

# WHAT'S NEW



The quarterly newsletter of Waterloo's Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour

Easter Edition March 2020

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*Rector:* The Rev. Victor Kishchak  
victorkischak@gmail.com

*Editor:* Chuck Erion  
erion.chuck@gmail.com

*Administrator:* Alison Chatwood  
infoholysaviour@gmail.com

Church of the Holy Saviour  
33 Allen St. E.  
Waterloo Ontario N2J 1J1  
519-743-8772

Services have been cancelled due to the corona virus, until April 8<sup>th</sup> or later. Most meetings are also cancelled, and have been ~~lined out~~ in this newsletter. Contact [infoholysaviour@gmail.com](mailto:infoholysaviour@gmail.com) or 519-743-8772 for updates.

replacing the skin cells with new ones. You get an entirely new skin every 30 days or so. By the way, this dead skin we shed makes up 90% of household dust. So feel free to vacuum more!

All around us we can see that death is the engine of resurrection and new life, which is what we as the church observe and celebrate on Easter Sunday. However, before we get there, throughout the season of Lent we're going to be exploring the fundamentals of our faith through the lens of the Harry Potter series. Like any great work of literature, these stories are layered with meaning, but they've also been very much molded by the Christian faith, and they explore at a fundamental level the universal struggle between good and evil and the redemptive power of love.

This is the same redemptive power of love that fills us as Christians with new life and new possibilities – a love that as the church we observe during Holy Week. And so I would invite you to join with us as we experience Lent in new and exciting ways. But also know that as the church we are busy preparing to celebrate the new life and new hope that the risen Christ brings.

Our Holy Week services begin on **Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>** when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession of palm branches with services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Then on **Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**, we'll gather at 7:00 pm to remember the last supper and Jesus' mandate (*mandatum* became *maundy*) to "love one another as I have loved you." After celebrating the Eucharist, our liturgy will include stripping the altar of all furnishings to remind us of how the soldiers stripped Christ of his garments prior to his crucifixion.

We then gather on **Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**, at 10:00 am to hear the proclamation of Christ's Passion and reflect upon his sacrifice for us. The tone is solemn, but not somber, for our emphasis is on the victory of the cross. On **Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**, we will host the **Great Vigil of Easter** at Holy Saviour beginning at 7:00 pm. The Vigil is the night we gather in darkness, acknowledging our need for the light of Christ. We then kindle a fire, light the Paschal candle and process into church. As a pillar of fire led the Israelites at night,

## FROM THE RECTOR

### Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!



On Easter Sunday we celebrate that Christ is risen and that new life is possible for us right now. In fact, we can see evidence of this death and resurrection process all around us. This process is built into the very fabric of creation. Like if you walked outside today, you will probably see signs of new life springing forth from the earth. As well, the cells in our bodies are dying at a rate of millions every second, only to be replaced at a similar rate of millions every second.

Or think about our skin. It's constantly flaking off and turning into dust, and in those very same moments in which our skin is dying, our body is continually

so Christ, the light of the world, leads us.

We will then mark the beginning of the fifty days of **Easter** the following morning starting at 8:00 am on **Sunday, April 12th**. After our traditional spoken Eucharist, we will be offering additional Easter Sunday services with a contemporary (BAS with Sunday School) service at 9:00 am and a traditional (BCP) service at 11:00 am.

Holy Week provides an opportunity for us to encounter our most powerful and transformative liturgies. They are central to our faith and our walk with Christ and I strongly encourage you to plan on attending as many of these services as you are able. As we experience new birth and new life around us, it is my hope and prayer that you will find your faith strengthened, your hope renewed, and that you will be blessed with His peace and joy throughout the Easter season!

Yours in Christ,  
The Rev'd Victor Kischak  
*Pastor, Priest, & Rector*

## FROM THE WARDENS

It's hard to know from one day to the next what type of weather might greet us when we look out the window ... today it might be snow, tomorrow rain, the next day both. One thing we can count on is the consistent activity that is happening at Holy Saviour. And the best part, there seems to something for everyone!

The **Harry Potter Series** that Victor is hosting on Tuesday evenings continues to be well attended. Victor has recently carried over the Harry Potter theme to his Sunday morning sermons. This six-week series will continue through Lent. It was originally designed to teach the Catechism and focuses on the Christian meta-narrative interwoven through the six Harry Potter books. Sunday School students from Grade 3 to 8 have been staying in church to listen to these sermons.



While the two services on Ash Wednesday officially ushered in the start of Lent, it was Holy Saviour's traditional **Pancake Supper** on Shrove Tuesday that let us know Lent was about to begin. Approximately 100 people came out to enjoy pancakes together. A big thank you to Dave Barton family and the youth group for all their kitchen work. And while thinking about Lent, don't forget to participate in the **Lent Madness** Tournament

(details are posted in the Parish Hall).



On February 28th our **new Parish Council** was installed including new Deputy People's Warden, Krista Parsons. Sincere thanks are extended to all those who have agreed to take up this ministry.

Over the past few weeks Linda and Paul Henderson have organized photo sessions for the new **Parish Directory**. Co-ordinating this endeavour is not easy and we are grateful to them for stepping up to do so; matching people to time slots, following up with phone calls and being present for the various photo shoots was a big time commitment. We look forward to seeing the new directory which should be available in the fall.

Besides our annual vestry meeting in February, we also hosted a special meeting for the parish related to the **design project** on January 19th. This meeting provided an opportunity for parishioners to get a better look at the new and improved design plan based on feedback provided to Facet Design Studios. It was a well-attended meeting and lots of questions were answered. Watch for the announcement of a special vestry on this topic after Easter.

At the **Evensong** on February 16th the Senior Choir premiered a setting of the Nunc Dimitis and Magnificat composed by Leonard Enns and commissioned by Holy Saviour. This evensong was preceded by an organ recital hosted by the local chapter of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. The recital included several organists from the area including our own organist, Jeff Enns. As a result, the attendance at February's evensong was an amazing 90 people! ~~The next evensong is on March 15th at 4:00 pm.~~

On February 28th there was a **Swap & Social** event that provided an opportunity for the women in the parish to bring in and 'swap' clothing and accessories, giving someone else the pleasure of wearing something 'new'. Any donated items that remained were taken to St. John the Evangelist for their community Clothes Closet.

~~Our next Dinner and a Movie is on March 14th and our next Games Night is March 29th. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars. Another upcoming event is the Kairos Blanket Exercise that takes place on March 23rd. Space is limited for this event so please let Tricia Siemens (226-339-5150) know by March 13th if you are interested in attending.~~ And looking way ahead to June 14th, our **parish picnic** will take place that day at Laurel Creek Conservation Area.

So, you can see, come rain or snow or sleet or hail, there is always something happening at Holy Saviour.

Richard Blumenauer, *People's Warden*  
 Tricia Siemens, *Rector's Warden*  
 Krista Parsons, *Deputy People's Warden*  
 Brent Hatcher, *Deputy Rector's Warden*  
 (who submitted this report)

## PARISH DIRECTORY

The first round of photos was taken in the late February but more appointments are available. It is important to have as many parishioners as possible be included in the directory.

The company doing the photography has reserved three days in April to take more photos at Holy Saviour. That will accommodate 15 half-hour sessions per day. But we already have approximately 30 families who postponed until April because of sickness, scheduling or holidays. Others on holidays have not been contacted as yet.

New scheduling will start in April, but we need to have an idea of how many more people would like to be included in the directory. Do we need more than three days? The photo directory company is already scheduling into May for other churches.

Please contact **Linda Henderson** (519) **886-9927** for more information.

## CHORAL MUSINGS

As I write this, I have just come through an overwhelming weekend - in the best way possible! I make a small part of my living by being a composer. It is really quite an odd job. You spend most of your time by yourself, constantly trying to find inspiration to

create new music with only 12 notes. I suppose that authors only get 26 letters but that is still more than twice as many.... When you do finish a piece, you can only hope that the people performing it will love it even half as much as you do.



This past weekend, I was fortunate enough to have DaCapo Chamber Choir, which is truly a local treasure,

and my sister, Jennifer Enns-Modolo, premiere (twice!) a six movement composition that I wrote for choir and mezzo soprano. Consisting of almost 30 minutes of music, there was no small amount of effort put into the creation of this work. The choir and soloist put an incredible amount of practice into this challenging piece and pulled off two stunning performances.

There were over 500 people present at both concerts including numerous members of my family and also my Holy Saviour family. I am so thankful for all of the support from so many friends and family at these concerts. It was wonderful to have my sister sing so beautifully and be able to take a bow with her after giving her a giant bear hug!

On a slightly different note, we will be having **Evensong on March 15th** and will again be premiering a new work for the liturgy. Owen Bloomfield of Guelph, is a friend of mine from university days and has written a new setting of the Nunc Dimittis. We will be singing it as part of the service, along with a setting of the Magnificat by Orlando di Lasso, who was born in Belgium in 1532. Our Responses will be by William Byrd from the early 1600's, and our anthem will be from Tchaikovsky's Vespers from the late 1800's. Please join us for this wonderful music spanning almost 500 years in the context of the beautiful liturgy of Evensong. This is a great way to end your weekend or start your week with peace, beauty, worship and contemplation.

Jeff Enns, *Music Director and Organist*

## OUR REFUGEE FAMILIES

Our refugee families are busy integrating into Canadian life. Here is an update from a few of the refugee families sponsored and aided by the Waterloo Deanery Refugee Committee, and you, over the past four years.

The **Behavu** family (our current family from Democratic Republic of Congo): Esperance, James, Cedric and Ariana arrived in September 2019. As you'll recall from the December *What's New*, Esperance had a fashion design and sewing business in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Once in Waterloo, she was accepted for the Entrepreneurship program at Conestoga College and graduated in January. Esperance would like to start her business in Canada, and has received valuable tools and contacts through her course to enable her to do that. See her website <https://esperanzafashiondesign.wordpress.com/>

**Mohamed Alo** family: Zubeida and her 2 children, Maimuna (6) and Milkesa (4) are all in school. Zubeida is attending English classes full time and taking care of her children and the household as a single parent in Canada. Once she is up to Level 7 in English, she can start a job search. The children have begun attending madrasa on Saturday and Sunday mornings; they are taken to and from madrasa by Jemal, their father.

**Abu Nabwt** family: Thaeer, Rim and their eldest 2 children, Monier (now 7) and Anwar (now 5) were our first refugee family. Rim had a third boy, Amir, in Canada; he is now 2 years old. Rim is back in English school and volunteers to prepare weekend school lunches at the boys' school every Friday. Thaeer has had a number of jobs since our sponsorship ended, and is now pursuing an apprenticeship to become an auto mechanic.

**Al Ramadan** family: Mohammed, Siham, and their four boys, Oday, Qusay, Omer and Hamza were joined by Maria, a fifth child born in Canada. Maria was 2 years old in June. Siham is now expecting a sixth child. All four boys are in school.

The **Mohammed** family: Omer, Ule and their four children Yasin (boy), Limar (girl), Vert (girl) and Mohammed (boy) live in a townhouse in Waterloo. The older children are in school. Ule has been learning to drive and will be taking her test soon. Ule is a wonderful cook of tasty Syrian and Middle Eastern food.

Our committee, through parishioners' generous support, also helped and continues to help GARs families (government assisted refugee families). We thank you for your continuing good wishes and offers of assistance and donations.

Rebecca Short,  
*Deanery Refugee Committee*

## ALTAR GUILD

The Easter season is fast approaching. With it comes the expectation of spring flowers adorning our place of worship. If you wish to contribute to these flowers, please place your cash or cheque, made out to the Church of the Holy Saviour, in an envelope on the offering plate and mark it "Flowers-Altar Guild". This support is much appreciated by all.

Chris Schmidt, *Altar Guild Convenor*

## EASTER ENVELOPES

The enclosed Easter Offering envelope is intended as an extra gift of thanksgiving in support of the ministry here at Holy Saviour.

## WE PRAY FOR



WE CELEBRATE the  
Baptism of:  
Cora Willow Love

WE REMEMBER our  
brothers & sisters departed  
this life, who now share in our  
Lord's eternal life:

Mary Moore, Margo Hopper,  
Jennifer Stacey

OUR SHUT INS:

Dorothy Gilbert, Shirley  
McHugh, Bernice Hodgson, John Ford, Arleighn Cook,  
Pat Barry, Barbara Stendahl, Ken Burn, Sheila  
Macdonald, Pat, Fryer, Angie and Ross Liddicoat

## THE UNCOMFORTABLE PEW

I've been thinking about death lately. Maybe it was staying home this winter. Maybe it was trying one of those online longevity questionnaires, and being told I could be gone by 2025! (But first I found another questionnaire that gave me a more hopeful expiry date) Or maybe it was going to three funerals in as many months. One was completely secular, the other two were in churches.

The third one was for Jennifer Stacey. If you were not a regular at the Wednesday morning Eucharist, you may not know Jennifer. Small in stature, of Sri Lankan birth, she was big of heart. She loved to bake, and every week brought a sweet loaf or cookies or both for the coffee hour that followed the Wednesday service. Any leftovers were saved for the senior choir practice on

Thursday nights. As her friend, Sheila Talbot said, "She was a gem of a person. Some people make the world more special just by being in it, she was one of those people."



But her generosity with baking extended beyond the parish. She was a voracious book reader, and supporter of Words Worth Books (the bookstore that my wife Tricia Siemens and I started). Many a Wednesday there was a lemon loaf or other goodies sent by cab to the bookstore, a few blocks from the church. This sweet volume

increased at Christmas, with tins of well-laced rum balls and delicious seasonal sweets arriving each week. My daughter, Bronwyn, a single mom, was likewise included in Jennifer's generosity.

Jennifer died on February 13th after a cardiac arrest. Her funeral at Holy Saviour on Feb. 22nd was well-attended, with Victor and family members paying tribute.

Sitting there I realized that each of us need to make the effort to share with our loved ones what our desires are for our funeral. Church funerals are no longer the norm in our society. I heard recently of a service held at a funeral home at 11:00 on a Sunday morning – clearly church-going friends were not expected.

**Funeral planning kits** are available at any funeral home, and online. Completing this information will reduce the anxiety faced by your survivors as they work out the details. AND your will, your end-of-life, and medical power of attorney instructions, should be written out and saved with your funeral plans. The Rev. Victor Kischak would be happy to discuss this with you.

Mortality is a Lenten theme, beginning with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Nothing like being reminded: "...and to dust thou shalt return." Yes, we look forward to the promise of resurrection as assured by the events of that first Easter, but the finitude of our physical selves is something we all must face as our bodies age.

Another Lenten tradition that reminds me of aging is going to Tenebrae at St Mary Magdalene's in Toronto. This Holy Week service, in which the church is gradually darkened, has been a tradition for me and Tricia for fifty years (45 for her). I began going in 1970 when I was a student at U. of Guelph, as part of the Anglican community there with its chaplain, and my

spiritual mentor, Ritchie McMurray. The service, with its psalms in Gregorian chants, and responsories in Healy Willan's soaring polyphony, is deeply



contemplative. The candles behind the altar are snuffed out one by one, the lights are gradually dimmed and then the candles on a triangular bier are extinguished until only the top one remains. It is then

taken out of the sanctuary. A loud noise is made, representing life in the tomb, and we leave the church in semidarkness.

In recent years, a few friends from Holy Saviour have joined us, usually on Good Friday evening. For me, it is a necessary pause in following Jesus' footsteps through the events of Holy Week.

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*I asked Victor for his sermon on Christmas Eve, particularly near the end where he spoke about several unlikely happenings at our church.*

"On this night, we can be renewed. We can set aside the narrow definitions of what is possible that we've bought into, and see the world as God would have us see it. That you and I are an unlikely people through which God has and will do the impossible. And when we open our eyes, we can see the impossible work of God all around us.

For example, a couple months ago we confirmed nine teenagers here at Holy Saviour. And [last year] Brendon left his job at the University of Waterloo to become a full-time student at our seminary in London.\* And Krista just happened to be in the church on that cold night that the water pipe burst, and was able to get help before we lost the whole basement. And we just supported a sixth refugee family escape the same kind of violence that the Holy Family experienced when Herod came after them.

And that in this day and age, despite every reason not to, people still gather in the name of Jesus, and love each other as he loves us. And, for me personally, my daughter Ally, when she was born, she was not expected to live the night. But in just a couple months, she's graduating high school.

You see, we are so surrounded by miracles from God that we name them as ordinary... ordinary

and not worth noticing... kind of like an unwed teenage mother. Yet if we think this miraculous and unlikely thing of Christ being born into the world, simply cannot happen again, then think again. It happens all the time.

So on this holy night, when the gap between earth and heaven is Bible-paper thin, may you be inspired to see the world like God would want us to ... a weird and magical world in which God is doing the impossible through the unlikely. And may the hope, peace, joy, and love of God be yours this Christmas and forevermore. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen. "

\* *to expand on our theology students:*

**Brendon Bedford** is in second year at Huron University College and is assisting at All Saints' in north Waterloo on Sundays as part of his Field Education placement. Recently, he stepped down from his role in alumni relations at Renison after 8 years of employment there. With full-time seminary continuing and practical



learning in the Church ongoing, he looks forward to having more time with his wife and young daughter and a summer of family time.

**Jean Jackson** is in the midst of a one-year course in Clinical Pastoral Education, part of her Huron College theological education. She continues in the senior choir and as a lay visitor.

**Heather Wearn** is studying theology at the Vancouver School of Theology, which makes for some long commutes! Her husband, Arnold, is a regular at Holy Saviour Sunday worship.

I grew up in a theological student family, as my dad studied for the United Church ministry. This was and is a huge financial commitment and I recall several times when the bank called to say we were overdrawn. But each time, miraculously, there was a cheque in the mail from someone back in our home church. Consider doing something similar for our theology students, particularly Brendon.

We encourage members to receive this newsletter via email. and it's in COLOUR! Send your email address to [infoholysaviour@gmail.com](mailto:infoholysaviour@gmail.com)

The next issue which will be published June 2nd. Your articles and comments are welcome.

With blessings on your Lent and Easter,  
Chuck Erion, *Editor*



Cora Willow Love, our newest member

