



MICHAELMAS 2012

# Thurible



A NEWSLETTER for ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH  
383 HURON STREET TORONTO ON M5S 2G5 • WWW.STTHOMAS.ON.CA



Barbara Obrat

## In Raiment of Needlework

Donalda McTaggart 1940-2012

 Fr. Mark Andrews

In the Book of Exodus (Ch. 25) we hear that God's Spirit inspired people with wisdom and skill to beautify the sanctuary. God gave that same wisdom and skill in abundance to Donalda McTaggart. Many parishes in Canada and the United States, and especially St. Thomas's, are proud to possess vestments that she created or restored, both on her own and as head of the Toronto Diocesan ACW Needlework Group.

Donalda grew up on a farm near St. Thomas, Ontario, and was active in St. Luke's in St. Thomas from an early age. She began her thirty-year teaching career in her home town and then, after being widowed at a young age, moved to Toronto. More recently, Donalda was able to work with flowers, another great love of hers, at Loblaws, where she also earned her fork lift licence.

Immediately prior to her Requiem Eucharist held at St. Thomas's in Easter Week, we blessed and set aside "To the Glory of God and in memory of Donalda McTaggart" our new black vestments. The diocesan Needleworkers laboured very hard to finish the embroidery designed by Donalda, and to piece together the silks, galooning, and cording that she had very carefully chosen. In this set we see her remarkable ability to create excellent modern vestments that intentionally reflect the beauty of our historic vestments, in this case those constructed by the women of St. Thomas's during World War I. *(Continues on p. 3)*

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## Parish Register Entries

### *In Memoriam*

Josey Krajnc, July 15, 2012  
Imre Janos Boma-Fischer, August 9, 2012  
Margaret Anita Bourne, August 18, 2012  
Marion Theresa Thorley, August 16, 2012

## From paper to screen

The Thurible newsletter is available in black-and-white print format and as a full-colour pdf. Please consider helping the parish to reduce printing and postage costs by signing up to receive the newsletter in electronic form.

Contact Alice Degan, at [alicedegan@gmail.com](mailto:alicedegan@gmail.com), to have your name added to our email list.

## Next issue of Thurible *Epiphany 2013*

News from Advent and Christmas seasons, reflections from *Back to Church Sunday* and a look ahead to Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2013.

## A Calendar for our parish



Soon you'll be able to purchase copies of our own 2013 *Church Feasts and Parish Events Desk Calendar*. It sells for \$15 as a fundraiser to benefit both the 2013 UK Choir Tour and the *Out of the Heat / Out of the Cold* ministry.

The calendar includes most of the parish events up to January 2014 and all of the Major Feasts of the Church Year as observed at St. Thomas's. It also features time tables for Christmas and Easter Masses and other parish services, as well as listings for regular Masses and the Daily Offices at our church, the parish directory, and a 2014 year-calendar. Most importantly, the calendar is made entirely out of photographs taken by members of our parish family, who contributed to this project with wonderful images. ■

## St. Thomas's Church

[www.stthomas.on.ca](http://www.stthomas.on.ca)



**The Diocese of Toronto**

[www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)

**The Anglican Church of Canada**

[www.anglican.ca](http://www.anglican.ca)

**The Anglican Communion**

[www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org)



*Rector* The Rev'd Mark W. Andrews

*Associate Priest* The Rev'd Robert Mitchell

*Assistant Priest*

The Rev'd Canon Brian D. Freeland

*Rector Emeritus* The Rev'd Roy A. Hoult

*Honorary Assistant Priests*

The Rev'ds A. Thomas Little,

Ian D. Nichols, Canon R. Bruce Mutch

& Canon W. David Neelands

*Organist & Choirmaster* John H. Tuttle

*Organ Scholar* Elizabeth Anderson

*People's Warden* Diana Versegby

*Rector's Warden* Phil Spencer

*Deputy Wardens* Julia Armstrong,  
Jennifer Grange

*Financial Officer & Treasurer* Tim Wright

*Bookkeeper* Greg Anderson

*Parish Administrator* Barbara Obrai

*Assistant Verger* Leonel Abaroa-Boloña

*Head of Acolytes' Guild* Mike Degan

*Church School Supervisor* Michael Wood

*Nursery School Supervisor* Theodor Aust

*Pastoral Care Contact* Phyllis Garden

*Food Program Coordinator* Alice Degan

*Coordinators of Sidespeople* Terry Dunn

Wendy Woodworth

*Friars' Guild Coordinator*

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Barbara Obrat



Above: Working on the white Mass set

Below: Sharing a moment of laughter with Marlene Fader at the Diocesan Needlework Group

Barbara Obrat



*Cont. Donalda In Memoriam (from cover page)*

Not all of her creations are traditional. At the reception in the Parish Hall following her Requiem, a broad spectrum of her liturgical works was on display. Saint Mary Magdalene brought over their splendid new modern red set, with Pentecostal fire running up the borders of the cope and up the stoles, while incorporating well-aged embroidery on the orphreys of the chasuble, dalmatic, and tunicle. Her home parish brought a beautiful simple set she made and donated in memory of her parents. Her artistry embraced many styles, was always excellent, and always expressed God's creativity and beauty.

Donalda is greatly missed by members of our parish, not only because of the loss of her gifts, which we have valued so highly, but especially for her tremendous sense of humour and her many other talents and virtues. She formed long-lasting friendships, travelled widely, was kind and generous, and interested in many things. It was always a treat to spend time with her.

Above all, Donalda was a woman of faith, and that was strengthening to her throughout her brief illness. For as long as it seemed possible that the doctors would be able to address her illness in some way, she retained hope and came to embrace the idea of living with significantly reduced mobility. When it became clear that her cancer had spread widely, she quoted the psalmist: *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth.* This was not uttered in despair or bitterness, nor even in resignation, but in faithful recognition that her *three-score years and ten* had arrived in God's time, not her own.

I think our parish's green cope with the exotic cockerel on the hood reveals Donalda's deep faith and her considerable sense of humour. The rooster not only symbolizes Peter's betrayal, (and Donalda was conscious of how badly people could go against God's good will), but more importantly it heralds the new dawn, which conquers sin and death and to which she looked forward with confidence. It is proud, exuberant, has eyes wide with curiosity – and they have a definite twinkle. ■



*Theodor Aust, Caregiver at the St. Thomas's Nursery*

## Youngest Anglicans

### Our Sunday Nursery

*Suzanne Coultres*

Until the arrival last January of my son Kevin, the nursery at St. Thomas's was something I had not thought much about. Located in the basement underneath the kitchen, it's easy to forget it's even there unless you have reason to visit! But for those with small children at St. T's, a reliable nursery is essential to being able to attend church. St. T's offers the services of a qualified caregiver in its nursery during the 11:00 liturgy so that parents can participate in worship. As the ages of our children change over time, the demand for the nursery waxes and wanes. This year has seen increased demand, and with it, the necessity of some upgrades. Recent improvements to the already well-stocked nursery include a thorough clean-up of the space by volunteers, the purchase of a new change table, and donations of a rocking chair for nursing mothers and a new "pack 'n play," which doubles as a portable crib and a safe play space.

Since 2009, we have been lucky to have Theodor (Theo) Aust providing nursery care at St. T's. Theo is finishing up a Political Science and Criminology degree at the University of Toronto, and plans to pursue a Masters degree in Public Policy and Governance. Theo is from Barrie, where he began babysitting for neighbourhood families at the age of 14. He has also worked at a youth drama camp, and he facilitated Family Sunday programming at the U of T's Hart House, which allowed parents to drop off their children in order to utilize health and wellness services. Theo organized creative activities for the children, including his favourite: "Make your own Superhero Costume day"! In addition to this experience, Theo also has first aid training. Theo tells me that the best thing about working with children is what he learns from them. "Although cliché, it is true that children see the world very differently. For me it is always a joy to see how children reason their way through things."

The current hours of the nursery are Sundays from 10:15 until the end of the 11:00 service. Parishioners may drop off their kids from 10:15 onwards. (However, please note that if no children arrive by 11:15, Theo generally leaves in order to save the church the cost of his wages.)

*(Continues on next page)*

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The Nursery is also usually open for special services around holidays like Easter and Christmas. If parents have any questions or inquiries about nursery services, they can feel free to contact Diana Versegghy, the warden tasked with coordinating children's and youth ministries at St. Thomas's, at [diana.versegghy@sympatico.ca](mailto:diana.versegghy@sympatico.ca).

**UPDATE:** From the Churchwardens: this fall, St. Thomas's has hired an assistant for Theo, to enable more individual care for both infants and toddlers. Ashley Hunter is a BA student at UofT, majoring in East Asian Studies and minoring in Religion. She is reliable and enthusiastic, and has a broad range of experience caring for children aged 3 to 11. So the youngest members of the parish will be well served. ■

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## Loaves and (Cans of) Fish

### Grace in the St. T's kitchen

Nearly every week in the spring, summer, and early autumn, volunteers are in the St. Thomas's kitchen on Thursdays making sandwiches. Others have arrived earlier in cars laden with supplies: huge cans of fish, trunks full of bread, vats of mayonnaise. We go through 30 loaves of bread a week, about 6 kg of tuna, 90 eggs, and more margarine and mayonnaise than I like to contemplate.

There is no miraculous multiplication here; in fact, I'm often surprised by how much that bounty, so heavy when you're lugging it into the kitchen, shrinks when processed into sandwiches and put back into the bread bags. Still, by Thursday night, every available cranny of fridge space will be stuffed with sandwiches. And by the same time on Friday, we will have given them all away, along with large quantities of juice, fruit, hard boiled eggs, and fresh vegetables, many from our own garden. It is all eagerly received and all very much needed. It's a lot of work, but it gets done each week without fail.

Seeing how much food and how much effort it takes to feed approximately 100 people gives one a new, more concrete perspective on Jesus's miraculous feeding of crowds of four and five thousand with a few loaves and fish. It also makes me think about how his disciples must have felt when they looked out at those huge crowds and realized they didn't have much of anything to give them. There's something particularly terrible about the thought of having a lot of people to feed and nothing to offer them.

In the Gospel accounts, Jesus takes over and miraculously provides for the crowd. But he doesn't tell the disciples to stand back and let him do the work; he tells them to feed the crowd themselves. They are the ones who distribute the bread and fish and collect the overflowing baskets of leftovers. Even though a miracle is happening, they have to do the work, bit by unspectacular bit. In our own ministry, the work is the obvious part; it is the grace of God that we sometimes have to look harder to find.

On Fridays at St. Thomas's, with the fridges full of sandwiches and our team putting together bags of vegetables, brewing coffee, and setting out fruit, we are blessed never to have cause to feel that sense of desperation that must have assailed Jesus's disciples. We are able to provide plenty of food for the people who come here needing it. This is thanks to God's goodness. It is Christ providing for us and through us. But of course it's also us, doing the work, bit by bit. ■



 Alice Degan

 Alice Degan



*Schola Magdalena: Stephanie Martin, Julia Armstrong, Janet Reid Nababedian, Jo-Ann Dawson, Kathryn Smith and Gillian Howard.*

## Evensong Preludes

A New Series, Sundays, 6:30 pm

 Julia Armstrong

This fall, St. Thomas's launched Evensong Preludes, a monthly series of 25-minute musical offerings before Evensong and Devotions. Evensong Preludes, which begin at 6:30 and end a few minutes before the service, are an opportunity to showcase the many talented musicians in our choirs, parish and extended parish family. The series is also intended to provide a time of tranquil reflection before Evensong and Devotions at 7:00. It is hoped that parishioners will consider extending invitations to friends and family to experience the beauty of Evensong, at which choral music spanning six centuries is offered every Sunday throughout the year. (Choir librarian Dorothy Parr recently did a tally of last year's service music: the Evensong Choir sang 43 different settings of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, representing 30 different composers, in addition to a vast repertoire of anthems and motets.) Evensong Preludes provide an additional enticement to enjoy even more music on a Sunday evening – a quiet and contemplative way to end one week and begin the next.

The first recital was presented on September 16 by Schola Magdalena ([www.scholamagdalen.ca](http://www.scholamagdalen.ca)), a group of women dedicated to exploring medieval and contemporary music for women's voices. They sang Gregorian chant, three-part polyphony, and pieces by 12th-century abbess Hildegard von Bingen in honour of her feast day September 17.

We look forward to hearing the following performers at upcoming Evensong Preludes (all start at 6:30):

- . October 14: Baroque recorder duets played by Andrea Budgey and Randall Rosenfeld
- . November 11: Janice Kerckamp, flute, accompanied by John Tuttle
- . January 13: Ariel Harwood-Jones, soprano
- . February 3: Sine Nomine Ensemble for Medieval Music
- . March 17, April 21, May 12, June 16 – watch the website and leaflet for details about performers. ■

## The Society of Mary

The Society of Mary is the oldest Marian Society in the Anglican Communion. It was constituted in 1931 as a union of the League of Our Lady (founded in 1902 or 1903) and the Confraternity of Our Lady (founded in Madras in 1880 as the Confraternity of the Children of Mary). It is made up of local Wards, including the Our Lady of Hope Ward of the Greater Toronto Area, which is comprised of cells—currently at St. Thomas's and St. Mary Magdalene's—and many active members from other parishes. Each cell, in consultation with the Ward Superior, can decide the nature and frequency of their local devotions and activities.



Our Ward meets monthly for Rosary and Benediction at St. Thomas's. In addition, we hold education events and coordinate the May Festival: every Saturday during May, Masses are held in honour of Our Lady at the different Anglo-Catholic parishes in the city.

The object of the Society of Mary is threefold: to further devotion to our Lord by honouring His mother; to spread devotion to Mary in reparation for past neglect and misunderstanding, and in the cause of Christian Unity; and to take Mary as a model of purity in personal relationships and family life.

Society of Mary events are open to everyone who wishes to attend. Some seek to become inducted members. Members commit to following a Rule of Life which includes regularly using devotions such as the Angelus, the Rosary, the Litany and Anthems of Our Lady; praying for Departed Members of the Society and offering Mass for them; taking part in the Mass on the principal Feasts of Our Lady; and engaging in apostolic and pastoral work according to opportunity, under the guidance of the local Ward Officers and General Council. While membership is encouraged for those who desire it, many choose to participate in events without membership, and they are always warmly welcomed.

If you would like more information about the Society, please contact Fr. Mitchell, the Ward Superior, at (416) 979-2323 (ext. #3) or the Secretary, Mr. Michael Degan, at (416) 971-9191. ■  Fr. Rob Mitchell

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## A New Service *for the New School Year*

Compline at St. Thomas's, Wednesdays 10 pm

St. Thomas's newest regular service, Compline, is being sung on Wednesdays at 10 pm during the academic term (September 12 to November 28). Members of the 20s and 30s Group have organized this service as a ministry to anyone, particularly any university student, who desires a few moments of quietness and reflection at the end of a busy day.

Traditionally, Compline crowns the daily offices with a simple set of psalms and prayers chanted just before retiring in silence for bed. Our candlelit service uses the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer with plainsong music and spoken prayers, and is short, just under twenty minutes.

We are grateful for the enthusiastic response from parishioners, with ten people attending the first service. Please spread the word, and we hope that you will join us this Wednesday!

(If you are interested in participating as an officiant or cantor, please contact Alice Degan.) ■

 Susan Dunning



*A scene from last year's Lenten play*

## A Nativity Play at St. Thomas's

New production looks back to 15<sup>th</sup> c. works

Fr. Rob Mitchell

This December, St. Thomas's will be co-producing a Nativity play with *Poculi Ludique Societas*. This will be the third such partnership with PLS in recent memory, including our 2010 production of the York Cycle Nativity play, and the N-Town Lenten Play this past March.

The plays have drawn out some of the great talent that resides in our parish. Both experienced and not-so-experienced actors have discovered great satisfaction in producing high quality dramatic performances. Many others have contributed to the success of the performances, including our stage hands, front-of-house volunteers, wardrobe helpers, and costume designers. And, of course, John Lawson, who has hosted some fantastic post-production parties in his lovely home.

This year's Nativity play will be a compilation of three short plays including The Nativity, The Annunciation to and Visitation of the Shepherds, and The Adoration of the Magi. The plays are taken from a 15th Century source known as The N-Town Plays. This name is taken from the last stanza of the opening proclamation that the play was to be played at "N-Town." When the plays toured from town to town, "N" would be replaced by the name of the current town.

The play will be performed at St. Thomas's on Friday, December 14th, at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, December 15th, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. We will soon be looking for male and female actors who are comfortable with verse. More information about auditions will be communicated through the Sunday bulletin in the coming weeks. You may also email or call Linda Phillips of the PLS to get further information about what is involved ([info@plspls.ca](mailto:info@plspls.ca) or 416-978-5096).

Other volunteers will be required, including ticket sellers, dressers, stage hands, and a prop/set coordinator. Please speak with Fr. Mitchell if you are interested in helping in any way. ■

