



# Thurible

A NEWSLETTER for ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH





LENT 2013

383 HURON ST. TORONTO ON M5S 2G5 [www.stthomas.on.ca](http://www.stthomas.on.ca) [saintthomas@rogers.com](mailto:saintthomas@rogers.com)



## TEN YEARS AT ST. THOMAS'S

Rector, Priest, Pastor and Friend

 Tom Sheridan  Alice Degan

Candlemas 2013 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Mark Andrews' induction as rector of St. Thomas's. The parish held a surprise celebration for him the following Sunday, February 10. It was a welcome opportunity to show a little of our gratitude for everything that Fr. Andrews has done for St. Thomas's in the past decade. The event was organized in an impressive aura of secrecy by Diana Verseghy. The congregation enjoyed cake and sparkling beverages, and representatives of parish groups presented gifts: a hand-painted birdhouse from the youth group; cards made by the church school; from the Altar Guild, a volume of botanical prints; from the Acolytes, a gift card for Crux Books; and from the 20s and 30s Group, a selection of gift certificates to be redeemed for chores around the parish, and a hand-knit scarf which doubles as a liturgical calendar. Phil Spencer presented the travel purse which was raised through generous contributions from parishioners.

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## Ten Years at St. Thomas's

*(from the cover page)*

After choristers performed a wonderful musical tribute, Fr. Andrews expressed his thanks and admiration for the people who gather at St. T's. The feeling is definitely mutual!



- ▲ Detail of one of the two cakes for the reception
- ▼ The musical greeting. Words: John Meadows  
Tune: Kingsfold (arr. Vaughan Williams).

We feel the winds of Mark today,  
To you our voices we lift.  
You came here on a Candlemas,  
Since then the flame's stayed lit.  
In Sanctuary, Parish Hall,  
You've worked hard, paid your dues.  
And who can forget the best part yet,  
Your Bible study cruise.

To the youth group  
you are "Father Extreme,"  
On roller-coaster rides:  
Never mind how high,  
how steep, how fast,  
You're brave and never hide.  
In the sanctuary, cloth in hand,  
Up the ladder fast you go.  
Keeping us "High Church"  
by making sure  
All the wooden statues glow.

And so now the final verse is here,  
And we say without a joke:  
We are happy that we see you here,  
Indistinctly through the smoke.  
Fr. Andrews rowed his boat ashore,  
And with us is happily docked.  
And so we raise this tune of praise,  
From us, your musical flock. ■

## PARISH BRIEF NEWS

### Parish Register

#### *In Memoriam*

Peter Richard Henderson  
+ December 5, 2012

Dorothy Elizabeth Thoms  
+ December 16, 2012

#### *Marriage*

Mark William Davis & Cymbeline  
Tena Villaranda, January 5, 2013

### Compline – Wednesdays 10pm



The service of sung Compline is held every Wednesday at 10 pm during the academic term (through April 3). A small group meets in the chancel for this short and contemplative candlelit service.

### Calendar a Great Success

The St. Thomas's 2013 parish calendar, featuring gorgeous photography by parishioners, was a fundraiser for parish outreach programs and for the choir tour. Almost all 200 copies were sold, raising about \$800 for each fund. Members of all three choirs took the lead on sales outside the parish; tour committee members also sold at coffee hours and receptions. A big thank you to Leonel Abaroa-Boloña and Tina Park, to the sales force, and to all buyers—who in many cases purchased multiple copies as Christmas gifts! ■

## St. Thomas's Church

www.stthomas.on.ca



The Diocese of Toronto

www.toronto.anglican.ca

The Anglican Church of Canada

www.anglican.ca

The Anglican Communion

www.anglicancommunion.org



*Rector* The Rev'd Mark W. Andrews

*Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Robert Mitchell

*Rector Emeritus*

The Rev'd Roy A. Hoult

*Assistant Priest*

The Rev'd Canon Brian D. Freeland

*Honorary Assistant Priests*

The Rev'ds A. Thomas Little,  
Canon R. Bruce Mutch,  
Canon W. David Neelands,  
Ian D. Nichols.

*Administrator* Barbara Obrain

*Assistant Verger* Leonel Abaroa-Boloña

*Organist & Choirmaster* John H. Tuttle

*Organ Scholar* Elizabeth Anderson

*People's Warden* Diana Versegny

*Rector's Warden* Julia Armstrong

*Deputy Wardens* Phil Spencer

Bruce McEachern

*Treasurer* Tim Wright

*Pastoral Care Contact* Phyllis Garden

*Outreach Contact* Alice Degan

*Co-ordinators of Sidespeople*

Teri Dunn, Wendy Woodworth

*Friars' Guild Coordinator*

Jennifer McCallum

*Webmaster* Evolving Web

*Web Editor* J. Armstrong

*Church and Hall bookings*

sainthomas@rogers.com

## PARISH BRIEF NEWS

### Congratulations!



We would like to offer congratulations and blessings on behalf of the parish to **Sister Gail Fox** (in the picture with Archbishop Johnson) on her new religious profession. Sister Gail took vows for the single consecrated life on November 24, 2012.

### Upcoming Evensong Preludes

Evensong Preludes showcase the many talented musicians in our parish and extended parish family and offer a time of quiet reflection before the service. Thank you to all the artists!

#### **Sunday, March 17 at 6:30 PM**

Jennifer McCallum, soprano.

Followed by Evensong and Devotions at 7 pm, featuring music by Andreas, Mendelssohn and Leighton

#### **Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 PM**

Hiro Kogure and Joshua Colucci, baroque violin. Followed by Evensong and Devotions at 7 pm, featuring music by Tallis, Parsons and Handl

#### **Sunday, May 12 at 6:30 PM**

John Tuttle, organ.

Followed by Evensong and Devotions at 7 pm, featuring music by Kelly, Byrd and Tallis

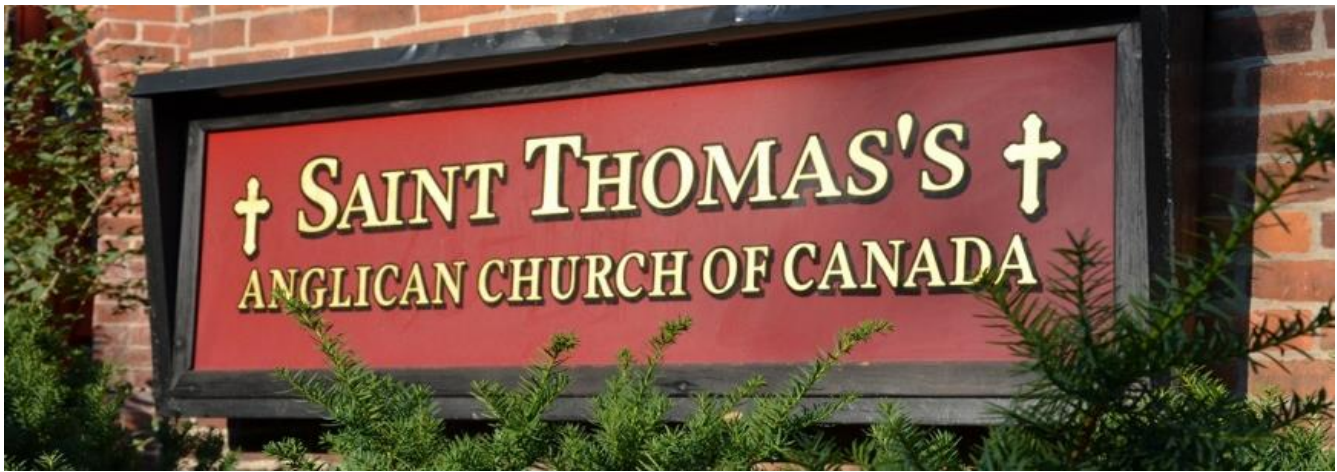
#### **Sunday, June 16 at 6:30 PM**

Merry-Anne Stuart, soprano, with

Jeanne Yuen, piano.

Followed by Evensong and Devotions at 7 pm, featuring music by Lloyd, White and Radcliffe. ■

Cover Art: *Thurible* by Willem Hart; Lent graph from *Wikipedia Commons*



## THANK *You* FOR BEING A FRIEND!

*Julia Armstrong*

The “Friends of St. Thomas’s” are a group of well over 200 people who are not active members of the parish but who retain a connection with it. They include clergy, former theology students and choristers, and people who grew up in the parish or were married here and whose studies or work have taken them elsewhere. St. Thomas’s has played an important part in their lives: through liturgy, music, education events, outreach activities, volunteer service, and pastoral and personal relationships.

The parish stays in touch with Friends by sending them the *Thurible* and by including them on our intercessions list. Friends receive a notice about which day our community will be praying for them. But beyond those communications, we realized recently that we had not done as much as we could to keep in touch. We needed to find out more about the interests of our Friends and how we might connect them to the ongoing life of our parish, should they wish to continue to be on the Friends list. To that end, when we sent out the Advent issue of the *Thurible*, we included a letter to the Friends from Fr. Mark Andrews, along with a questionnaire. Those who receive the newsletter online were provided with a link to an online web survey; a hard-copy version was included with the newsletters that went by post. We wish to thank all who took the time to complete the survey.

Most aspects of the questionnaire were intended to help us better understand what our Friends are interested in and how to create new opportunities to connect with them. One, but only one, aspect was financial. Many Friends have been generous supporters over the years. We wanted them to know we are grateful for that, but that our needs are many. In future, we hope to provide them with information about ways they can support aspects of St. Thomas’s ministry that are particularly close to their heart. So this first step—the questionnaire—was about finding out what *is* close to their hearts.

We have recently collated the results and are pleased to highlight a few of the findings:

- Most Friends have been associated with St. Thomas’s for at least 10 years and many for 20-plus years. Respondents said they “value” and “cherish” their ongoing connection with St. Thomas’s, and two expressed how much they have appreciated being included on the prayer list.
- Our Friends first came to the parish for a variety of reasons (e.g., someone recommended they attend, to hear the music), but in a large number of cases it was because they had moved into the area—definitely something to keep in mind as the parish continues its outreach to the neighbourhood and the campus of the University of Toronto.

*(continues on page 8)*



▲ *Diana Verseghy and Pat Kennedy working in the parish garden.*

## IN OUR GARDEN

✉ *Birgitte Nielsen*   ✂ *Suzanne Coultres*

When the weather outside is frightful, it's a lovely time to think about spring being around the corner—and around St. Thomas's, thinking about spring goes hand in hand with thoughts of the parish garden. For seven years, our little garden has been providing fresh produce to support the Out of the Heat program. It also brightens up the alley behind St. Thomas's by providing some green space amongst a largely concrete landscape.

In the past, we have grown many types of lettuces, carrots, beans, peas, tomatoes, spinach, kale, cabbage, swiss chard, radishes, spring onions and squash, as well as different herbs. Due to our garden's location and conditions, some of these crops have worked better than others. We are constantly evaluating our crops, and this year we are working with the Out of the Heat team to choose things that can be incorporated even more easily into our meal program.

A dedicated group of volunteers spends time outside getting their hands dirty over the course of the garden season to tend the garden plot. They tell me that it's a rewarding experience to work on a garden project in the heart of the city—especially for those who don't have access to a backyard of their own.

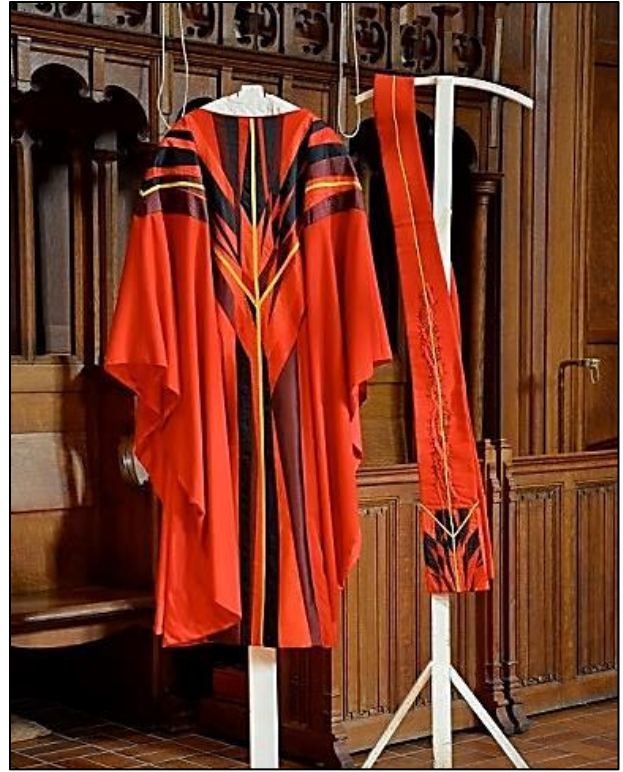
Getting involved is easy! We use a roster system so that folks are able to take responsibility for weeding the garden for one or more weeks throughout the season. When team members actually visit the garden for tending within their particular week is completely at their own convenience. Most people work in pairs to make the experience even more enjoyable.

I will be starting on the 2013 garden schedule soon. If you'd like to lend a hand (or two!), please contact me at [suzanne.coultres@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.coultres@gmail.com). ■

## LENTEN VESTMENTS AT ST. THOMAS'S

✠ Birgitte Nielsen ✎ J.P. Napier

During the season of Lent, at St. Thomas's we use a wide group of vestments in our liturgies. The best set of violet vestments, a remount of embroidery of the same vintage and quality as the Angel Cope, is worn on Ash Wednesday and the first Sunday in Lent. A plainer, newer violet is worn on the other Sundays.



The rose vestments are worn on the fourth Sunday in Lent, as well as during the season of Advent. The Passiontide reds, made to a design by Willem Hart, are worn from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. ■

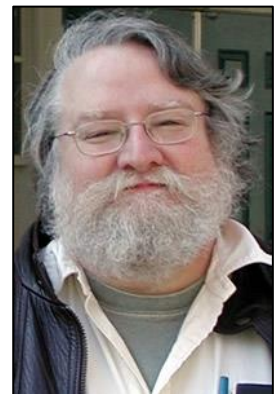
## COSMOLOGY, TIME AND GOD

Coming this May the Science and Faith branch of St. Thomas's Education Committee will be offering a series of study sessions on *Cosmology, Time, and God*. The sessions will proceed historically and will look at topics such as Ecclesiastes and Aristotle, Augustine on Time, and Late Medieval and Early Modern Thought on Universal Motion.

We are very excited to have as our speaker Dr. Angus Johnston of the University of King's College, Halifax. Dr. Johnston has published extensively on issues concerning science and faith, has lectured on Bob Dylan, and currently teaches in the Foundation Year Programme and the History of Science and Technology Programme at King's.

Session 1: Wednesday May 1, 6:45-8:30

Session 2: Saturday May 4, 10:30-2:30. ■



*Prof. Angus Johnston*



## LUMINARIES OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Short talks on the famous figures buried in the Abbey

Lunch and Learn - Four Sundays: 1–2 pm

✉ Julia Armstrong

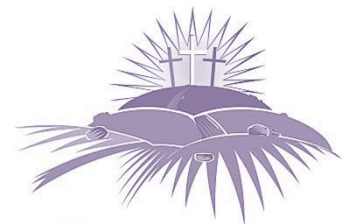
In advance of the 2013 U.K. choir tour, which will include a week’s residency at Westminster Abbey, four scholars in our parish share insights into some of the figures buried in the Abbey. The events begin with a soup-and-sandwich lunch, followed by a 30-minute talk with time for questions.

On March 10, parishioner Larry Beckwith presented “John Blow and Henry Purcell: Organists of Westminster Abbey.” Blow (1648–1708) was buried in the north choir aisle, and the inscription on the nearby marble cartouche reads in part: “He was Scholar to the excellent musician Dr Christopher Gibbons and Master to the famous Mr H. Purcell, and most of the eminent masters in musick since.” His student, Henry Purcell (1659–1695), is also buried in the north choir aisle. The series continues on March 17, when Dr. Alice Degan, acolyte and food program coordinator, explores “Why Chaucer Is Buried in Westminster and Shakespeare Isn’t.” On April 7, Hugh Anson-Cartwright will speak about some of the spectacular sculptures and effigies in the Abbey. To finish the series on April 14, Dr. Mairi Cowan, a professor of history at University of Toronto Mississauga and a soprano in the 11 a.m. choir, will present “Mary and Elizabeth: Queens, Cousins, and Reluctant Rivals in Renaissance Britain.”

The cost is \$15 per event (including lunch). Proceeds benefit outreach programs and the choir tour fund. Tickets are for sale at coffee hour or can be purchased the day of the event, but an RSVP is required ahead of time: [rsvpstthomas@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpstthomas@gmail.com). ■

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 24-30



### **Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

8 AM *Early Eucharist*

9:30 AM *Modern Rite*

11 AM *Traditional Rite*

7 PM *Evensong,*

*Way of the Cross & Devotions*

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Eucharists* - 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM

*Confessions* - 5:30 PM *St. Agnes Chapel*

*Way of the Cross & Eucharist* - 6 PM

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Baroque by Candlelight* - 8 PM

Music & Contemplation for Holy Week

### **Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**

7 PM *Confessions* - *St. Agnes Chapel*

8 PM *Solemn High Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper* —

*followed by the Gethsemane Watch*

11:30 PM *Candlelight Way of the Cross*

### **Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM *Liturgy of the Passion*

7:30 PM *Candlelight*

*Way of the Cross* -

### **Holy Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

10 AM *Ante Communion*

**9 PM *Easter Vigil***



## ***Friends of St. Thomas's***

*(continued from page 4)*

- The aspects of St. Thomas's that Friends value most are the liturgy, music and preaching.
- Many want more information about St. Thomas's events and people. It's clear from the comments that receiving the *Thurible* is important to our Friends; one person called it "a privilege."
- Many want access to audio and video recordings of services, concerts, lectures, etc. We can already fulfil part of that request! Visit our website and click on the menu tab "Sights and Sounds." There you will find all the services that have been recorded—simply click the link to play. We regularly add new service recordings, thanks to the work of parishioner Jim Webster, who records and uploads the files.
- A little over half of our Friends make occasional financial contributions. One person commented that he wouldn't mind an annual gentle reminder—receiving Fr. Mark's letter and the survey had in fact prompted him to send a cheque to the church office, as was the case for a few others.
- 85% of Friends believe that St. Thomas's plays a unique and valuable role, and the same percentage said that the aspects of St. Thomas's community they would be most willing to support financially are the excellence of the liturgy and the quality and range of music programs.
- Some mentioned they would like to keep in touch through social media. Again we can comply! You are invited to join our Facebook community of more than 160 members—you'll find us at "Saint Thomas's Church, Toronto." And you can follow us on Twitter: ***@stthomastoronto***

Armed with the feedback from the survey, we are in a better position to look toward opportunities to build our relationship with our Friends and to develop specific new initiatives. If you are a Friend of St. Thomas's who has not yet completed the questionnaire, we invite you to do so. Please send an e-mail to ***friends.stthomastoronto@gmail.com*** and we will send the link to the questionnaire, or a hard copy.

Also, we are quite certain that there are many individuals who consider themselves "Friends of St. Thomas's" but are as yet not formally identified as such. We hope to keep updating our circle of Friends with everyone's help. If readers know of someone who was previously associated with St. Thomas's but has since moved away or otherwise lost touch, and who may not already be on our Friends list, please drop us a line at the same e-mail address, including whatever contact information you may have, and we will cross-check them against our current database.

Watch for more about the Friends of St. Thomas's in future issues! ■

