



CHRIST APPEARING TO THE APOSTLES AFTER THE RESURRECTION BY WILLIAM BLAKE

THE Cathedral NEWSLETTER

EASTER 2016

DOUBT & TENACITY

Dear Friends,

I have a soft spot for Thomas, doubting Thomas that is. Here is why. Many years ago, I dropped our daughters, Hannah and Bridget, off at their school after lunch. They were in grades five and three at the time. I remember that it was one of the first warm days of spring. The school yard was filled with kids; running kids, skipping kids, laughing kids. They played in twos and threes and large groups.

I let Hannah and Bridget out of the car. Hannah immediately recognized some friends and disappeared into the melee. Bridget on the other hand walked into the crowd, tentatively. She looked to the left and then to the right, trying to find someone that she knew. She could find no one. She walked even more slowly through the crowd looking a little lost in the midst of the excitement, not knowing where nor how to join in. My heart melted for her.

I wonder if it was a little like that for Thomas when he came back into the room on the first day of the week. All of the other disciples had just experienced grace, an encounter with Jesus. They had been filled with Shalom. They must have been skipping, laughing, running in twos or threes or in one large group of ten. They had all experienced something first hand except for Thomas.

We dub him *Doubting Thomas*. We could easily know him as *Left Out Thomas* or *You Should Have Been Here Just a Few Minutes Ago Thomas*, or maybe just *Poor Old Thomas*. Any of these monikers are apt. I have always had a soft spot for him, coming back into this scene, being the only one in the crowd without the keys to the kingdom.

But Thomas does more than doubt, he is tenacious. He is *Tenacious Thomas*. After all, he sticks it out with his friends, he doesn't walk away. He stays and he puts grace to the test. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side,

I will not believe." Like the people of Israel that put God to the test in the wilderness, holding out until manna fell to the earth and water flowed from the rocks. He doesn't wait a day, or two. He waits seven whole days before something happens.

In the end, tenacity, patience, testing, rigour and doubt pay off for Thomas. On the first day of the week, Jesus breaks into the room where the disciples were and Thomas receives what he longed for - to touch. He touches and he sees and he proclaims "My Lord and My God!"

In an age of cynicism, war, and violence it is easy to doubt. In the shadow of the violence in Syria, Turkey and Paris it is easy to be skeptical that Sunday has any power at all. It is easier to settle for the way things are on Friday. In an age when things seem not to change, it is sometimes hard to muster belief. And yet, like Thomas, hope encourages us to step into the Cathedral once again and put faith to the test. Coming to Church can feel a little like being a child in the playground. Some of us connect easily with others, and some of us need more encouragement. As the newcomer among you, I know something about this... We wonder, will I find hope here, kinship here, grace here? I am.

Being a Christian takes tenacity. It takes strength, determination and imagination to stay long enough in the shadows of darkness so that light might break through. It takes doubt to ask the next question and it takes trust to move. It takes resolve to stand in the face of the world and proclaim; *Alleluia, Christ is risen!* Stay long enough, settle into the life and liturgy of this place and the next thing you know you are the one that proclaims... *The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*

Shalom,
Andrew

*The Very Reverend Andrew Asbil,
Dean of Toronto & Rector of St. James Cathedral*

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ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL



DROP-IN

The St. James Tuesday Drop-in has many different ministries that help out our guests from week to week. However, we would love to highlight one of the ministries that has been making a difference in the lives of our guests for many years now: our Haircutting Team.

- Brian Raney,
Lay Pastoral Associate
& Drop-in Coordinator

How did you first find out about the opportunity to volunteer at the St. James Drop-in?

SD: After my darling daughter Andrea Main passed away at Christmas in 2012, I started attending St. James. After my first year of grieving, I inquired about offering my time and expertise to the community of St. James. Hair cutting seemed to be needed and I knew from my experience in the film, television and bridal businesses that people's sense of self-worth and mental health rises when they look and feel well-groomed.

JR: I was actually at my doctor's office and I saw a poster up on the board that mentioned that free haircuts were offered at the Drop-in. I dropped by one day and offered my services.

MS: I was in the park next to the Cathedral with my bible study group when I stumbled upon the Tuesday Drop-in. I noticed that they were offering haircuts to their guests and I thought that I would like to do that. 15 years later and I still do it.

Why do you feel this is important for you?

SD: I provide professional digital makeovers for many women around the world and ask that they pay it forward in time, talent or money to a person or group in need in their area of the globe in honour of my darling Andrea. And as my personal contribution in that "pay it forward" thinking, I give what I can to our friends at St. James – it's as simple and as important as that.

JR: It allows me to keep up my trade while I'm not working which is very important. I also know that a fresh haircut can make you feel better about yourself when times are tough. I have friends who have cut my hair when I didn't have the money to go to a salon. It meant a lot to me and it probably means a lot to our guests.

MS: I believe that helping others keep their appearance nice when times are tough is a good thing to do. I also enjoy getting to know the people who I see when I am here.



SHARON DANLEY



JESSIE RUTHENBERG



MERCEDES SANTAMARIA

STRUCK BY GO



When I first really considered following Jesus at the age of 16, I was given a book by Philip Yancey called *What's So Amazing About Grace?* The book's title is a good question for every Christian to ask over and over again

(and a marvelous book to read!). Grace is a concept that is central to the Christian faith. How do we have intimacy with God? Is it by our moral performance, our good deeds, our religiosity? No. Again and again in the pages of scripture we read about broken people like us who are brought into relationship with God by acts of love, acts of grace. Christians hold up the belief that our relationship with God, our spiritual progress in this life, and our eternal salvation are not as a result of our striving, but are a free gift of God. All of these truths about God's grace become embodied in the person of Jesus Christ whose life and death and resurrection and ascension show us God's grace in the most explicit way. That is the good news in a nutshell!

What does grace have to do with saying goodbye to this Cathedral Community? (See *Announcements*, page 6.) Well, just over two years ago when I was invited to serve as Assistant Curate at the Cathedral, I wondered if the Diocese had made a mistake. The process of applying for ordination had been long and grueling for me. I was working at a very informal and very conservative church (slightly different than the Cathedral!), and I knew what a great honour it is to spend the first years of ordained ministry as the Assistant Curate of St. James. My resume did not warrant the honour of spending these last two years with you. And yet I've been here learning about grace.

Holy Baptism

Jan 17 Oleg Fedotov

THE CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

The Cathedral Church of St. James

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www.stjamescathedral.on.ca

D'S GRACE

We live in a world where the politics of payment hold sway. People “earn” their place through various kinds of payment. You have to “pay your dues” to get ahead. You “spend your capital,” even in relationships. We even think of justice in terms of payment – if you try to do something dishonest, you may be warned you’ll have to “pay the piper.”

Sometimes the language of transaction seeps into the Church, obscuring the essential nature of grace. Grace says that we can never deserve or earn God’s favour, God just loves us.

As my time with you comes to this moment of transition where I enter into another role in a new community, I am struck by God’s grace. In Christ, each one of us is called into lives that we feel we do not deserve and cannot hope to measure up to. The Christian promise that we find in the bible is that through an unending reflection on the grace God has shown us in Jesus Christ, even we can be changed into people who reflect the grace of God to those we meet.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

It has been an honour to be part of the Cathedral’s ministry over the past two years. Please pray for my wife Ashley, our daughter Naomi and me as we follow God’s call to proclaim God’s grace to the world alongside the people of St. George-the-Martyr. We will miss you, but we know that we will be united by the gospel of grace wherever we are. God bless you.
- The Reverend Simon Davis,
Assistant Curate

*Rest eternal grant
unto them, O Lord*

Dec 15	Sousan Zaribaf
Dec 19	Dr. Alexander Charles Ritchie
Jan 26	Stanley Norman Brokenshire
Feb 11	Robert John Gennings

OUR RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS: GENEROUS TO A FAULT?

As I write, we are approaching the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The gospel for the day is John’s account of Mary of Bethany’s anointing Jesus’ feet and wiping them with her hair. “The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” Judas complains that the money spent on the perfume should have been given to the poor instead, to which Jesus replies, “Leave her alone. ... You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me with you” (John 12:7).

And so we have what is probably the origin of the common and frequent lament, “The poor are always with us,” taken to mean either that this is God’s mysterious will, or the nature of reality, or the inevitable consequence of human sin.

But could Jesus have meant any of these things?

Judas is using the poor as a pretext for criticizing Mary’s generous and extravagant act of love. If his concern for the poor were genuine, he had ample opportunity to demonstrate that fact: the poor are, after all, all around him, as Jesus reminds him. John underscores the point that Judas has not done so by describing him as a thief. He is only using the poor to get at Mary.

A similar dynamic is beginning to unfold with respect to the Syrian refugee crisis. The arrival of 25,000 government assisted Syrian refugees, plus an increase in the number of blended visa refugees, has drawn the attention of many, including the press, to two harsh realities: the severe shortage of affordable housing in Canada’s largest cities (in Toronto the waiting time is 8 to 10 years), and the desperate plight of refugees in other parts of the world who seem to have been forgotten.

When the picture of Alan Kurdi stirred an overwhelming and widespread desire to respond, refugee organizations like AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) offered additional information sessions. And while they honoured the generous impulses of so many wanting to assist Syrians, they were clear from the start that refugees in other places are equally desperate and deserving. This is not news to them. The rest of us owe a debt of gratitude that the Syrian crisis has drawn our attention to the suffering that AURA and others have been trying to alleviate for years.

The same holds for the shortage of affordable housing. The Housing Connections waiting list did not suddenly pop up around the same time that Syrian refugees started arriving in large numbers: it has been decades in the making. There is complete agreement among all levels of government and within the refugee settlement community that there will be no queue jumping. No one currently on the affordable housing waiting list will be bumped by a family which has been in Canada for less than a week. However, the newfound concern about affordable housing, occasioned by the pressing need to house Syrian refugee families, is a refreshing and welcome change in awareness.

Mary loved Jesus and expressed her love with overflowing generosity. Jesus understood, accepted, and defended her. Canadians have poured out their generosity and love toward Syrian refugees, actions to be celebrated and supported. In Jesus’ resurrection, God says YES to all generous and loving impulses of the human heart.

- The Reverend Canon Kate Merriman,
Chair of the Cathedral-Community
Refugee Response Committee



DOMIZ REFUGEE CAMP, IN NORTHERN IRAQ. PHOTO BY: IOM IRAQ

THE SEASON IN REVIEW



OUR LEGACY TO EMBRACE & SHARE

FROM THE CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

In 2014, a sub-committee of the Cathedral Council was formed to address the capital maintenance and repair needs of the Cathedral, Cemetery and the Cathedral Centre. The committee's mandate included prioritizing the maintenance and repair needs and determining the best means of funding the projects as they arose.

We have been fortunate with some project-specific donations from donors with a passion for the core fabric of the Cathedral and all that it represents in our community. The new front steps are an example of what can be accomplished with the active support of a donor. As Dean Asbil recently noted in his address to Vestry, this Cathedral and all that forms a part of it (including the Cem-

etry) is our legacy to embrace and share. We are the beneficiaries of generations past and we have the opportunity to share the gift of St. James with the broader community today and into the future.

We are sure that you have noticed the visible deterioration in the flaking paint and some shifting stones. Like the organ, the last time we saw preventative maintenance done in the Cathedral was well over thirty (30) years ago. David Briggs pointed this out to us when he spoke of his struggle to make beautiful sounds with the organ.

The organ committee has been working diligently to define a scope of work for the repair and rebuild of the organ so that another 50 to 60 years of beautiful music can be injected into our community again. We anticipate that the work required could cost approximately \$4 million.

ST. JAMES' CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE NEEDS

CATHEDRAL CHURCH
CEMETERY
CATHEDRAL CENTRE



Dean Andrew Asbil recently noted in his address to Vestry, this Cathedral and all that forms a part of it (including the Cemetery) is our legacy to embrace and share. We are the beneficiaries of generations past and we have the opportunity to share the gift of St. James with the broader community today and into the future.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DEAN STOUTE WITH THE GUILD OF CHANGE RINGERS AT HIS FAREWELL RECEPTION, JANUARY 17; DEAN STOUTE AND JUSTICE MARY LOU BENOTTO THANKED, JANUARY 17; THE SPRING FESTIVAL NEW YEAR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION WITH THE MANDARIN FELLOWSHIP WITH DEAN ASBIL, FEBRUARY 7 (3 PHOTOS); NEWLY INSTALLED HONORARY CANONS OF ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL, JANUARY 10; CANON SIMON LI AT INSTALLATION SERVICE, JANUARY 10; THE HON. ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL AT THE ACCESSION SERVICE, FEBRUARY 7; PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE, JANE ROUNTHWAITE AND CHRIS ALEXANDER ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24; ARCHBISHOP JOHNSON WITH 2016 RECIPIENTS OF THE ORDER OF THE DIOCESE, JANUARY 1; BISHOP POOLE GREETING MICHAEL COREN AT THE ARCHBISHOP'S LEVEE, JANUARY 1; DEAN ASBIL GREETING PARISHIONER, CARLEEN ADLER AT THE ARCHBISHOP'S LEVEE, JANUARY 1. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

SOURCES OF FUNDING TOWARDS UPKEEP

DONORS

CEMETERY REVENUE
CATHEDRAL CENTRE
REVENUE

A very important component of our ministry is the Cemetery. At times because we are not face to face with the work needed every day, we tend to forget. At this point, although we do not have a specific cost, the work needed is extensive and includes:

- Stabilization of Hillside H, which has been sliding towards Rosedale Valley Road
- Paving of the roads and,
- Other ongoing refractory projects

A consultant has been retained to perform an investigation and develop a scope of work for Hillside H. Like the Cathedral Centre, St. James Cemetery is an important source of operating revenue for the Cathedral, but we need to invest in this asset if we expect to continue to benefit from it.

In addition, there is also the ongoing work required to ensure the Cathedral remains structurally sound as well as weather tight and retains its inner and

outer beauty. Included in the work that we have identified:

- Interior painting that was previously mentioned
- Repairs to the tower masonry
- Repairs to masonry on the gables at the east and west porches
- Masonry and decorative stonework repairs at various locations around the Cathedral
- Exterior painting, e.g. tower louvers
- Re-leading the clerestory windows
- Repairs and adjustments to pew doors

A rough budget for this work is estimated in the range of \$3-4 million.

As we continue through Cathedral Council to formulate a plan for prioritizing these projects and developing a feasible approach for funding them, we will continue to look to you, our congregation and friends, for support in moving forward.

- Angela David (Chair), Deputy People's Warden, and Don Solomon, Deputy Rector's Warden

his address to Vestry, this Cathedral (regarding the Cemetery) is our legacy to beneficiaries of generations past and the gift of St. James with the broader community.

Upcoming Dates

Two weekly recitals are offered year-round: Sundays at 4:00pm, and Tuesdays at 1:00pm

MAR 31 **The Choir of Royal Holloway (University of London, UK)**
Concert at 7:30pm in the Cathedral; Admission is free, donations will be received at the door; See article, page 6

APR 2 **Amnesty Action Circle**
1:00pm in the Cathedral Centre;
Also Apr 30, May 28, Jun 25

APR 3 **The Cathedral Community says farewell to Fr. Simon Davis** and his family. Receptions follow the 9:00 and 11:00am service
ReGeneration (20s & 30s)
Dinner with Dean Absil
5:30pm in the Deanery; RSVP to jnowers@stjamescathedral.on.ca

APR 6 **Cantatas in the Cathedral**
6:00pm; Admission Free - Donations Welcome;
Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt, BWV 112 - J.S Bach
(The Lord is my faithful Shepherd)
Soprano: Teresa Mahon, Counter Tenor: Simon Honeyman, Tenor: Cory Knight, Bass: David Roth, Organ: Ian Sadler

APR 10 **Diocesan Confirmation Service**
at 4:30pm (No Recital)

APR 14 **York Group Speaker Meeting**
at 1:00pm in the Boardroom;
Also meeting Jun 16

APR 29 **The Annual Last Night of the Proms Concert**, 7:30pm in the Cathedral, featuring the Choirs of St. James Cathedral and The Band of The Royal Regiment of Canada

MAY 1 **The Ordination of Deacons**
at 4:30pm; **Admission is by ticket only** due to the large turnout expected; apply to an Ordinand if you would like to attend;
(No Recital)



“A truly fabulous sound”

- The Times

IN CONCERT: THE CHOIR OF ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (UK) with Conductor Rupert Gough and Guest Organist David Briggs

Join the internationally acclaimed British choir in their first ever Canadian performance. The varied repertoire includes a selection of the finest choral gems from England, America, Finland, and the Baltic states.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come July 1, there will be something missing from St. James Cemetery. After more than 30 years of service, **Robert Turvey** will be retiring as the manager. Some of you may not even know that St. James has a cemetery. We do, and it is a beautiful green space located east of Parliament Street, north of Wellesley. When asked what he will miss most Robert replied, “meeting with families.” The Cemetery is an important part of St. James’ ministry and Robert has played a central role, working equally well with funeral homes and individual families in what can be challenging circumstances. St. James Cemetery has been in continuous operation since 1844 and the Chapel of St. James-the-Less is a nationally designated historic site.

Tour the Cemetery: We invite everyone to come and meet Robert at the Cemetery on Saturday, June 11 at 10:00am for a walking tour of the grounds and an opportunity to thank Robert for his faithful service.

The Reverend Christopher D’Angelo (a former Lay Pastoral Associate at the Cathedral), was ordained priest at St. George’s on-the-Hill on March 6, 2016.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Ian Sadler** as Organist of St. James Cathedral, who will work in partnership with Artist-in-Residence David Briggs beginning March 29, 2016.

The Reverend Simon Davis has been appointed by the Archbishop as Incumbent of St. George-the-Martyr, Parkdale. His last Sunday at the Cathedral will be April 3. We congratulate him and wish him well.

Jeff Nowers, Lay Pastoral Associate (Young Adults), has been appointed by the Archbishop as Assistant Curate of Christ Church, Brampton, effective September 1, 2016. Together with nine other Ordinands, Jeff will be ordained Deacon on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 4:30pm, here at the Cathedral. A large turnout is expected, and only those with tickets will be guaranteed seating. Tickets are limited. If you would like to attend the service, please contact Jeff about obtaining tickets: jnowers@stjamescathedral.on.ca.



RSN
ROYAL SCHOOL
OF NEEDLEWORK



EMBROIDERY EXHIBIT TO COMPLEMENT CONFERENCE

The Archives and Museum Committee is sponsoring a one day conference on the history of embroidery and the story of colour in textiles (*details at right*). While the Royal School of Needlework created both our white and red altar frontals, this will be the first time that it has come to Canada to share its research on the embroidery of many cultures and especially the discovery and use of colour, important for the church, military, royalty, fashion and ceremony. A special exhibit of embroidery and the use of colour by members of Canada's First Nations communities is

being planned to complement the presentations and demonstrate traditions associated with Canada. It will feature work from various regions of the country, including a beaded blanket from northern British Columbia, moose hair embroidery from the Great Lakes region, beaded stoles from the Six Nations, a story quilt from Curve Lake, plus samples of early works from within the collection of the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace. We may extend the exhibit for a few days beyond the conference and suggest that you check the website for updates, or contact Nancy Mallett to learn more (416-364-7865x233, archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca).

MANDARIN MINISTRY

It has been quite a warm winter this year in Toronto, which has contributed to our good moods. A lot of people are fond of Lent not only because it encourages a penitential heart to turn to God, but also because it is like spring, full of vigour, which gives hope and vision, as if everything were new. The Mandarin Fellowship of St. James Cathedral has held a series of spiritual reflection gatherings: "God on the Cross" this Lent. Five preachers, Dean Asbil, Canon Susan Bell, Sub-Dean Fr. Brinton, James Liu and Morning Wang, have been invited to bring a wonderful spiritual feast to the Mandarin parishioners. A lot of brothers and sisters have been built up, feeling that this God

on the Cross is near to us, and is willing to intervene in our daily life.

Indeed, we have been busy doing many things in this noisy world, and some of us lose ourselves. We need to find the way back home just like the Prodigal Son. On Saturday, March 12, Fr. Brinton led a Lenten Retreat for us at the Cathedral. Fourteen people preparing for baptism were involved in this retreat. We quietly sat before God, listened to God's guidance, and most importantly, rejoiced for Jesus' resurrection!

- James Liu,
Lay Pastoral Associate,
Mandarin Ministry

More Dates

- MAY 4** **Cantatas in the Cathedral**
6:00pm; Admission Free - Donations Welcome
- MAY 15** **The Day of Pentecost, Liturgies at**
8:00, 9:00, 11:00am, and 4:30pm
- MAY 27** **Royal School of Needlework Conference**, from 9:30am-3:30pm with speaker Dr. Susan Kay-Williams, Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, Hampton Court Palace (UK); Registration is available online at stjamescathedral.on.ca; Cost is \$60 and includes lunch in Snell Hall; Space is limited; See article, page 7
- MAY 28** **Doors Open Toronto**
May 28-29
- JUN 11** **St. James Cemetery Walking Tour & Farewell for Cemetery Manager Robert Turvey**, 10:00am at the Cemetery (635 Parliament Street); See article, page 6; Please call the Cathedral Office in May to register
- JUN 19** **Aboriginal Sunday**
Watch for details
- JUN 26** **Jazz Mass**
at 11:00am
- JUL 1** **Annual Canada Day BBQ**
1:30-3:30pm on the west lawn
- JUL 31** **Patronal Festival: The Feast of St. James the Apostle**
Liturgies at 8:00, 9:00, 11:00am, and 4:30pm
- AUG 14** **The Toronto Diocesan Girls Choir School** will sing the Twilight Recital at 4:00pm, and Choral Evensong at 4:30pm
- AUG 24** **The Patronal Festival of St. Bartholomew's, Regent Park**
(www.stbartsthoronto.ca)

More information about all listings available at 416-364-7865, or info@stjamescathedral.on.ca

The Induction and Installation of Dean Asbil

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

On January 31, 2016, The Very Reverend Andrew Asbil was Inducted and Installed as Rector of St. James Cathedral and Dean of Toronto by The Most Rev'd Colin Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto.

Below are a few highlights from the sermon, which was delivered by Dean Asbil's father, The Right Reverend Walter Asbil.

“Of the ministries... expected of a Cathedral... the first is the obligation... to hold up before the church the Anglican tradition in music, and in liturgy, in teaching and in preaching, but equally important... is to be the place where experiment takes place, where new things are tried...

As we offer up and embellish the story of the past... God calls us from the future. Andrew faces the future square on with the confidence that ahead of us on the road is the Holy Spirit of God.”

