



**Anglican Church of Canada**

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# *The VOX POP... Voice of the People*

**June 2024**

## **A Surprising and Happy Reunion** - By Derek Hales

As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow pointed out many years ago: "Into each life a little rain must fall." I have to tell you that back in the very early spring of 1991, a deluge appeared to be falling in mine.

My wife had succumbed to esophageal cancer after nearly two years of heartbreaking, mostly silent agony. She had fought back against this scourge of humanity that claimed her life at just 46 years of age, with a quiet will to live that was a lesson in fortitude and courage for everyone who knew her. But it had been soul-destroying and hard to endure for me and my two young sons. And now, we were devastated.

Metaphorically, Longfellow's rain was still beating down at her funeral, and when I went home to what had been a happy, joyful retreat from a noisy, bustling world, it was to find an unbearable quietness that resisted all attempts to penetrate.

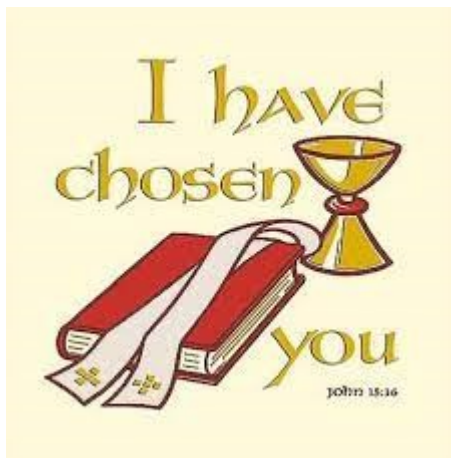
I had asked the priest who conducted the service to write a few apt words in my King James' Bible that I have owned since it was presented to me by the church when I was 12 years old. I looked at the

wise words he had written and then closed the fading covers of the old scriptures, hardly looking at the name that had been appended. Fast-forward to the present and my wife Bonnie and I are somewhat recent members of this parish. Thirty-three years have passed, and Bonnie, (who lost her first husband at 47 to the same scourge) had presented our esteemed Rector, Canon Lance with the outline model of the Church of the Ascension that I had constructed for him. It was a happy moment and I asked Father Lance if he would write a few words in my old bible that he felt might be appropriate.

As he looked at the curling, yellowing pages, disfigured by the relentless passage of time, he turned abruptly to me and said, to my astonishment: “This is the signature of Father Don.” Now, if I say I “was taken aback” I would be guilty of uttering one of the greatest understatements ever made. In fact, I was absolutely astounded. For there it was, in black and white, “*Rev. D. Hull*,” who at that time was an assistant priest at Ascension. I had asked him to do the same thing all those years ago and now we had met again and neither had recognized the other.

Slowly, some of the wise, consoling words he had quietly spoken on that “rainy Longfellow day” more than three decades ago, started to come back to me. And as we sat later discussing how fate had brought us together once again, Bonnie grabbed my phone and decided to make a permanent record with a photograph. I’ll let Longfellow have the last words: “Behind the clouds is the sun..... still shining.”





*Congratulations goes out to our seminary student, the Rev'd Mark Wilton, who was ordained by Bishop Townshend to be a Priest in Christ's Holy Catholic Church on the feast of St. Boniface, Wed. June 5, 2024. The service was held at his home parish of St. Mary's, Walkerville, and was well attended by representatives from numerous local churches, including Ascension. Going forward, we know that Mark will make good use of our parish gift to him of a new cassock and surplice. The entire congregation at Church of the Ascension wishes him every blessing as he lives out his calling to follow where our Lord Jesus leads.*



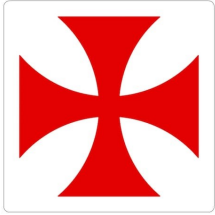


## ***A Beautiful June Wedding***

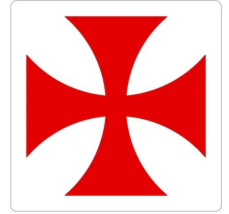
*Megan Byrne, a life time member of Church of the Ascension was married here on Sat. June 8<sup>th</sup>. Here are the newly weds, Parker & Megan Van Buskirk with her family-Mother Diane, Sister Andrea and Brothers Shane & Tyler*



Congratulations  
on your  
Wedding



## *S.M.O.T.J—F.Y.I!*



You might be interested to know that the Church of the Ascension serves as the spiritual home not only to the parish to which you belong, but also to a Christian ecumenical charity, The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, more commonly known as the Knights Templar. Our Priory here in Windsor is part of an International Order (<https://www.osmth.org/>) in more than 22 countries worldwide, holding Non-Governmental Organization Special Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and Membership of the International Peace Bureau. Our Priory of the Ascension of our Lord, was created in 2001 under the leadership of the Venerable Commander Dr. Sir Ronald Matthewman. Our Priory follows the Christian ideals of the International Order in humanitarian work, supporting all peoples afflicted by poverty, injustice, conflict and disaster, regardless of their creed or ethnic background. Ninety-eight percent of being a Dame or Knight Templar means committing to the four ‘pillars’ that underpin our chivalric charity: Christian values; Domestic and international aid; Respect for human rights and diversity; and Interfaith dialogue and bridge-building.

What is the other two per cent of being a Dame or Knight Templar you ask? We gather for dinner meetings where we share reports on our activities and impacts. They also allow us to hear presentations from community members wishing to educate us as to opportunities for us to support those in need. For example, we recently had a presentation from HOPE Outreach of Canada, <https://hopeoutreach.ca/>, who seek to improve living conditions in Bethlehem, promote reconciliation between religions and sponsor children's camps of differing faith traditions.

Once a year we hold a special event, a ‘convent’, which serves as an occasion to invest new members into the order, promote members who have shown outstanding service to our Christian values, and a less common occurrence: this year we installed a new Prior. Me!



These special occasions serve as a wonderful opportunity to share time and thoughts with priories from across Canada and even from other chivalric orders. For example, here we see former Grand Prior of Canada, Nola Crewe from the priory in Toronto, Prior Nicole Lassaline from the priory in Ottawa and outgoing Prior VI of our priory, Gillian Matthewman.



You might ask yourself, who are these people, how did they come to be involved in such a charity? They are people like you! Of the more than seventy active members in our priory, one of them will be sitting in a pew next to yours, or possibly seated right beside you! My involvement began when the late great Dr. Ev Morris asked me whether I might be interested. It sounded like a fine opportunity to not only find an active outlet for my Christian ideals, but also to be part of a larger body capable of far more impact than I could achieve on a personal basis. After a period of personal reflection I determined that the cause that resonated most strongly with me was the interfaith dialogue and bridge building. Others might find their calling to be in supporting the numerous local charities and grass-roots organizations that support those in our community who are in various kinds of need. Whatever might move you to think, “I know I could be making a bigger difference in aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life,” reach out to find out more, whether by email, [gparker@med.wayne.edu](mailto:gparker@med.wayne.edu), or perhaps a chat at ‘coffee hour’. Our Templar motto is:

**“Not to us, O Lord, not to us; but to your name give the glory.”**

Graham Parker,  
Prior VII, Priory of the  
Ascension of Our Lord

 <sup>TM</sup> Chivalry ✘ Aid ✘  
Respect ✘ Interfaith





## *A salute to our own “Grand Old Man”*

It was British Prime Minister William Gladstone who earned the title of “The Grand Old Man” when he turned 85 and was still regularly attending the House of Commons. But here in Windsor, far from the hustle and bustle of London’s Westminster, we have managed to produce a “Grand Old Man” of our very own. And he has Gladstone beaten out of sight as he racks up 94 years of undaunted, ever-increasing

longevity. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you Archdeacon Ron Matthewman, celebrating his 94th birthday with his always-expanding family. And here he is with daughter Gillian, holding his latest great grand-daughter Serena and celebrating his birthday with four generations of family, including his oldest nephew and youngest great grand-daughter. Archdeacon Ron came to the Church of the Ascension in 1969, was its Rector until 1994, and until very recently was still occupying a front pew at Sunday services. I’m sure I speak for everyone when I wish him many happy returns of the day. What an inspiration he is to us all.- D.H.







## ***Golden Wedding Celebration***

Champagne corks are popping this month at the home of George and Sue Wilkinson who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in the June sunshine.

Their wedding ceremony, held here at Church of the Ascension in 1974, was conducted jointly by the Rev. Walter Cunningham, grandfather of the bride and by Archdeacon Ron Matthewman, both former rectors of our parish.

They are, of course, well-known active members of our church and we extend to them our good wishes and hearty congratulations and our thanks for all their efforts on our behalf.





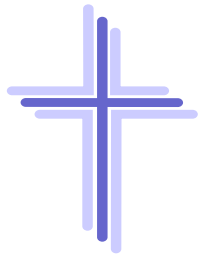
## *A New Senator Appointed to the Rector's Senate*



***Rewarded for a job well done, over and over.....***

More than a quarter of a century of hard work on behalf of the Church of the Ascension was acknowledged last month when Canon Lance announced that Church Warden Graham Parker had earned a place in the Rector's Senate. Congratulations, Graham. We all thank you for your sterling efforts on our behalf.

***Congratulations!***



## **Parish Register**

### ***Burials:***

***May 28/24-Debbie Lence Mitre Smith***

***May 28/24-Beulah Mae Binks***

***June 4/24-Keith Moore-Member of the BAC and Father of Sandra Wong***

***June 5/24-Charle Akins-Husband of Heather Akins, Son-in-law of Don & Margaret Shearer***

*“May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercies of God rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.”*



### ***Marriage:***

***June 8/24 - Megan Ashley Byrne & Parker Craig VanBuskirk***







## Rector's Reflection

“The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same”

Dear Ascensioners,

It was the French novelist, critic and journalist, Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (1808-1890) who first coined the phrase, “Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.”

Indeed, it certainly seems true that the more things change, the more they stay the same! Even the scriptures remind us of this truth; “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under

the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

I was reminded of this truth recently while perusing some old copies of our parish newsletter, the Vox Pop. Specifically, it was from the edition published in April of 1974... over 50 years ago! The Rector at that time, a certain Canon Ronald Matthewman, wrote an article that could very well have been written for our own age. It reminds us that worries, concerns and fears are ever with us, but they are rendered powerless in the face of the Easter gospel. While the years have rolled on, the concerns of humanity and God's people have not. The daily news still bombards us with stories rooted in the same fearful and hopeless outlook that has threatened every generation. And yet, as Christians devoted to building up the Kingdom of God that Jesus came to proclaim, we stand steadfast in the faith, hope and love found in the continuing story of God's people. I share that article on the next page in the hope that it's timeless, enduring truth shared by a former Rector will empower you embrace the grace found in Jesus' Resurrection. May God give you a good summer!

*Lance +*

## *Wisdom from the Past for Today*

Sometimes the “world and its affairs” seem very gloomy to us – wars, fears, hatred, anxieties, economic woes, hunger, sickness, bitterness, death -yes, it's all here and part of our experience. But so is life, with its love, joy, hope, peace, gentleness, goodness, truth, mercy and forgiveness. And each new day assures us of “God's presence and concern for his creation.” The Resurrection of Jesus Christ teaches us how to lift ourselves above the depressions of this world and live in the confidence of God. If your life is overcome by the “world and its affairs,” if you feel dragged down into the sieve of depressions then you need to take a large dose of the Easter Message to fill your life with the presence of God. To those who say “the world is falling apart,” let us say “a new world is being born” as day by day we witness the miracle of God's love. Christ is alive to give us hope. Alleluia.

*Canon Ronald Matthewman (circa Easter – 1974)*

