

THE SPOTLIGHT

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SUMMER 2004

FROM THE RECTOR'S KEYBOARD

The thoughts are many at this time of year as new life is all around us. The warmer days and the wonderful beauty of God's creation build all of us up after our long, cold winter. Our family has other thoughts as well, due to the death of my dad on April 26th. We make our journey of dealing with the legalities and financials that always have to be dealt with after a death. We thank you for your prayers, your care, and your concern. We especially thank you for your kindness shown Dad. He and Mum certainly enjoyed meeting you over the years and joining in certain events here. When Mum died in 2000, Dad entered into more aspects of life (and worship) here at St. Matthew's, and had his fun times with some of you. We give God thanks for his life.

The parish life continues in ways that are often quiet and not so evident to many. By the time you receive this, our Gigantic Parking Lot Sale will be finished and we owe a word of thanks to main organizers of the event, Wayne Wittmer and Bob Stevenson. We thank all who helped sort and price the enormous amount of articles contributed by so many of you, as well as all who helped on the day itself. Just in: \$4280 was raised!!

A little band of painters has been guided by Wayne Wittmer lately as the narthex and center hallway have been painted, and banisters varnished. These quiet ministries that are carried

out are most appreciated, and those from our pews who have done some of the painting are to be commended for their work. The wardens authorized some painting in the rectory and Michael McDonald of our parish was hired to carry out some of that. Our family is thankful for that work in 'our home, your house'.

You will read in the church press as well as the secular press that our Church has been involved with electing a new Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. The Most Reverend Andrew Hutchison is the 'spiritual and corporate head of the Anglican Church of Canada, acting as a symbol of unity and pastoral care and the ambassador to the Church overseas.'. He was formally installed on June 4th as the 12th Primate of Canada. Our Diocese of Toronto elected its new Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Colin Johnson. Bishop Johnson will be installed in early Fall I believe, and currently serves as the Area Bishop for Trent-Durham to the east of us.

The theme of blessing same-gender committed relationships was much discussed at the General Synod recently (the gathering of bishops, clergy and people from across Canada). Synod deferred consideration of the blessings until General Synod, 2007 and has requested a theological commission to consider whether the blessing of such unions is a matter of doctrine. Our own

diocese plans to continue the dialogue and examine all aspects of the question and we are to meet in November of this year to discuss the issue. I have consulted with some of my fellow priests in our York Mills deanery about having a time set aside for people to hear about the issues and enter into some helpful discussion about this prior to our diocesan synod meeting in November. Do keep the Church in your prayers, not only with regards to this issue but the many we face as Christian people.

As for our local church, do see Bob Stevenson's article about our parish planning study and visioning that are certainly not forgotten.

I ask you to note on your calendars the date of September 26. Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones will be with us at the 10:00 service as we celebrate the 40th anniversary year of our parish. The feast day for St. Matthew is September 21st so some of us thought that September is a good time to give thanks to God for the life of this parish over these past 40 years and renew ourselves as we move forward in our life and ministry here. We also note that following the service that day, we will have a parish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall, a luncheon with an International Food theme. Our congregation is made up of people from various places of the world - the food ought to be wonderful that day!

Before I close, I want to say a word of appreciation about Michael Kelly, our Youth Minister, who has been with us since October, 2002. Michael prepares to leave for France with his family later this summer to begin a new ministry there. We have been blessed by Michael's energy, wit, Christian faith and commitment to the youth he has mentored over his time with us. He has modeled youth ministry in a positive manner and this parish moves forward in that field as a committee is struck to begin the process of hiring a new youth worker. We wish Michael, Connie and the children well in their new life in France.

Do take time for yourself this summer. In the gentle breeze of a summer's night, God's Spirit blows upon us, in the dawn of a new day, through the sound of the birds, God's Spirit is heard anew. May the living Christ live in us and we in him.

Susan and I will take a couple of weeks vacation at the beginning of August. Phone numbers for emergencies will be left on the church voicemail. We will hold the rest of our vacation time for the Fall.

In Christ, ✚

FROM YOUR WARDENS

On behalf of the wardens at St. Matthew's we wish all parishioners a safe and relaxing summer time. It has been a busy year and we have accomplished a great deal as a parish. Thanks to our many volunteers and committee chairs for a job well done. It is due to your efforts that we are thriving and can continue to offer the services and comfort to so many in our community.

Through the support of the members of our church we have continued to offer a wide variety of events in the past. This past year, we have also been able to develop new initiatives to the community at large. Our financial status continues to cause us some concern as weekly contributions are somewhat below last year's giving. Please remember that while you are away on holiday over the summer, the costs incurred by the church do not go on holiday. Your continued support and generosity are important to our financial well-being.

On behalf of the young people of our church, we would like to say "au revoir" to Michael Kelly who has so ably led them this year. He has done a tremendous job and will be greatly missed. We also understand that our loss is another's gain and he will excel in his ministry in France.

While we can look back with satisfaction on our accomplishments of the year, we also are planning ahead for the future. Pavement repairs to the parking lot will be done in the next little while. We will continue to prayerfully examine our understanding of same sex blessing as a national church and at the local level. In response to some concerns about the number of fund raising events that occur during the year, we intend to meet with the Advisory Board in the fall to map out the series of activities for the year. We know that other issues will arise when we least expect them and that we will deal with them.

Once again, best wishes for a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Your Wardens ~ Delores Lawrence & Karl Kunz

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Here we are at almost the half way point of the year, and once again it has been some rough sailing in uncharted waters. I continue to feel as though I am a clone of St. Matthew with his tax bags.

Despite our fine ending to 2003, I have had to address the congregation once again on the financial situation in April of this year. We ended 2003 with an average of \$ 2,600 per week from envelopes between June to December 2003.

At our Vestry, we accepted a budget of \$ 222,211 in which it was noted that the extra funds hopefully would come from fundraising if we keep our envelope giving at the same level as we ended 2003.

In 2003, we had to contend with SARS and now in 2004 we have to contend with two break-ins at our Church, during which an entire computer system with printer was taken from the office, along with some personal articles from the Youth Minister. As a result of these break-ins, we have not only had to replace the computer system and printer, but also make our offices more secure. This was unexpected cost to us, and while we have had our Capital Reserve Funds to fall back on, this fund is also being depleted. We still have more to be done to secure our premises.

At the end of April, we were in a dire financial situation with all incomes being below both our budget and the 2003 levels – see the following financial chart.

Projecting this out to the end of the year, we could be in a situation where alternatives will have to be considered, and these alternatives may include cutting some programs and services.

	2003	2004	Budget
Income	\$72,165	\$ 61,234	\$ 70,254
Envelopes	\$40,824	\$ 39,009	\$ 42,710
Expenses	\$77,641	\$ 85,591	\$ 77,706
Net	(\$5,476)	(\$24,357)	(\$ 7,452)

Your Church made great strides during 2003 in many aspects and we do not want to destroy what was accomplished over the year(s). Now that the May 2004 financials have been completed, I have to report that we are doing better, but still “critical”.

For the first month of 2004, we have seen an improvement on our financial balance, however for the year to date, we are still some way off budget. At this point, the Rector, Wardens and I wish to thank you for your efforts so far, and ask that you continue to consider **your** church financially.

With the summer coming up, many of us will be traveling, and I ask you to consider leaving post-dated cheques or envelopes for your giving over these periods, or if this is not possible to “make up” your giving on your return. Remember expenses continue for the Church even during summer.

I also wish to request your help in all of the fundraising events especially the upcoming Christmas Bazaar. Planning is already underway, and the annual raffle tickets associated with this are available now.

Thank you once again for your efforts to date, and I look forward to working with you to meet this financial challenge facing us this year.

Our work is not over yet.

Respectfully submitted ~ Clifford Wong,
Treasurer

SO LONG...

As my family and I prepare to leave for France and conclude my ministry at St Matthew's, I find myself thinking of how much I have been blessed by being a part of this community and this ministry.

First, I was and remain impressed at the bold move that St. Matthew's made in hiring a youth minister in the first place, while most churches this size don't even consider such a move. What this community has done is literally invested – if I may use that term – in the faith of its young people and in the future of this faith community. Youth ministry is not about keeping the kids around the church, but giving them a place to be who they are, to be blessed and to contribute in meaningful ways to this particular Christian community. So many of my prejudices about “stodgy Anglicans” (sorry) fell quickly by the wayside as I witnessed, time and again the many instances in which parishioners of all ages demonstrated not only their openness to, but their encouragement and embracing of the youth and the youth ministry.

And speaking of “community”, this is one thing that this congregation has demonstrated with amazing consistency and warmth. There are untold numbers of ways in which the people of this parish pull together to accomplish great things, but suffice it to say that the best indicator of this is the feeling I get each time I arrived at St. Matthew's on a Sunday morning. I just know I'm going to be greeted in a friendly manner, which goes beyond everyday pleasantries – when people ask “How are you?”, my sense is that they really *do* want to know!

Another blessing has been the Anglican experience, about which I have both spoken and written before, but which bears repeating, perhaps one final time. When I arrived, I was an Anglican neophyte, a newbie, a rookie, a “convert”, so to speak. Sure, it helped that I was enthusiastic about exploring this tradition, but I was not prepared for the degree to which my faith life has been shaped by my experience of the Anglican community, ethos, and worship. I have learned much about importance of ritual, the richness of the table of the Lord, and the art of liturgy.

On still another note, I have said this on many occasions, but I will emphasize it again, that working with Canon Greg Physick had been a tremendous blessing. If some of you could have had the chance to be a fly on the wall, I'm sure you would have been amused to see how two extroverted talkers get along on a day to day basis. Quite well, in fact. Despite the differences in our respective backgrounds, theology, and tradition, we have worked well together. There have been moments, to be sure, when Greg has had to be “supervisory”, but the end result was always better understanding, and more effective ministry. Thank you, Greg.

I will reserve my final thoughts for those who are the very reason I find myself at St. Matthew's in the first place. I cannot say enough about how much I have enjoyed being around you, working with you, being accepted by you (along with being teased and often the object of your jokes, all in good fun, of course) and growing this ministry with you. We have accomplished many things: put the youth group on the map; tried many new events which may well become new traditions; seen many young people come out of the woodwork, so to speak; created a place within the church that the youth can call their own – both metaphorically and physically (the latter being “The John”); and had a whole heck of a lot of fun along the way. I count it as my privilege to have been a part of this new exciting venture here at St. Matthew's. I've never actually said this before, and it sounds sappy, but I mean it: my heart has a strong attachment to you, and I will continue to hope and pray for the continued growth, maturity and success of St. Matthew's youth.

Finally, there are many additional people whom I could thank, but at the risk of overlooking some, I will thank you in private. But I will say that a certain number of the youth have made a tremendous difference because of their commitment to simply being a part of the group; their willingness to serve and make things happen, even when such things go unrecognized and unseen by most; and by their hope for a great youth ministry at St. Matthew's.

God bless you,

Michael Kelly

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our Mission:

'To seek and serve Christ, the Outreach Committee reaches out in humility and love to promote justice through education and community service'

The activities of the Outreach Committee are done with full support of the parish, it allows us to reach out and see Christ in the faces of the many we serve and also within ourselves. The Clothing Sale is one such place that Christ is seen over and over again.

We had our final Clothing Sale before the summer of 2004 on May 28th and a 'Thank You BBQ' the following day that was enjoyed by all volunteers. We served over 90 persons at the sale and profited just over \$1,000. The Clothing Sale is a time when many volunteers come together and work towards a common goal, reaching out to others with much fellowship. On Tuesday mornings you can always find our many volunteers sorting and pricing items prior to the sales on the last Friday of each month. The committee would like to thank all the volunteers who continue to make this a successful venture. We are blessed with wonderful youth in our parish who give of themselves each and every month; we thank you so very much. Who would have thought 7 years ago, that we would still be having these sales in 2004? We thank God for the continued supply of items for the sales and for the strength to continue.

At a presentation at both services in March, Outreach members described the functions of a few of the ministries supported by FaithWorks. The campaigning has finished, however you are encouraged to consider giving a donation anytime throughout the year. The following ministries are financially supported by Outreach on behalf of the parish community: **Flemingdon Park Ministry, Lansing Food Bank, Moorelands Camp, Community Mental Health Centre-North-York, LOFT Community Services (Anglican Houses), Primates World Relief and Development Fund, Residential Schools Appeal and the St. Matthew's Youth fund.** A cheque for \$500. was sent on June 14th to support Haiti Relief Fund (PWRDF) and \$2,000 was given to Flemingdon Park Ministry to help with their new Food Bank project.

An upcoming visit to the Food Bank from St. Matthew Outreach is being planned for June 29th. It is because of your generous donations we are able to meet these commitments. We thank you.

All are welcome to attend the Outreach Committee Meetings. They are held in the Welcome Room each month on the Sunday following the Friday night Clothing Sale starting at 9 am. Please plan to visit or join our group and learn more of how the Outreach Committee works on your behalf at St. Matthews.

Have a great summer everyone, as we look forward to Fall and the beginning of a new Season.

Submitted by
Chair & Members of Outreach Committee

SYNOD REPORT

As a Lay Member of Synod elected by Vestry last February 2004, and other Lay Members and Alternates along with Clergy attended an Electoral Synod to elect a Suffragan Bishop in November 2003. I felt honored to be representing the congregation of St. Matthews. The Election was held at St. James Cathedral. Following registration and a Said Eucharist the Election process began. After 3 votes Bishop Colin Johnson was elected.

On April 24th we were again called as Synod members to attend a day long Same Sex Blessing Consultation Process. The purpose of these sessions was in preparation for the November Special Synod as Clergy and Synod members consider Same Sex Blessing. There were several speakers for and against same sex blessing. We attended small group discussions and had written questions submitted to the panel for response. The responses were balanced and were approached with respect of people's integrity as members of this community of faith.

Since then, General Synod has deferred consideration of the blessing of committed same sex unions until a General Synod in 2007 and requested that our Canadian Primate's Theological Commission consider whether the blessing of such unions is a matter of doctrine.

This report is to be ready for examination by the Dioceses, Provinces and the House of Bishops by 2006. We ask for your continued prayers during this process.

An Electoral Synod of the Diocese of Toronto was called on Saturday June 12th 2004; the purpose of this meeting was to elect the next Bishop of Toronto. After 3 votes, The Rt. Rev. Colin Johnson was appointed Diocesan Bishop. Congratulations to our new Bishop of Toronto. The Synod will meet again in November of 2004. Please feel free to contact your Synod representatives if you have any concerns, comments or questions regarding any of the above matters.

Sincerely submitted by
Val Seales Lay Member Synod
Alternates ~ Ruth Johnson & Gerry Kileeg

DIACONAL MINISTRY AT ST. MATTHEWS

In his recent charge to the 150th Synod, Archbishop Terence Finlay asked that each of the Areas develop “a mission and ministry strategy that recognizes demographic shifts, ethnic needs, social ministry and economic realities”. The Archbishop went on to urge Synod to “be more intentional...in building communities of hope in a way that responsibly reflects a wider vision, with parishes and community ministries working together, sharing resources, talents, funds and assets in building God’s kingdom”.

At the same time, we at St. Matthews, as we approach our 40th anniversary, have begun a study to consider how we can develop our physical property in order to expand the church’s ministry in the future and reach out more effectively to meet the needs of our community.

It would seem that the Archbishop’s Charge speaks to our own hope for a wider vision of outreach ministry in St. Matthews.

Outreach is one of the strong characteristics of this parish. This is reflected in the tireless work of our Outreach Committee which initiated and continues to operate the monthly clothing sale, and in its financial support of many community and social causes throughout the area. Our commitment to outreach is also evident in the very generous support we as a congregation give to the annual diocesan Faith Works appeal, in spite of the many other financial commitments we continue to meet.

Following the presentation of The Rev. Dr. Andrew Barlow on Sunday, April 25, and looking ahead to a wider outreach ministry, the Advisory Board at its May meeting passed a motion to begin the diocesan process of raising up a permanent deacon at St. Matthews.

The diaconate is one of the very oldest orders of ministry in the early church, and one whose call is to minister to those outside the gathered church, most especially to the poor and marginalized of society. More recently the diaconate has been seen as a transitional step towards ordination to the priesthood. The new diocesan policy, however, now provides the opportunity to raise up a permanent deacon whose focus would be on parish outreach ministry. While the main focus of the deacon’s ministry lies beyond the parish, he/she nevertheless has a valuable liturgical role to play within the church.

Raising up a deacon is a lengthy process requiring a prayerful period of discernment on the part of both the parish and of any potential candidate for the diaconate. The recent motion passed by the Advisory Board calls for a Parish Discernment Group to be set up to facilitate this process. The group will be set up in the Fall and will comprise representatives of the Advisory Board, the Outreach Committee and other interested members of the congregation. If you wish to be a member of this group please contact Canon Greg (416-494-7020) or Tom McQuiston (416-493-6009).

Respectfully submitted by Tom McQuiston

PLANNING & VISIONING COMMITTEE

Looking Ahead at the Ministry of St. Matthew's

At Vestry, Feb. '03, you will recall that a motion was approved to proceed with a study to examine development options. Subsequently, the Diocese office, through Brian Mills, Director of Planning & Development, gave us a cheque for \$ 2,000. toward a limit of \$ 5,000., for a professional examination.

A slowdown followed due to the release of government census 2001 information, combined with the commencement of a major Diocese Planning study. These events have placed a temporary halt to our initiatives, but should eventually be beneficial to our requirements.

On May 26th, we were fortunate to meet informally at the Church with Myrlene Boken of AMB Research, who is conducting the 2004 Diocesan Planning Study, which ultimately will be presented to every church in the diocese. We learned that indeed the timetable for the Diocese Planning Study has been set back several months. Presentations by Myrlene & Brian, originally projected to occur in June have been delayed due to several unforeseen circumstances. The good news is that the study is very much alive. There is an enormous volume of census information and research to assimilate when one considers the size of the Toronto Diocese.

During our meeting, we responded to an intensive questionnaire about St. Matthew's, covering many facets. Every church will undergo this step. The Canada 2001 census, of which we have a copy, will figure in as well.

Myrlene confirmed that we are in a good location. Our "mission field", as she calls it, holds much potential. The 400 series of highways, the subway, Sheppard Ave, Don Mills Rd. and Fairview Mall, all point to further growth for this area of Toronto.

In summation, our early work and initiative hve not been forgotten, and most certainly, the office of the Diocese is aware of our wish to continue dialogue. In due course, more information will come our way as the Diocese Planning study is completed.

Respectfully submitted by
Bob Stevenson on behalf of the Planning & Visioning
Committee

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Extend-A-Family, Building an Inclusive Community

This organization began in 1975 by a group of parents who recognized a need for social connections for their son or daughter, children with some disabilities. There is a fourteen year old girl in the Don Mills/Sheppard area who is looking for a friend; she uses a wheelchair and likes talking, playing board games, movies, music and baking. If you would like to consider an opportunity for friendship, contact Ruth Fernandes at 416-493-0323 or at rf@extendafamily.ca for further information.

Our Rector can vouch for the program itself as he knows the family and their daughter who is mentioned above and has heard good things about Extend-A-Family.

A Pastoral Visitors Training Program

This program is sponsored, developed and facilitated by the Chaplains of North York General Hospital will be offered once again this Fall. Speak to Canon Greg if you are interested in this special volunteer ministry of visiting at NYGH (including the Seniors' Health Centre). Vivienne Fetherston of our parish has been a visitor there for a few years now and finds it most rewarding.

Training will be on six Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 22, 7-9 at All Saints' Greek Orthodox Church, 3125 Bayview Avenue. You must commit to attend at least 5 sessions. Cost is \$50.00

Volunteer Drivers Needed

On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, the North York Unit, I advise you of a need for volunteer drivers who can give cancer patients rides to and from treatments.

Currently, requests for transportation are turned down due to the lack of drivers. A driver does receive some money to help with fuel charges (a certain amount for each kilometre).

If you are a friendly, compassionate person willing to be of such assistance, with some flexibility of hours and on average able to drive one round trip/week, do call 416-638-0771, ext. 225 and ask for Alwyn Robertson.

'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' IN GUATEMALA

The “hamlet of 17th of January” near the town of Tiquisate (a 3+ hour drive from Guatemala City) now has clean, safe water coming from an aquifer 75’ to 85’ below the surface. We participated in a mission organized by Living Water International to drill a well for this village that did not have clean water.

Living Water International is a Christian-based organization and is in the process of establishing a Chapter in Canada. In addition to drilling wells in Africa, India, Central and South America, they provide other needed services such as pump repair, education on cleanliness and nutrition and certain medical services.

Our Living Water ‘team included 5 Canadians, 4 Americans and a Guatemalan Living Water representative. The well was dug with portable drill technology that was developed by Living Water International. Wayne attended a “drill camp” in Houston for 4 days last fall in preparation for this mission.

The village or hamlet (a dirt road adjacent to the plantation) has 75 families and about 400 people whom the well will service. The people, “Mayans” are very poor, living in one/two room houses made of corrugated steel and cement block with some electricity, (no TV!) and no running water. They wear American style clothing much of which has been donated (but rarely wear footwear). The main occupation is working the sugar cane plantation at different times during the year for \$3.00 - \$5.00 U.S. a day. There is little else to do. The children are required by the government to go to Grade 6 in school, but many leave earlier. They do not speak any English and communication is in their Spanish dialect.

The well drilling process is quite refined (Living Water has been doing it since 1986

and expects to drill 12 wells in Guatemala this year). Notwithstanding, there are always challenges on each drill. The challenges of our drill were many, including equipment failure, weather, a heavy workload, and two very long first days because of the difficulty drilling through volcanic material.

As the “rookies” on the drill one of our main duties was bending over a mud pit attempting to keep a strainer clear of volcanic chips that kept getting caught in the strainer. We also had an opportunity to rotate through all the other tasks. By the 3rd day at noon we were able to use compressed air to force up water from 75’ below the surface. We took samples every 20 minutes and within 2 hours water was crystal clear. It was truly heart warming to see all the children playing in the barrels of clean water. By Thursday (4th day) we had the pump installed.

Following a dedication ceremony our work was done and we left the village for the trip home.

At the Guatemala airport (surprisingly modern) on Saturday morning and looking forward to returning home, the “hamlet” already seemed like a long time ago. We did still have physical reminders such as bed bug bites, mosquito bites and a slightly unsettled stomachs.

We were checking in at the same time as some doctors from Atlanta who just spent a week administering medicine (one did 17 operations in one day). The pediatrician among them remarked to us that many of their medicines delivered to remote villages might represent a quick fix for a week or two, but a very ineffective solution until a village has clean water.

‘Clean water is the best medicine of all’.

We are hoping to have a presentation of our pictures, etc. once organized and would like to help Living Water grow in Canada. Please contact either of us for more information on Living Water.

Respectfully submitted

By Gord Mount and Wayne Wittmer

A word about our Marriage Canon.....

As many are aware, since 1969, divorced people have been able to be remarried in the Anglican Church after papers were filed with a Matrimonial Commission. As of this past General Synod, such Commissions are no longer a Canonical requirement. Accordingly, each parish priest now has the authority to decide for him/herself if such a marriage will take place.

Where a matter is not very straight forward, the priest is to consult with the Area Bishop. Some questions are still to be asked, but as they are to be seen in a pastoral sense, they are not sent onto a Bishop's Matrimonial Commission for approval.

Another part of Canon Law has been changed as well. The place of marriage has been limited to the Church itself (unless there are some extraordinary circumstances). While the body of the church is still considered the appropriate place for the solemnization of marriage, a marriage may take place elsewhere, after consultation with the bishop by the priest. The priest is to be satisfied that the solemnity and public nature of the occasion will be preserved and that the service will be conducted with dignity.

As your parish priest, I assure you that this does not mean I will be dealing with the proverbial 'sideshow' weddings. While I believe God is everywhere, that God's wonderful creation holds various places where a prayers can be offered, I would wish to ensure that all is carried out with due respect and proper conduct. The change in our Canon Law does not mean I shall say 'yes' to every request for an outdoor wedding that comes my way.

As in previous days, I would ask couples to have some connection to the parish Church or at least be open to exploring further connections. The two people involved with a marriage are the ministers of that sacrament – they marry each other; the priest does not 'marry them'. The priest is both a minister of the State, ensuring all is lawfully carried out and also a minister of the Church, offering the prayers of the Church and a priestly blessing upon the couple.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

A Poetic Reflection on.....

FORTY YEARS

*Look back, look back for 40 years
The founders of this church to recall.
Those with foresight, with faith, with the will
To plan and to build a Church Meeting hall.*

*Remember the names of the original few -
Geoffrey Hobsbawn who helped choose the site;
Reverend Paul Morley who canvassed door to
door - A dedicated committee to get things right.*

*Who were these men and women of vision?
The Roes, Stableforths, Foxes, to name a few.
The Woods, Puddicombes, McDonalds,
The Husbands and Sanders made up the crew.*

*A humble beginning, meeting in homes.
Then they advanced to a portable hall.
Later, services were held in a partially-built
church. And, finally, a Sanctuary to hold them all.*

*But the church was much more than a building
Located on a George Henry site.
It became a community centre,
A beacon to shed out God's light.*

*Space was shared with Covenant United.
Scouts, Guides and Seniors held meetings here
W.A., Breakfast Clubs, Men's and Couples Clubs
Memories of these many still hold dear.*

*But times change, Covenant United has gone.
House of God and Montessori each use a hall.
As do A.A. and various other groups.
A welcome goes out to them all.*

*But some things remain and do flourish.
The Choir, Sidesmen, Altar Guild and Outreach,
Church School, Synod reps, Youth Groups,
All led by the Rector, the Gospel to preach.*

*Now look to the Future, continue to strive
To keep the church active, relevant to all
"To Seek and Serve Christ in all persons"
That's the way to answer the "Call".*

Beth Laird 2004