



Reverend Martha



Mary Magdalene, Welcoming a Co-Rector, & Other Fall Happenings

Biblical Scholar, Elizabeth Schrader, tells the story of praying to the Virgin Mary in a New York Church garden. Elizabeth was a pop musician and songwriter at the time and had no thoughts of religious leadership. She heard a woman's voice reply to her prayer that day: "You might want to ask Mary Magdalene about that." This surprising response led Elizabeth on a search to better know Mary Magdalene. Her exploration eventually led her to leave her recording career, earn her PhD in Biblical studies, and make research discoveries in the process that have sparked viral excitement across the Christian church. Her discoveries centre on the person of Mary Magdalene—how she appears in Scripture, how her story has been misunderstood or compromised over the past two thousand years, and what ancient witness has been preserved in our earliest Biblical manuscripts to help us today to see this important figure, central to the life and ministry of Jesus, in a new light.

Mary Magdalene was a woman who was at the centre of Jesus' circle and who has intrigued and mystified people of faith across Christian history. The church has been quick to misrepresent her as a prostitute, and popular Christian culture has, for centuries, diminished her as a romantic temptress to Jesus or a woman hopelessly besotted with a Saviour not available for that kind of love. She is easily confused with other Marys of the New Testament, and yet, this new biblical research suggests that some of this confusion might actually help us to understand much more clearly just how central Mary Magdalene was to the leadership of the early church and what an important figure she was in the life of Jesus. I am very much looking forward to this fall's deep dive into the life and Biblical witness of Mary on Tuesdays from 7pm to 8:30pm, starting September 19th.



Of course, Bible Study isn't the only exciting thing happening this fall. Across this newsletter, you'll hear about so much that we're looking forward to as a church family—whether it's special worship services and the ongoing richness of our music program, or the offerings for youth and children of our parish, or opportunities of fun and fellowship, or the many ways to be part of how our church cares for our neighbour and responds to the needs of the world around us.



At the start of the summer, we had an exciting announcement to share with the parish. The Reverend Tom Vaughan will be starting as Co-Rector of St. George's on November 6th. The idea of a co-rectorship at St. George's has been on my mind for many years, mostly because of how clearly this parish has been blessed in a variety of iterations by a team approach to pastoral ministry. The Corporation of St. George's was excited by the possibility of being able to enrich our current team with the gifts of a seasoned and gifted senior priest of the church, and through a lot of careful discernment together, and with our Bishop, we were able to secure Tom's appointment. A co-rectorship is a different kind of model for the church, one in which Tom and I will both be full time and sharing in the role of lead priest of St. George's. Reverend Mike, our church's Assistant Curate, will continue in the excellent ministry work he is doing. Mike offers our community such blessing and support, and Tom and I, and our congregation, will continue together to support him in the growing edge of settling into ordained leadership in the church. We believe that our whole team can be a life-giving model for the wider church at this time and will allow St. George's every opportunity to continue to build on the good work that we are doing and to grow and deepen our community of faith.



On a more specifically personal note, Tom and his wife—the Reverend Krista Hilton—and their daughters Joy and Ivy are close friends of our family. Krista and their daughters have been a regular part of our St. George's family for many years now and are well known here. Tom's ministry offerings in Welland, and in the churches he has served over his two decades of pastoral experience, are exceptional, and I could not be happier for St. George's in getting to welcome this gifted priest to our leadership team. I know that Tom and I will complement and support one another in this team model, and I look forward with a profound sense of gratitude to the time ahead.

I love that story of Elizabeth Schrader in the garden receiving a prayer response which in turn led her into a relationship with Mary Magdalene that is having such a wide-reaching impact on Christians all across the globe. It speaks to the things that continue to keep me energized and grateful to be part of the church and a follower of Jesus: the power of prayer, the journey of faith that is always full of surprise and new light, the blessing of the Body of Christ, the richness of learning and growing because of the offerings of another.



Saturday, September 23

10am - 1pm

St. George's Anglican Church
83 Church St., St. Catharines

Come and join us, bring your family and friends. Enjoying an afternoon of fellowship with everyone in our community. You can go and see the Pied Piper Parade at Montebello Park and then join us for hot dogs, ice cream and pop corn. We will have a bouncy castle and games as well as a face painter. We will be showcasing information on all of our many activities offered here at St George's. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get to see we are more than just about Sunday mornings.

popcorn

hot dogs

ice cream

face paintings

historic church tours

Live Music

Bouncy Castle



St. George's Anglican Church

All are welcome here!



Neighbourhood Barbecue

FREE





St. George's



Fall Newsletter 2023

Mike Degan

Before I start looking ahead to the Fall I want to take a moment to look back and thank you all for the generosity you have shown to me and my family over the last year and especially for your congratulations and kind words on the occasion of my ordination to the Diaconate in July. It is always wonderful to be part of an active and growing parish but it is a special honour to be the Curate of St. George's for which I am very grateful.

Now to some of the activity we have planned for the Autumn:

- The main activity of this Parish is the worship of God and the administration of the sacraments, none of which is possible without a large team of volunteers. We are looking for more Lay Readers, Servers, Chalice Bearers, and Scripture Readers. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please be in touch with myself or the Rector.
- Our church is a house of prayer throughout the week. At 8:45 am Monday through Thursday we say Morning Prayer in the church. Daily prayer is a cornerstone of Anglican spirituality, and everyone is welcome to join in person or in spirit, whether you want to make it part of a regular practice or you need an occasional time of quiet prayer and reflection in God's house, hearing God's Word, and praying with the Church throughout the world. Please be in touch with me if you have any questions.
- The midweek Bible study at 10:30 am every Wednesday that began this summer is continuing. See Alan McLean's article for more details.
- The Super Tuesday studies begin again on September 19th from 7 to 8:30pm. Our topic for the Fall is Mary magdalen. We'll look at this figure from Scripture and see her role in the leadership of the early Church, how she has been perceived throughout history and what her story tells us about the ancient Biblical sources. Contact Reverend Martha or myself for more information.

This is a very active and lively place and I look forward to growing in faith with you in the months ahead.





Sneak Peek: Exciting *Innovations* Await at Our Church Christmas Bazaar!



As the newly appointed conveners of our cherished church bazaar, we are a sneak peek of the *exciting innovations* that will be making their way to this year's event! While we hold our traditions dear, we believe in embracing modern ideas that will not only honour our past but also ignite new levels of *excitement and engagement*.

Get ready for a *bazaar* experience like no other! We've curated a list of cutting-edge additions that will increase revenue, drive more traffic, and create *lasting memories* for all attendees. From technological advancements to *interactive experiences*, we have something for everyone.

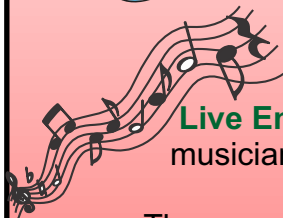
Our dedicated team will be hard at work to bring this all together, and we can't wait to share the final details with you in our *upcoming newsletter*.



Online presence: Stay connected with our event through a dedicated online application, allowing you to pre-order, access *exclusive promotions*, and get the inside scoop.



Instagrammable Moments: Prepare to strike a pose! Capture *picture-perfect memories* at our themed photo booths and share them instantly on social media.



Live Entertainment: Immerse yourself in *captivating live performances* by talented local musicians, bands, and dance groups, creating an electric atmosphere throughout the day.

These are just a few teasers of what's in store for you. In our forthcoming newsletter, we will unveil the complete lineup of innovative ideas designed to make this year's church bazaar an *unforgettable experience* for all. *Opportunities available* for everyone who would like to *volunteer*. If interested, call Cheryl @ 289-407-7968



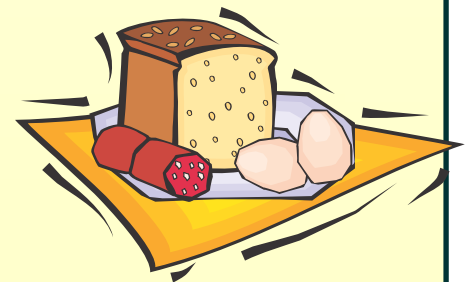
The Community Breakfast Program at St. George's Church



*For almost 30 years the **Breakfast Program** has been synonymous with St. George's. Serving breakfast every morning of the year with kindness to all comers, no questions asked. Teams of volunteers serve breakfast to an average of 90 guests daily.*

The Breakfast Program provides opportunities for good works of service in several areas:

- 1. As a kitchen volunteer preparing, serving and cleaning up after breakfast. **Volunteers** typically work **one day per month** 6:30-9:00 am.*
- 2. As a dining room host, interacting with our guests and helping to provide a safe and welcoming environment. Hosts typically serve two to four days per month from 7:15 - 8:45 am.*
- 3. As a shopper, purchasing and transporting food and supplies to the kitchen. Shoppers work on their own schedule, typically making purchases every two weeks or so.*
- 4. By donating cash or food. **Gifts** of cash may be made through your regular church offering by indicating your gift is for the "**Breakfast Program**". **Donations** of food, particularly boxes of cereal, may be dropped off at the back of the church any Sunday morning or directly in the kitchen if you prefer.*



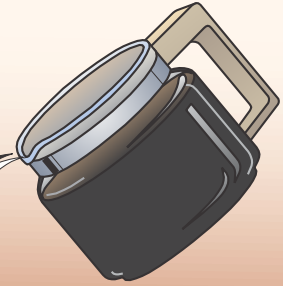
We always welcome new volunteers. Working together gives us a chance to get to know each other better and to help out the very needy people in our community.

For more information on how to volunteer or donate, contact **Duncan Moffett** (905 356-5180) or **Ann Koppel** (905 938-8213) any Sunday. We also invite anyone to pay us a visit during breakfast any morning between 7:30 and 8:30 am.





Coffee Hour



Thanks,
Effie & Dianne!

*Coffee hour is such an important part of Fellowship at St. George's.
Many thanks to those who have regularly volunteered to host the coffee hour
and especially those who have continued on during the summer months.*

*It has enabled our St. George's family and guests, to enjoy fellowship with Iced tea,
Lemonade and celebrating with a cake or two. This summer as in the past it was held in the Asbil
Lounge.*

*Our much loved Coffee Hour is returning October 1st 2023, and it will be
Coffee, Tea, Cookies all served in the Bear's Den.*

*The Bear's Den allows us to accommodate more people and It gives the Teams
more kitchen area to prepare and dining area to serve you.
Plus we have a dishwasher for clean-up.*

What we do need is more volunteers so we can put together more teams.

Currently we have 5 teams, with 3 to 4 people on a team.

*The magic number would be 10 teams. On a rotation base that would
have a team providing Coffee Hour every other month.*

Note: Families or groups are welcome to sign up as a unit

If you would like to know more about volunteering contact either:

Effie Ditiello at effied738@gmail.com

Dianne Chisholm

dcchisholm@gmail.com



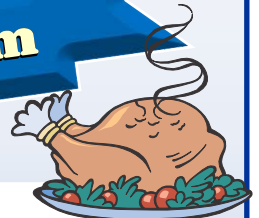
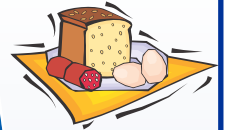
St. George's Anglican Church!



Community

Dinner

Program



The Community Dinner Program started at Grace Anglican Church in May of 2014. When Grace joined St. George's in early 2017, an attempt was made to continue the monthly program. The increase in numbers of guests at a downtown parish was overwhelming to the small group of volunteers. Canon Michael Mondloch invited anyone interested in rebooting the community dinner program to meet on April 30, 2018. The Community Dinners were reborn at that meeting to fill in the gap left by **Out of the Cold** which provides dinners at St George's from November through early April. With a mix of those who have brought the experience of previous dinners and those desiring to serve in a new way, we provided healthy dinners on the 4th Wednesday of the month for 6 months starting in May. The following year we added April to the schedule so that we filled in as soon as the **Out of the Cold** dinners ended.

The dual purpose behind these dinners was to build community while providing a healthy dinner to anyone who came. The sense of community that grew among the volunteers spilled over to the guests creating a pleasant dinner experience for our guests. Parishioners joined for the dinners. We served takeout dinners through the COVID pandemic, and this year returned to in person dining. We also added BBQs to our offerings in conjunction with the summer Advent Café, providing a picnic on the lawn. We have served over 3,500 dinners.

Our next dinners are September 27th and October 25th. Donations of cash and fruit are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Koppel at 905.938.8213 or by email at aekoppel@hotmail.com.

We would love for others to join the fun.

Ann Koppel
Coordinator



Bishop Beattie Group

A warm welcome to all the women of the parish. Our meetings usually fall on the first Monday of the month (except for September) and begin at 7 pm. in the Asbil Lounge.

Our fall program begins on Monday, September 11, with a corporate communion service in the church and a meet and greet with refreshments in the Asbil lounge following the service.

October 2, will feature a wine and cheese night to celebrate our 71st anniversary since we were not able to celebrate last year due to Covid.

November 6, we will be making and wrapping baskets for the gift table at the bazaar later in the month. This is always a fun and busy night.

December 4 we will have our Christmas party and presentation of officers for the following year.



Live Streaming



Your Tech Team is made up of a very small but dedicated group of people who have committed to bring you, not only Sunday 10 am services “Live”, but other important services the last few years as well. We are urgently seeking people who are interested in learning more about the technology of Live Streaming (audio and/or video) to assist in this important ministry. Please reach out to any member of the clergy, office staff, or tech team, if you are interested. No experience required! Ample training will be provided.

Knowledge Enrichment Group

K.E.G.

K.E.G. (Thursday afternoon social group) meets in the afternoon of the 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding July, August and possibly December). We invite people to speak about their hobbies/interests. We have afternoons of games (euchre, backgammon, cribbage etc.) and afternoons of just social. The group is comprised of both men and women. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship while meeting other members of the Parish.



K.E.G.= Knowledge Enrichment Group
Contact person. Janet Veale, 905-688-5232

Daytime Bible Study



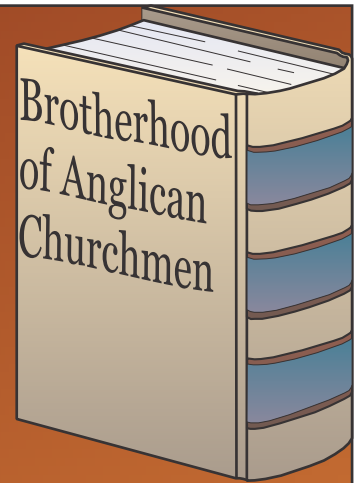
Daytime Bible Study

People had been expressing interest in having a daytime Bible Study of some sort. Some of us find it difficult or inconvenient to come out in the evening. In light of that this summer we began what was originally to be a 5 week study we called "Gardens in the Garden". We have a beautiful memorial garden at St. George's so we decided to hold our sessions in the garden and look at some of the passages in scripture that take place in a garden. However, given the heat and smoky air this summer on many of the days we were to meet we were only able to be in the garden a few times, and we had to move some of our meeting inside.

We are a small group, anywhere from 3 to 7 on any given day, but those who were able to attend found it to be a congenial, interesting, informal group. (Also, if you can only attend sporadically, don't let that stop you. All are welcome.) Since we held it on Wednesday and we ended it about 11.45 some of our group also attend the Wednesday noon hour Eucharist when they are able, a great way to end our time together. When we came to the end of our original 5 sessions we decided to continue and so have been meeting each week since then. The plan for the fall is to continue, and hope that more people will join us each Wednesday from 10.30 to 11.45. Those who wish can stay for the noon service.

We are not sure what we will be looking at in scripture in the fall. I hope for some feedback and we can decide together that would be of interest. One thing I do want to emphasize is that it is a very non-threatening, welcoming group. We do not expect everyone to have a lot of prior knowledge, and there are no questions that are not welcome. So please come and relax with us and let us learn from one another. If you have any questions about the group feel free to get in touch with Alan McLean. Looking forward to seeing you.

BAC Preview for the 2023-24 Season



Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen is a men's Christian group at St. George's that meets five times per year for a meal, friendship and to listen to a guest speaker.

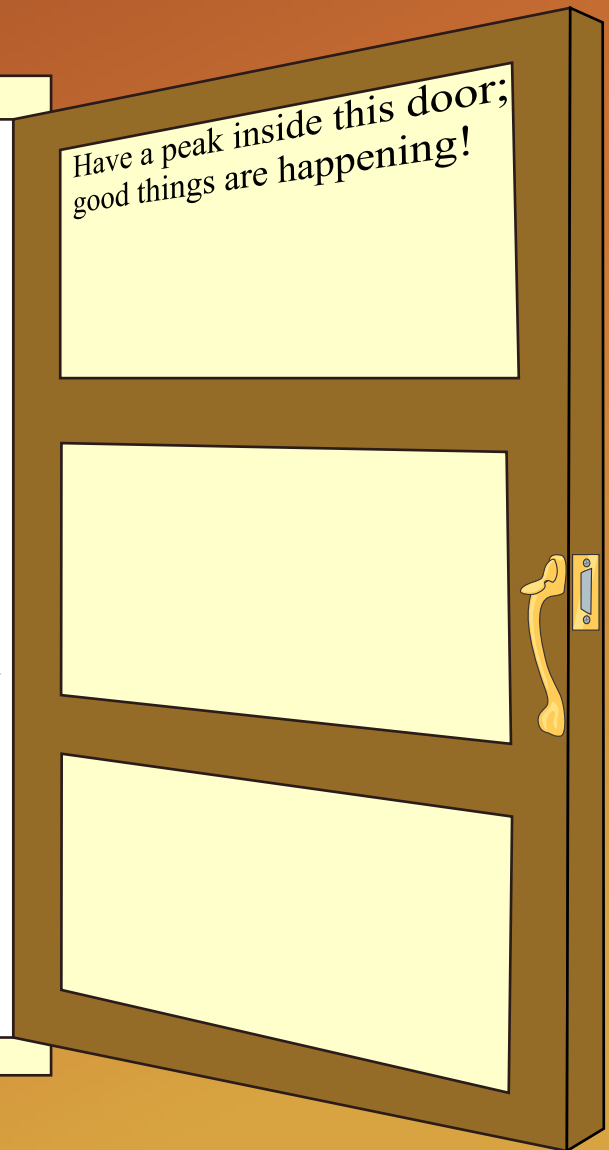
We also try to raise money for the church. Sometimes flowers and other times golf shirts and hoodies. Stay tuned.

The dates for this season are Oct. 10, 2023; Nov. 14, 2023; Jan. 10, 2024; Feb. 13, 2024 and April 8, 2024. (the second Tues. of each month; subject to change depending on circumstances)

On Oct. 10 our speakers will be Ron and Lois Duggan about their travel in 2023 to Canterbury and the Cotswolds.

If you wish more information, please call Tom Owens at 905-934-4239.

Have a peak inside this door;
good things are happening!





SUNDAY

Nursery School Youth Group

Happy Fall everyone!

St. George' youth group and Sunday school are looking forward to all of our upcoming events this Fall. We look forward to routine again and getting back to our Whirl curriculum. This Fall we will be starting back up our children' program "arables & Play" one Tuesday evening per month. This program is designed for children to attend while their parents are participating in Bible study or Family group, or if they just want to come to join us. We will offer one Parable per class. This will be read, explained and will be very interactive with play, crafts etc.

Our Family group will be starting back up on Tuesday September 12th at 6pm. This group gathers for fellowship, conversation and pizza. We are excited to start back up. Our youth group has lots of fun dates planned.

Our Sunday school classroom is creating personal bins for each of our students. They will be labelled and will contain personal supplies. For example, lego, playdoh, beads etc. This way when they enter into the classroom they can take out their bin and provide sensory play while learning. Also, we have started providing "ew bags". These bags contain colouring/activities for children who are attending church, however not attending Sunday school. They are located on a table in the back of the church. Please help yourselves. We will be going on a hike, the movies, a book club, laser tag, game night and so much more. Some of our youth have been helping with many different elements in the church.

Gardening, volunteering in Vacation Bible School and helping out in Sunday school. We are very thankful for their time and talents. Upcoming we have Communion and Confirmation classes. More information for these classes will be provided soon. We are definitely working hard at rebuilding our children and youth programs since the pandemic. We are happy to have new friends join us at anytime.

Tanya Schleich ☐



Music at St. George's

As another summer winds down, we look forward to a season of fellowship and community ahead. The music ministry of St. George's has much to offer our parish this fall, and the choir, musicians and I are eager to share our musical offerings with you once again.

The full choir will return to weekly worship starting at our 10am service on Sunday, September 17th. Each week the choir will offer musical moments of reflection, and will fill our sanctuary with gorgeous harmony as we all sing hymns together. Our choir continues to grow and develop, with no end in sight. This is due to the power of meaningful worship and high-quality choral singing. If you love to sing, have any experience singing in choir or in an ensemble, and would like to join our choir, please contact the office. All are welcome and we would love to include you in our special community.



We are happy to announce the return of Advent Cafe this fall! Rather than a weekly service, however, we have decided to shift to a monthly event involving more musicians, preachers, volunteers, and more planning/intention. We feel that the monthly service will allow us to combine our efforts in putting on something special for our community. The monthly advent cafe services will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm: September 20th (outdoor service), October 18th and November 15th. Stay tuned for more information on that.

Most notably, the choir will be offering a Requiem service in honour of Remembrance Day. In 2021 it was the Fauré Requiem, last year it was the Bruckner Requiem and this year we are excited to announce that the choir will be joined with a string quartet, guest organist and guest choristers to perform the glorious Rutter Requiem. This service will take place November 12th at our 10am service.

We are thrilled to formally invite Adam MacNeil as Associate Organist of St. George's! Adam is an incredible musician and a rising star that we are so fortunate to have in our community. I look forward to future collaborations with Adam and to include him in select services throughout the coming seasons.

Other exciting services to look forward to include our Lessons and Carols service taking place at 4pm on Sunday, December 10th and Christmas Eve Service, but more on those in the winter newsletter.



Join us this fall for meaningful worship and beautiful music. And a reminder, that if you would like to join our choir, just reach out to the office. We look forward to offering our music to this place of worship in the fall and the seasons to come.

