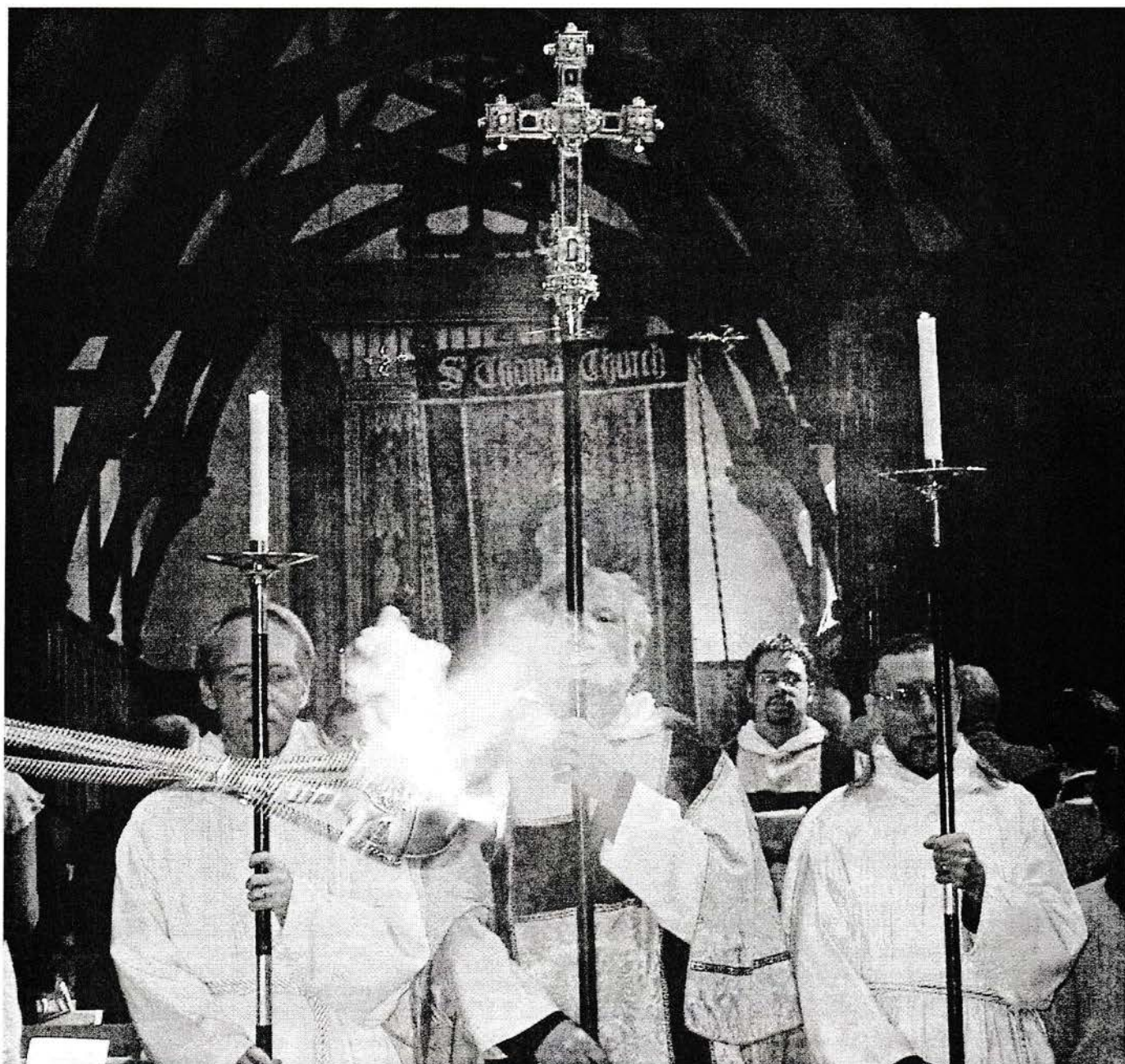


Advent
2006

Thurible

St. Thomas's Anglican Church * 383 Huron St., Toronto, M5S 2G5 * 416-979-2323 * stthomas.on.ca



Conserving and using
vestments, pages 4-5

Parkdale Deanery's
future, page 6

Dig deep to help with
the deficit, page 7

St. T's Web site gets a
facelift, back cover

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

Church Directory **Events**

Tel: 416.979.2323 Fax: 416.979.0261

Website: www.stthomas.on.ca

Email: saintthomas@rogers.com

Rector:

The Rev'd Mark W. Andrews,
416.345.8787

Email: rector@stthomas.on.ca

Assistant Priests:

The Rev'd Canon Brian D. Freeland,
416.461.7025

The Rev'd Robert A. Ross,
416.268.9174

Rector Emeritus:

The Rev'd Roy A. Hoult

Honorary Assistant Priests:

The Rev'ds James E. Hunt, A. Thomas
Little, Ian D. Nichols and Canon W.

David Neelands

Organist & Choirmaster:

John H. Tuttle, 416.516.2503

Organ Scholar:

Elizabeth Anderson

People's Warden:

Marlene Fader, 905.827.4718

Rector's Warden:

Charis Kelso, 416.590.7401

Deputy Wardens:

Jim MacMillan, Kevin Toyne

Financial Officer & Treasurer:

Anna Kennedy

Bookkeeper:

Greg Anderson

Church School Supervisor:

Diana Versegby

Nursery School Supervisor:

Claire Fong

Webmaster & Computer Consultant:

John Meadows

Email: john@meadows.online.com

Pastoral Care Contact:

Phyllis Garden, 416.466.1879

Outreach Contacts:

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Email: maggie@web.net

Bill Thoms

Email: bill.thoms@sympatico.ca

Coordinator of Sidespeople:

Suan Seh Foo, 416.928.6809

Verger: Jean Paul Napier

Sexton: Colin Anderson

Administrator: Barbara Obrai

Church & Hall bookings

416.979.2323 x: 4

COVER PHOTO: LINDA RUSSELL

2

Events

DEC. 8:

EXULTATE CHAMBER SINGERS

Exultate celebrates the wonder and mystery of the season, featuring works by Schoenberg, Pärt, Bax, Tavener and Howells. The program is rounded out with a rich selection of Canadian carols. 8pm.

DEC. 22:

SINE NOMINE ENSEMBLE

Sine Nomine combines a brilliant 14th-century French setting of the Ordinary of the Mass with seasonally appropriate polyphony and plainsong, in a reconstruction of a complete festal Mass for the Day of the Nativity. 8pm.

JAN. 28:

AN EXPLORATION AMONG SOUTH GERMAN BAROQUE CHURCHES

Talk by Greig Dunn with supper to follow about these magnificent buildings. 4pm.

FEB. 17:

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

Celebrate Black History Month at St. Thomas's with the University Gospel Choir. Concert with reception to follow. 3pm.

MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Monday evenings in the rectory.

MARCH 17 & 24

ST THOMAS'S STUDY DAYS

Seeking Understanding; What it means to be a catholic Anglican. The Anglican Church in the Western Tradition; Renewal Movements and Authentic Roots. 10:45am-2:30pm.

Worship

SUNDAYS:

Masses 8am (BCP, Said Rite); 9:30am (BAS, Modern Sung Rite); 11am (BCP, Solemn High Rite)

Said Mattins: 10:30am

Solemn Evensong & Devotions: 7pm

WEEKDAYS:

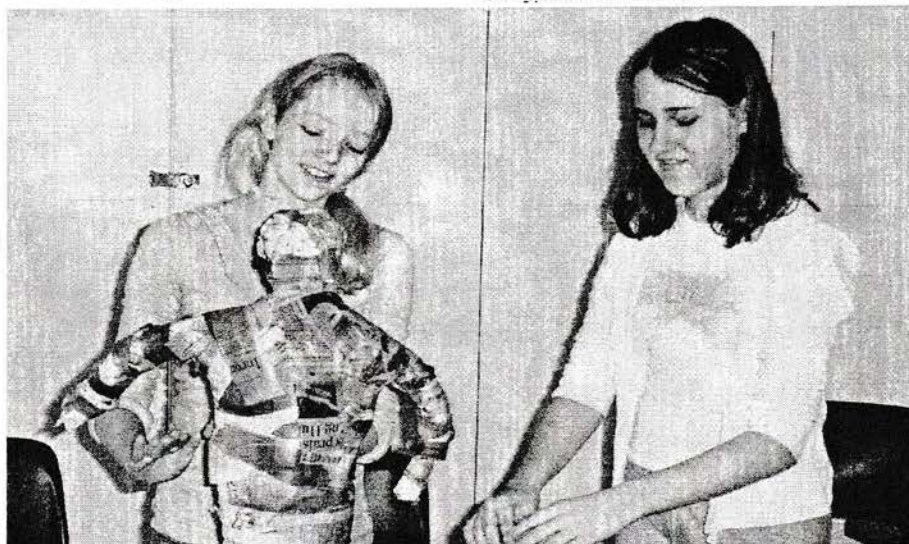
Daily Mass 5:30pm Mon & Fri;
12:15pm Tue & Thu; 7:30am Wed;
10am Sat

Mattins: weekdays 8:30am; Sat & statutory holidays 9:30am

Evensong: 5pm Mon, Thu & Fri;
5:15pm Tue & Wed

Meditation follows Wed Evensong, finishing at 6pm

Confessions: At times announced, or by appointment with any of the parish clergy.



St Elmo's Youth Group is born!

Alicia Wright and Julia Meadows work on their papier-maché sculpture of St. Erasmus (otherwise known as St. Elmo). The Senior Sunday School class has explored prayer, saints and the liturgical year throughout the fall.

Part of defining their group included selecting their very own patron saint. Other activities planned for the year include a drama to be performed during coffee hour at Easter, outreach work, attending an instructed Eucharist and working on Bible studies and creative art projects.

NATASHA KLUKACH

The Rector's report

OBITUARIES

October was a difficult month for many St. Thomasites following the deaths of three of our parishioners.

Robert Lambert was known to many parishioners as the artist who painted St. Thomas's exterior signs. He was a member of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, and always looked forward to the annual bus tour. Fr. Freeland officiated at his funeral, which was particularly appropriate, as he had married Robert and Judy at St. Thomas's, and even served at their wedding banquet in the parish hall. We continue to pray for Judy.

Michael Burnie, the youngest son of Janet Burnie, died from complications following heart surgery. Michael was baptized at St. Thomas's, and was grateful to know that he was being upheld by the prayers of the people here. We continue to pray for Janet, and for Michael's siblings, Stephen (Jackie), Ann (Jim) and Margaret.

Gene Stewart grew up in the parish and served St. Thomas's in many capacities including most recently as Warden. We continue to pray for Gene's wife, Susan Joel, and his daughter Janet. Further reflections will be offered in the next issue of *Thurible*.

BOOK SALE

If you are looking for superb Christmas gifts you will want to see Catherine Barber in the Parish Hall. Catherine will be selling books for children and adults from Oxford University Press, including her own best-seller, *Six Words You Never Knew Had Something To Do With Pigs*. The profits from the

sale of these books will go to Saint Thomas's.

ASSOCIATE CLERGY ANNIVERSARIES

The two associate priests at Saint Thomas's are marking significant anniversaries in the parish.

On the Festival of All Saints', Father Ross marked his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, and his 20th anniversary at Saint Thomas's. The Deacon of the Mass was Fr. Philip Hobson, rector of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, who celebrated his 25th anniversary earlier this year.

A marvellous reception following the service opened with one of Fr. Freeland's memorable graces. The Rector was pleased to present a bottle of 20-year-old port to Fr. Ross, along with a card indicating that parishioners past and present had contributed more than \$5,000 towards a gift to honour Fr. Ross and his ministry. Fr. Ross responded by speaking passionately about the tolerance of the people of St. Thomas's.

Throughout the reception servers in bow ties wandered through the Hall carrying trays of delicious and exotic hors d'oeuvres. The Rector and Wardens poured wine in abundance, appropriately enough at an event to honour Fr. Ross.

On Friday, Jan. 19, two days before his 82nd birthday, Fr. Freeland will be marking his 50th year of service at Saint Thomas's. There are few priests who can match such a record. The evening will begin with Mass at 6:15 p.m. with Bishop Colin Johnson, followed by dinner in the

parish hall.

In honour of this impressive milestone, the parish will create the Fr. Brian Freeland Room in the area adjacent to the parish hall kitchen. This room will be multi-purpose, housing the parish library, and also enabling groups, such as the St. Agnes Guild and the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament — with which Fr. Freeland has long been associated — to meet in comfort.

AUCTION

Generous donations and lots of planning and hard work were poured into the St. Thomas's Auction in October. Marilyn Ramsingh and Jean-Paul Napier worked very hard to organize the event. The event raised nearly \$3,000, and more revenue is expected from the eventual sale of some high-ticket items which didn't meet the reserve price at auction.

ALTAR GUILD

The new white vestments are now under construction (p. 4-5). As a fundraiser, Mercia Stacey and Guild members are taking orders for poinsettias for pick-up from the parish hall beginning Dec. 10.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

The annual Advent Bible Study at the rectory this year is being held on three consecutive Wednesdays beginning November 29. A light meal is provided starting at 6 p.m., and the study is from 6:30-8 p.m.

The Book of Daniel has 12 brief chapters, containing some of the best loved stories in Scripture, and some of the most bizarre apocalyptic images. It is beneficial to read as much of it as possible prior to the first session, especially if you are unable to attend all three sessions.

FR. MARK ANDREWS

A living tradition

A young member of the Altar Guild noticed that the Angel Cope was in need of repair. Despite her limited experience, armed with gold and silver thread, she took it upon herself to repair the fraying embroidery. When then-rector Canon Cecil Stewart — who retired in 1954 — next had occasion to wear the cope, he paused and said, “My, this has worn well.”

Half a century later, both the cope and the Altar Guild member, Doreen Stanton, are still serving St. Thomas’s. Although he is long gone, Canon Stewart’s attitude to the vestments lives on. Priests and parishioners alike take for granted their beauty and continued existence.

Fr. John Roper (vicar 1888-97) has usually been credited with establishing the tradition of fine vestments in the parish, beginning with the Pelican Cope, in the 1890s. However, verger and Altar Guild member Jean-Paul Napier points out that the earliest images of St. Thomas’s suggest that the use of fine vestments predated the move to its “temporary” quarters on Huron Street in 1893. A cope worn in one of these photographs matches a frontal that has survived.

While garments imported from Britain laid the foundation of the church’s collection, it was the presence of the Sisters of Saint John the Divine that ensured the fine beginning was maintained and built upon.

Particular colours of vestments are associated with the different seasons of the church year.

Advent — purple	Easter — white	Festival days — white, or
Epiphany — green	Whitsunday — red	red for martyrs’ days
Lent — purple	Trinity — green	Funerals — black or white
Passiontide — rose		

Their good works were aided and abetted through the middle years of the last century by the financial generosity of Gerald Larkin.

The Angel Cope is the work of the Sisters around the end of the First World War. Still worn at Easter, All Saints and other major “white” occasions, it is the vestment which has been in regular use the longest. It was rebuilt about 40 years ago.

Today, the care of the vestments is in the hands of the Altar Guild. Older members of the Guild were fortunate to learn from the Sisters who, for many years after they moved from the parish, would return on Saturdays to direct preparations for the Sunday masses. Contrary to their rather severe image, Doreen Stanton remembers them as great fun as co-workers.

Until relatively recently, Guild members would come to the church daily to ready the vestments for the mass. With more women in the workforce, this is no longer possible. Instead, members spend Saturday mornings preparing vestments, frontals, vessels and flowers for the Sunday services. Cleanup takes an additional hour on Sundays. Extra work is, of course, required for festival services.

When not in use, vestments are kept in the sacristy. The everyday vestments and copes hang in a closet. In the vault, the oldest of the unused treasures are swaddled in acid-

free paper and packed in boxes to avoid damage caused by their sheer weight. Among others, the Angel and the best green cope, aka the “Cock of Many Colours,” hang in the vault.

When thinking of the enemies of fabric, moths and mice spring to mind — priests and acolytes not so much. While the lining in the copes and layers of other robes between the wearer and the garment provide protection, perspiration, sweaty hands and rough handling do inevitably cause problems.

For many years, Ronwen Guest has laundered the large cotton and linen items. The ironing of the amice — the neck pieces with long ties that go around the body are the bane of Guild members’ existence. “I can spend up to five minutes just untangling those ties,” says Doreen Stanton.

Simpler vestments such as the shot silk chasuble go to the dry cleaners. However, silk embroidery and dry cleaning do not mix.

Although the SSJD are only peripherally involved with the parish today, St. T’s remains lucky to have another expert in silk embroidery. Donald McTaggart is both a member of the Altar Guild here and the silk embroidery convenor of the Anglican Church Women’s Needlework Committee.

She points out one of the greatest threats to the continued good care of fine vestments: the lack of people who are able to do this work.

“There are a few younger women on the committee to carry on the tradition. However, many embroiderers now just like to do cross stitch. The trend is to machine embroi-



PHOTO LINDA RUSSELL

dery." Ironically, the supply of silk thread and the selection of colours is better than ever.

The conservation battle goes on. Donalda McTaggart found that much of the 1911 black set is beyond repair. It is not just vestments that are wearing out. Like some of the copes, the banners are also victims of their own weight.

However, the Guild is loath to call in professional help.

"Their goals are often at odds with ours," Jean-Paul Napier explains. "They want to conserve through not using items. We want to conserve and use." Although there is no protocol for wearing gloves while handling delicate fabrics and objects, individually members see this as a good idea.

Not everything decays. When sets are retired in good repair they are passed on by the diocese to smaller parishes who are in need of particular vestments.

The St. Thomas's collection, though, is not just about old vestments. Fr. Brian Freeland has combined his love of vestments and his support of artists by commissioning a number of exuberantly colourful modern copes.

Several of these were created by Sybil Rampen about 30 years ago. In contrast, the blue and red silk damask cope from Watts & Company of London, presented to the congregation two years ago by Fr. Michael Lloyd, offers a more traditional elegance.

St. Thomas's has commissioned

Know your Altar Guild

Doreen Stanton A parishioner since Trinity Sunday, 1950, Doreen Stanton thinks she joined the Altar Guild about two years later. She brought with her an enthusiasm for sewing. Outside of St. Thomas's she is a noted rose enthusiast.

Donalda McTaggart came to St. Thomas's in the 1960s. More than a decade ago, she joined the needlework committee of the Chancel Department of the Anglican Church Women where she is currently the silk embroidery convenor.

Jean-Paul Napier Verger, acolyte, and the only male member of the Altar Guild (not counting the rector who is its warden), Jean-Paul Napier came to the parish in 1970. He is interested in anything related to design.

The Altar Guild Members of the Altar Guild are responsible for more than just vestments. From preparing candles, arranging flowers and polishing silver, they are the worker bees of the parish. Currently members are fundraising for the new set of white vestments. New members always welcome.

The Anglican Church Women Needlework & Linen Department Members meet monthly (on Mondays) in the Diocesan office to create and repair vestments for the parishes in the Diocese. Call Donalda McTaggart for more information. 416-626-3322

a new white set from the ACW Needlework Committee. The work will and take about two years; Doreen McTaggart estimates the embroidery alone will take about 18 months. She has ordered silk from France and England.

Fundraising efforts by Altar Guild members toward this project have raised almost \$10,000.

Thus, the tradition continues.

JENNIFER GRANGE

Parkdale Deanery looks to the future

The expectation of the Parkdale Council and of the Diocese is that St. Thomas's and St. Mary Magdalene will have to play a significant role in the development of a sustainable and effective ministry plan for the Anglican churches of Parkdale.

This is an interesting situation for us because for much of our history we have been perceived to operate in isolation. This state of independence from the Diocese has been possible because we met our financial obligations to the Diocese. The generosity of our benefactors has enabled us to do what we do well without significant diocesan interference.

The changing nature of Parkdale necessitates a new approach to ministry. Bishop Poole and the members of the Parkdale Council are committed to developing a

strategy that will ensure that the Anglican Church does not retreat from the inner city. The Rector and Rob Kennedy are also committed to ensuring that what is vital to the life of St Thomas's will not be placed in jeopardy. We see this situation as an opportunity for St Thomas's to grow in new ways.

The Council will oversee the work of five subcommittees, charged with exploring opportunities for joint social ministries and evangelism, and with exploring potential models for the sharing of resources among the seven parishes. A number of committed parishioners are involved in these committees, including Carol Guen-Hart, Carol Kysela, Dr Melanie Bedford, Anthony Dale and Maggie Helwig.

The diocesan goal is to revitalize the Parkdale Deanery and provide

it with the opportunity to be vibrant once again. The Council has as one of its working principles that the outcomes will not be simply for the purpose of downsizing, but will be truly creative.

St Thomas's historic distrust of the Diocese must not keep us from offering our talents, experience and insights to Bishop Poole and his Council. Unlike in years past, we cannot afford to disengage from the Parkdale process. You must know that the Council's work will not be yet another committee report that merely gathers dust. The status quo is not an option for the Deanery. To address the lengthy list of problems facing Parkdale Anglicans, Bishop Poole needs our help – and we need his. It is vitally important that our energies be focused on this project.

KEVIN TOYNE

Kevin Toyne is Deputy Rector's Warden and a member of Diocesan Council.

Background information

What's a Deanery?

Parishes in a particular geographical area are clustered into a body called a Deanery, under the supervision of a Regional Dean. Sometimes these clusters are arbitrary, and sometimes they make sense because they share similar ministry goals and challenges.

What's Parkdale Deanery?

The Rev'd Jeff Kennedy is the Regional Dean of Parkdale, which consists of seven parishes. The other six parishes are: St. Stephen's-in-the-Field, St. George the Martyr, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Anne's, St. Matthias, Epiphany and St. Mark.

What's distinctive about Parkdale?

Many of the parishes in the Deanery have grown out of an Anglo-Catholic tradition. Excellence in music, preaching, and teaching, have been hallmarks of a number of parishes. There are enormous social problems in the Deanery, particularly around housing and food, and most parishes have significant social service programmes.

What's the Parkdale Council?

Bishop Poole has formed a council to continue the work of the Parkdale Commission which was charged with making recommendations for the future of Anglican ministry in our deanery. The key recommendations include:

- Recognizing that the present system cannot continue as it is.
- Not selling any property.
- Finding ways of sharing financial, physical, and human resources for more effective Anglican witness in Parkdale.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec. 3, LITANY SUNG IN PROCESSION
during the Solemn Eucharist at 11am.
ADVENT PROCESSION WITH CAROLS
during the course of Evensong, starting at 7pm

Dec. 17, A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS, 7 pm.
This will be in place of our customary Solemn Evensong and Devotions.

Dec. 24, SOLEMN MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS (beginning at 11pm)
Organ Recital at 10:30pm.

Dec. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY
Said Eucharist 8am (Book of Common Prayer); Sung Eucharist 9:30am (Book of Alternative Services Rite); Solemn Eucharist 11am (Traditional Rite)

Jan. 7, EPIPHANY
Said Eucharist 8am (Book of Common Prayer); Sung Eucharist 9:30am (Book of Alternative Services Rite) Solemn Eucharist 11am (Traditional Rite); SOLEMN EVENSONG with EPIPHANY CAROLS
Procession & Devotions 7pm

FINANCIAL SQUEEZE

As of October 31st, St. Thomas's deficit is \$15,000 more than we expected.

Why?

Although expenses are down 2% compared to what was budgeted and some fundraising — including our auction — generated some income, givings are down about 12% over what was expected.

We have transferred the entire budgeted amount of \$60,000 from the Trust and Endowment Fund to the Operating Fund this year. Nevertheless, because of the poor cash flow, we've had to make an additional temporary transfer from the Heritage Fund to maintain operations until year-end, when we expect some of the more significant donations to arrive. The bridging funds will then be returned to the Heritage Fund.

As you attend social events over the next few weeks, think of St. Thomas's — for every drink or indulgent sweet you have, put a loonie or toonie in a jar. Celebrate the coming of Christmas by emptying the jar and submitting a deficit reduction cheque for the amount, be it \$25, \$50, or even \$100.

We thank those of you who have already given.

If you can give more, please consider doing so. If you reduced your donation this year — for any number of reasons — and circumstances have since changed, please reconsider and give some more.

About 250 people regularly donate funds to St. Thomas's. If each of these donors increased their donation this year by only \$60 we would eliminate our current deficit situation.

Please note that all donations should be received by the last banking day of the year: noon on Friday

December 29th. The Parish Administrator needs to have all deposits done on this day.

CHARIS KELSO AND ANNA KENNEDY

STUDY DAYS LAUNCHED

St. Thomas's has launched a new component of our adult education programming with "Return to Origins: The Development of Christian Doctrine," four lectures over two Saturdays delivered by The Rev. Dr. Robert Black.

For the November 4th and 11th study days, Dr. Black was given the almost impossible task of covering 2,000 years of Christian history in just over four hours.

The ongoing series, which will see another two study days in Lent 2007, is entitled "Seeking Understanding: What it means to be a catholic Anglican." St. Thomas's Adult Education Committee created this series with the intention of providing background to the Anglican and Anglo-Catholic traditions found at St. Thomas's.

In another "first" for St. Thomas's, this education programming was hosted by the Friar's Guild whose members under Anna Kennedy's organization provided us with lunch on both Saturdays. We hope this is the beginning of a great friendship!

CAROL KYSELA

10TH ANNIVERSARY FOR POETRY SERIES

There were two important reasons to celebrate on Saturday, November 18: launching the twenty-third book in the St. Thomas Poetry Series and marking the tenth anniversary of the publication series. (Poetry readings had begun eight years earlier in 1988.)

Philip Gardner read from his fifth book of poetry, *Gifts with No Recipient: Selected Poems 1991-2004*, in the church and then signed books and greeted people in the parish hall where a reception was held afterwards.

Gardner is Professor Emeritus at Memorial University of Newfoundland and also the author of many scholarly works on E. M. Forster, William Empson, A. E. Housman, and others. He was introduced by Professor Richard Greene, a former student now with the English department of the University of Toronto who had launched *Crossing the Straits*, his own book in the series, two years ago.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 19 when *Poetry as Liturgy: An Anthology of Canadian Poets* will be launched. For more information see the St. Thomas's Web site or contact David Kent at dkent@centennialcollege.ca. DAVID KENT

AWOL from the library

There are 138 missing library books, that is, books which have not been signed out. Please check your books and return any which belong to St. Thomas's.

The following few titles were recent and, in most cases, expensive purchases:

The Spiral Staircase: My Climb out of Darkness, by Karen Armstrong

A Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud, by Armand Nicholi

The Bible Makes Sense, by Walter Brueggemann

Beyond Belief: the Secret Gospel of Thomas, by Elaine Pagels

Three Scholars Reply to Bishop Spong, by Paul Barnett.

Godless Morality: Keeping Religion Out of Ethics, by Richard Holloway

Living Together in the Church, by Greig Dunn

Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit, by Gary Wills

MARION DOROSH

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Address: http://www.stthomas.on.ca

Download Service Leaflet for Sunday, November 26 2006 (The Reign of Christ / Sunday Next to Advent)

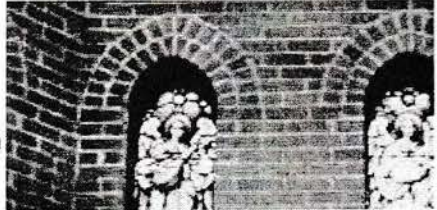
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Smoky Times - Our New Podcast
Advent and Christmas Services at Saint Thomas's
Education/Ministry

Search for Search [Saint Thomas's Event Calendar](#)

Welcome

Thank you for visiting the Saint Thomas's Web Site. By exploring this Site you will discover a lively Anglo-Catholic parish in the heart of the city. St Thomas's was established in 1874, and now rests on the edges of the University of Toronto campus, in an exciting area known as The Annex. St Thomas's has been, from its earliest days, at the



Oh, what a tangled Web we weave

Flashback to 1997... in a casual conversation in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. mass on a Sunday, Fr. Hoults asked me if I would be interested in assuming responsibility for the church's Web site. I said yes, and the adventure began.

Fast-forward to 2006, nearly 100,000 visits to the web site later, and it was time for the Web site to be refreshed. A new look and feel was created for the site, and a content management system was written, to allow various members of the congregation to manage Web site content, without having to be Web experts.

In addition, a new event calendar is now online, and the service leaflet for Sunday services is similarly available, thanks to Barb Obrai — normally by the Thursday

preceding. Existing features — such as the searchable library database, service music schedule and news items listings — have of course been maintained and updated. There are also some performances by the 2005 England tour choir online as well.

The feature that I am most excited about is the the new "Smoky Times" podcast. A podcast can be thought of as a kind of radio show that can you download and listen to on an .mp3 player, or directly on the site itself. You can even burn it onto a CD and listen to it that way!

At the time of writing, there were four episodes of the podcast online, with two more in preparation, to be published before the end of 2006. Planning is already underway for many episodes on various topics in 2007.

What we are really hoping to see are volunteers to help with the Web site —

you don't need to be a techno-wizard!

Here a just a few ways you could help out:

- Is there a church event that needs to be publicized? Let me know, and I can make sure a news item is created on the web site.
- If your group or committee wants a page on the site, please let me know, and I can show you how to manage your own content — it's easy!
- Want to conduct an interview or be interviewed for the podcast? Let me know!
- Want to be a co-host of an episode of the podcast? That would be great, and zero technical knowledge is required.
- Tell people about the site and the podcast. Help spread the word!

I can be reached at 416.406.3996, or john@meadowsonline.com. The address of the Web site has not changed; it is <http://www.stthomas.on.ca>.

JOHN MEADOWS