fr Rob Davis: A brief introduction

It is a real and unexpected joy to be returning to minister for a while at St Mark's. I will always remember the first Sunday, way back in Advent of 1979, that Cathy and I came to the church and found ourselves so warmly welcomed that it was like coming home after along time away. David Stalter was the priest in those days and he quickly became a friend who helped guide me through the first steps of my journey to ordination, married Cathy and me, and baptized our first son, Emrys.

My father, Eldon, was a priest of this Diocese, a padre during WWII, and then a missionary to India which is where he met and married my mother, Joan, who was a Methodist missionary nurse from Australia. They served there for some 15 years, and had six children of whom I am the eldest. They returned to Canada when I was 12 and Dad was appointed to St Stephen's in Ottawa.

Over the next years, after high school at Woodroffe, and a BA at Carleton, I gained work experience ranging from maintenance work at a summer camp, to the psych department at Rideau Regional, to a truck driver's helper at Parkland Building Supply. As well, I enjoyed some significant travel, to Australia, and also to Africa and Europe.



Then I felt God's odd but insistent call to ordination and so began the best part of a wonderful life.

I went to seminary at Huron College, was ordained in 1983 and appointed to St Thomas the Apostle, Alta Vista as assistant to Leonard Baird. Then, for five years, I ministered in the Parish of Stafford, and at St Paul's, Almonte for 19 years, and finally at Holy Trinity, Pembroke for nine years; three very different parishes, but each a great blessing. Cathy and I

were also involved in Cursillo, the March for Jesus, the Alpha Course, traditional and alternative forms of worship and music, and a variety of other events and courses which helped form us in our walk with Jesus.

As well, we had our four children: Emrys, Bronwen, Moira and Trevor. They're all grown now and we have four grandchildren. Along the way, Cathy felt called to ordination and was ordained in 2006. She served as assistant at Trinity Cornwall. After two years there she went to the Parish of St Mary the Virgin in Ottawa, and then to the Parish of Petawawa and Alice. We both retired at the end of May 2018, moved to Ottawa at the end of November and are slowly getting used to this new phase of our lives.

And now I am to be back at St Mark's, an unexpected but very welcome part of the adventure! May we journey together in joy and be blessed and be a blessing as we learn more and more to live in and show the Kingdom of God.

+ Rob Davis

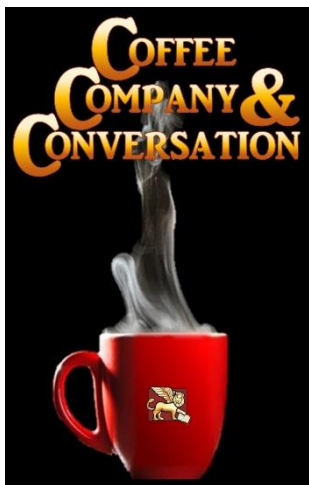


Prayers for Bishop John

On Tuesday, January 29th a mass was discovered on Bishop John Chapman's right lung. Further testing and treatment will take place in the near future.

Bishop Chapman is taking medical leave in order to give full attention to his health. The Bishop has appointed Assisting Bishop, the Rt Rev Michael Bird, to be his Commissary during this leave. Bishop Michael will work with the senior staff of the diocese and the staff of the Synod Office to ensure that the ministry of the diocese continues without interruption.

Please keep Bishop John in your prayers, remembering also his wife Catherine and their family.



Coffee, Company & Conversation A New Season

by Laurie Slaughter

The success of Coffee, Company & Conversation, based on feedback from its many participants, has spurred us on to continue in 2019, starting late January. From opening day on September 27, our new community outreach mission developed into regular

gatherings of coffee, company and conversation for seniors over 13 weeks.

Every Thursday morning, some 22 to 42 visitors enjoyed their hot beverage with homemade muffins and scones made by our own generous bakers at St Mark's. We also entertained them with music or crafts or presentations of interest to seniors.

Our first performers on January 31 were three members of the group 'Plaid', which included Leslie Worden, mother of Rev Jessica, on accordion. The sessions will continue until mid-June. For safety's sake, if weather conditions are so bad that school buses are not running, the gathering will not take place.

If you have not yet enjoyed the social interaction and features of these mornings, please join us. All seniors (and



feel free to define that title in any way!) are welcome. Share this information with neighbours and friends so that they too can relax and enjoy a morning while chatting and meeting new people. Many Thursdays will also include a special feature. On all mornings, board and card games are available for activity with others.

The organizing committee (Georgia Roberts, Suzanne Bisson, Penny Miller and Laurie Slaughter) want to acknowledge with much appreciation all the volunteers who come each week to help out so enthusiastically.



Come and experience a new community outreach for seniors in the St Mark's area.

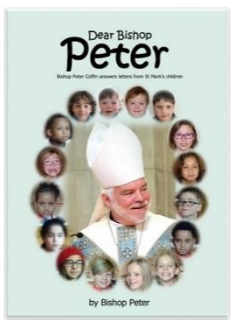


Seniors' Eucharist & Lunch



The parish Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch in November was well attended, with Bishop Peter sharing some of his many journeys during his ministry as a priest and bishop.





Church School *Dear Bishop Peter*

by Kate Greer-Close

A couple of years ago, a book entitled *Dear Pope Francis* was published, containing letters with questions from children around the world, and his replies to them. I decided at the time that our children had some big questions too, so Father Jim put me in touch with Bishop Peter, who agreed to answer our letters. So now we also have a very personal book of our children's big questions and Bishop Peter's thoughtful answers. What luck that our children have had the chance to meet Bishop Peter and talk with him in person.

This is just what we did one Sunday, during coffee hour. We looked at our book with Bishop Peter, and then got on to the pressing concern of the day: where should we direct our funds to help others? Well, with the Gospel about Jesus turning the water into wine in the sermon, and out in Sunday school - we were all thinking about water. Clean water. Bishop Peter shared some of his stories of living abroad, where he saw the desperate need for safe, clean water for washing and drinking. As Madeline said, it is hard for us here to imagine such a basic need going unmet and people dying for the lack of it, but Bishop Peter's stories made it real for us.

As our children expressed their thanks for school and food, and clean water, they have decided to help others to have those things too. We will be sending funds to help a needy community acquire a well, a goat, and school supplies. Many thanks to you all for supporting their fundraising efforts (selling Advent candles and Janis' Christmas cards) so that they can show God's love in the world, in such a tangible way.

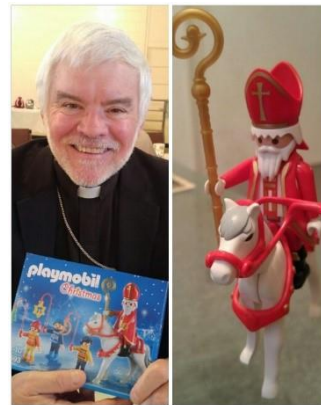


Who was that white-bearded man?

by Margaret Lodge

St Nicholas (Nicolas, Nikolas) Bishop of Myra, Confessor
15 March 270 - 6 December 342 Feast Day: December 6

St Nicholas was an early Christian bishop of the ancient Greek city of Myra. He is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, and students in various cities and countries around Europe. And, of course, his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to what we now know as Santa Claus or St Nick.



During our Advent parish lunch, just in time for St Nicholas Day, December 6, Bishop Peter was presented with a Playmobil look-alike of the saint in his bishop's robes. Little did I realize when we brought this gift last year from Germany, that Bishop Peter and Bishop Nicholas had a real connection, and not just the white hair and beard.

Bishop Peter Coffin
Bishop of Ottawa, 1999 - 2007
Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Forces, 2004 – 2016

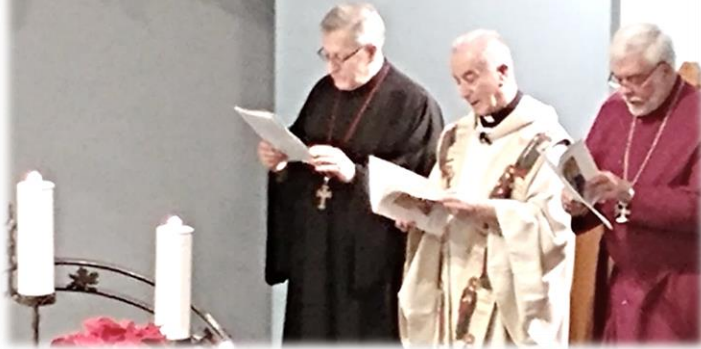
In June 2010, when Bishop Peter was then Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Forces, its clergy adopted St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, as their patron saint.

And so, for our Christmas pageant, it was most appropriate that Bishop Peter took part, dressed in his bishop's robes and carrying his shepherd's crook. Many of the children had not seen a bishop, let alone a bishop's regalia.





Week of Prayer for Christian Unity All because of Jesus



by Brenda Zanin

Whether our language is English, Greek or Italian, and whether we are Anglican, Roman Catholic or Greek Orthodox, we are all gathered together because of Jesus. This was the message from Bishop Peter on a snowy January afternoon when congregations from three different churches came to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Hosted this year by the congregation of Madonna della Risurrezione church across the street from St Mark's, our multi-denominational service included prayer, hymns, readings and homilies from the clergy of the three participating churches.

With Jesus as our focus, denominational differences fade into the background, and Christians can focus on sharing God's love wherever they go and whomever they encounter, Bishop Peter said. The message of unity resounded from the choir loft at the back of the church, where St Mark's choristers joined voices with their counterparts from Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church to lead the congregation in singing 'Today is a Festival Day' in Italian.

The festivities continued after the service in the church basement, where attendees enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.



Cornerstone-Princeton St Mark's shows outstanding generosity

by Georgia Roberts

Cornerstone-Princeton is a new 42-unit housing community that will provide a comforting home for women who need moderate support. The official opening ceremony, with ribbon cutting, was on October 26, 2018.

At Vestry 2018 we committed to raise enough money, in collaboration with parishioners of Julian of Norwich, to equip and furnish one of the units. Our share for furnishing one room was \$3250, and we raised that - plus an extra \$2293!

Our final donation to Cornerstone was \$5543. It was made up of Lenten Outreach, fundraising -- like the Art Show profits and our Parish lunch in the spring -- and donations. And because we satisfied that commitment, St Mark's name will be going up on the donor wall. Even better, a person in need will find comfort.

Thank you St Mark's.



Princeton resident Elizabeth is overjoyed to have a place of her own.
Used with permission

2018: A Good Year Financially

by Georgia Roberts, Treasurer

Financially, St Mark's had a good 2018. We finished the year with a surplus of more than \$13,000, thanks to the generous collections, the fundraising, and the gains from our physical and financial assets. As well, parishioners were careful in their expenditures. We also had savings to draw on to cover most of the cost of paving the front part of our parking lot. For the details about the 2018 finances, please refer to the 2019 Vestry Report.



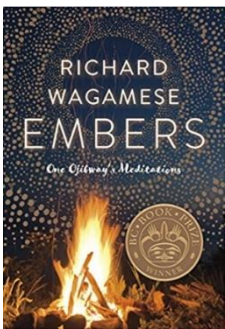
Parish Library

by Betty Caughlin,
Parish Librarian



For Lenten reading you may find the *Spirituality* category, in the middle shelf unit of our parish library, and *Inspirational Stories* (third shelf unit) to be of interest. The Parish Library is on the far wall of Bishop Reed Hall, and it's full of great reading.

You are invited to browse any time, but when you find a book you want to borrow, remember our system: please sign the 'sign-out' card and leave it in the tray in the middle shelf unit. When you return the book, please find the 'sign-out' card, write in 'returned' and the date. The instructions are posted and easy to follow. It is also helpful if you put the book back in the shelf unit where you found it. To help you do that, each book has a coloured dot which corresponds with the coloured dot on its shelf label. The preferred borrowing period is three weeks.



Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations by Richard Wagamese, 2016

This book is catching people's attention these days. Richard invites his reader into moments of reflection. It's the kind of book that you will want to flip through until you find the thoughts that speak to you. Enjoy! (Look for it in Spirituality in the middle shelf unit.)

A Very Frosty Parish Breakfast

by Brian Harrison

Frigid temperatures of around -19C did not discourage 34 parishioners from coming to our parish breakfast on January 13th.



Rev Kevin Flynn, director of the Anglican Studies Program at Saint Paul University, informed and entertained us with his presentation on 'Contemplative Renewal Today: A Survey of Practices of Prayer Ancient and Modern'. We are grateful to Father Kevin, who not only provided an interesting perspective on prayer and its evolution, but showed up one hour early and offered to help with the set-up for the breakfast.

Mark your calendars for the next breakfast, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 10. Good weather is not guaranteed, but good food and great company are certainties.



Don't miss an issue

Confirm your subscription

Dear Reader: Contact us with your name and address and we'll ensure you continue to get your Anglican newspapers.

EMAIL: yes@national.anglican.ca with your name, address, phone number and ID# (from label, if available).

Renew your Subscription Anglican Journal / Crosstalk

Our Diocesan newspaper *Crosstalk* is distributed through the *Anglican Journal*. Subscriptions in the past were forwarded from the parish church to the Diocese and from there to the *Journal*.

The *Journal's* address list is out-of-date.

To update this list the *Journal* is now requiring **each individual** to **renew their own subscription** by **June**, to continue receiving both papers.

You can do this on line or by e-mail.

<https://www.anglicanjournal.com/yes/> or

yes@national.anglican.ca or

by mail to 80 Hayden St. Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

If you need help, Joy has offered to manage a bulk registration through the church office.

Contact the church office: 613-224-7431 or stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca

Please note, the *Crosstalk* paper is in flux at this time. There will not be a March issue, but production is expected to resume again in April.

MTW in COLOUR

Sign-up to receive *Mark This Word* - this newsletter - in full colour by e-mail.

- help save the environment
- cut ever-increasing mailing costs
- see parish news in colour

By becoming part of the church e-mail list you will also receive updated information about parish events.

Join NOW .. for your next MTW in COLOUR!

email the office at stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca

Those without e-mail will continue to receive the paper version.



Calendar of Events

COFFEE COMPANY & CONVERSATION **WINTER SEASON 2019**
 a weekly gathering for seniors in the community
 coffee, goodies and featured activities

SENIORS – COME & JOIN US
Thursdays 10:00 am to 12 noon
starting January 31, 2019

St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church
1606 Fisher Avenue
 For more information, contact St Mark's at: 613 224-7431

CCC meets every Thursday morning until mid-June except Holy Week - April 18

Annual Vestry
Sunday February 24, 2019
12 noon

Vestry Reports available online or through the office

ASH Wednesday
 March 6, 2019
 services: 10:00am & 7:00pm
 remember you are dust
 and to dust you shall return

Parish Breakfast
 March 10, 2019
 8:45 am
 a time of fellowship

St Mark's Lenten Study
 Wednesdays at 1:30 pm
 March 13 - April 17

'The Life You've Always Wanted' by John Ortberg
 spiritual disciplines for ordinary people

St Mark the Evangelist
HOLY WEEK 2019

	April 14	Palm Sunday
	Sunday of the Passion	
	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
	10:00 am	Sung Eucharist / Liturgy of Palms
	April 18	Maundy Thursday
	Institution of the Last Supper	
7:30 pm	Sung Eucharist Altar of Repose Stripping of the Altar	
9:00 pm	Overnight Vigil	
April 19	Good Friday	
Celebration of the Lord's Passion		
1:30 pm		
April 20	Holy Saturday	
Great Easter Vigil		
to be determined		
April 21	Easter Day	
Sunday of the Resurrection		
8:00 am	Holy Eucharist	
10:00 am	Sung Eucharist	

Lunch & Card Party
Wednesday April 3, 2019
 11:45 am – 3:45 pm
 \$60 per table (ie \$15 per person)
 Contact: Carol Russell 613-224-9403

St Mark's Patronal Lunch
April 28, 2019
 watch for details
 freewill offering



**St Mark's
BIG GIVE** &
**DOORS OPEN
OTTAWA
PORTES OUVERTES 2019**
first weekend in June

Seniors' Eucharist & Lunch
Wednesday June 5, 2019
Eucharist: 11:00 am
followed by lunch and entertainment

St Mark's Picnic
Sunday June 23, 2019
12 noon

St Mark's Roll Call

Baptism	Fiona Richards
New Parishioners	Daphne & Ray Allen Sealan Chang
Deaths	Ray Allen Nellie Amrud Dave Robertson

Weekly Schedules

- Mondays**
9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
6:30 pm Cubs - St Rita's
- Tuesdays**
6:30 pm Beavers - St Rita's
7:30 pm Prayer & Praise - Choir Room
third Tuesday Prayers for Healing - Chapel
- Wednesdays**
9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
- Thursdays**
9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall
10:00 am Coffee, Company & Conversation
6.15 pm Junior Choir
7:00 pm Senior Choir
- Fridays**
10:30 am Eucharist - Perley Rideau

Monthly Schedules

- 1st Sunday** 12 noon Prayer Shawl meeting
1st Thursday 7:00 pm Scout Group Committee
2nd Wednesday 7:00 pm Parish Council
4th Tuesday 1:00 pm Mothers' Union



St Mark's windows
Palm & Passion / Good Friday / Easter / Pentecost

Mark This Word
The Parish Newsletter of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

Compilers:
Margaret Lodge
Brenda Zanin
Penny Miller

contact us at:
mtw@stmarksottawa.ca
or through the office at
613-224-7431

Mark This Word is published 3 or 4 times a year.
It is available in various formats:

- you can have it in hard copy – in black and white
- you can have it sent direct to your e-mail – in colour – contact the office
- you can also view it online at
www.stmarksottawa.ca/annex/newsviewsindex.html

Mark This Word is also a blog at
www.stmarksottawa.wordpress.com/
This gives you weekly/monthly updates, and allows you to add comments, or even opt for delivery to your inbox.