Special Vestry 2026 - Official Bios

Bill Benson - As a cradle Anglican, Bill has been a member of St James since the spring of 2020. During his time at the Cathedral, it has been his pleasure to act as a Sidesperson, lead a discussion group for the BST program and grilled more hamburgers than he cares to remember. Apart from life at St James, he is a member of the Diocesan Postulancy committee (15 years) and for over 20 years volunteered as a consultant for the Diocesan Congregational Development Department working in many parishes across the Diocese. In 2020, Bill was elected to the Board of Trustees of Wycliffe College and this spring, he became Chair of the Board. He retired from full time employment in the winter of 2021 after 45 years in Senior Sales and Marketing roles in the Consumer-Packaged Goods world.

Peter Dawes has been an Anglican since childhood in Montreal where he attended Anglican schools. When he moved to Toronto in the late 60's, he became a parishioner at St. Paul's on Bloor Street. Peter has been a parishioner at St. James since 2008 when he met Sarah McKinnon. They were married at St. James the following year by the Reverend Canon David Brinton; both volunteer at the Sunday 9 a.m. Services as their time and travels permit. Peter's work experience has been as a business journalist, CEO of Canadian Importers Association and more recently as an international trade consultant. He is the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire in Toronto, a volunteer position he has held since 1993. Peter was a Second Alternate Synod representative and Alternate at Synod last year. He volunteers as a Sides-person, Reader, Intercessor and Communion minister at St. James. He looks forward to the synergy and camaraderie of Synod gatherings which create a better understanding of the many different and similar issues which other parishes in our Diocese face. He believes that as intractable as some Anglican church problems may seem to us individually, if we are able to discuss them in good faith and humility before God, solutions can be found.

Justin Day - Justin grew up in Oakville and has been attending St. Jude's for as long as he can remember. He and his sister spent countless hours running around the church while their grandmother volunteered in a variety of activities. About four years ago, Justin began attending Mass regularly at St. James and has very much enjoyed becoming part of the parish community, including volunteering as a sidesperson. He is excited to become even more involved in the life of the church.

David Gates - Born in Montreal, David was raised in Hamilton, Ontario. Before retirement, he taught at the University of Western Ontario; co-authored two grammar and writing texts; worked in various capacities at The Grand Theatre, London, Ontario; marketed the performing arts at Young People's Theatre and Harbourfront Centre in Toronto; and developed revenue generation resources for the Sunnybrook and St. Michael's Hospital Foundations. He is a graduate of McMaster University and the University of Western Ontario, from which he holds a Ph.D. in English Literature. A lifelong Anglican, he attended the Church of St. Thomas in Hamilton and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario, before joining the congregation of St. James. At the Cathedral he has chaired the Stewardship Committee and served as Peoples Warden.

Susan Glover - Susan returned to Toronto and St James on her retirement from teaching in the Department of English at Laurentian University in 2021, and continues her research in the field of Indigenous writing and bibliography. She serves as a sidesperson at the 11:00 service and volunteer at the Friday lunch drop-in (on hiatus for grandma-care). In Sudbury she was a sidesperson at the Church of the Epiphany, volunteered at the Out of the Cold dinners, and was a member of Sudbury LEAF (Women's Legal & Education Action Fund). She also took courses in Thorneloe University's theology program and was commissioned as a lay reader. Living in Sudbury, and in Toronto, has made very visible for her the challenges of a downtown church and the Spirit's ever-present call to ensure that our church is a place of welcome, refuge, acceptance, and possibility.

Richard Harrop - I've been an Anglican since birth, being confirmed in the Diocese of Huron (1959), and, when I moved to Toronto in 1968, I started singing at St Bart's. I've also sung at St. John's Norway, St Aidan's, St Thomas', Redeemer, and around 1999 at St James Cathedral with Chris Dawes and Michael Bloss on the choir tour in South Africa. I served on the education committee with Canon Judy Rois and was on the roster for Morning Prayer under Father Brinton. I've been a member of the Refugee Committee for more than five years and have assisted at the Friday Drop-In for two or three. I've been a member of the ministry council for several years and the Deputy People's warden for the last year-and-a-half. I enjoy supporting the work of the cathedral, helping to make a positive change in the lives of those we touch.

Robert Hart, ODT, has been a member of St. James since 1981, attending the 9:00 am service regularly and serving as a Steward since the formation of that group in 1985. Bob has been a member of the Light for the City Campaign, has served on the Cathedral Council for several years, as Deputy Rector's Warden, two years as Peoples 'Warden and for three years as Rector's Warden. Until June 2013, Bob worked for the York Region District School Board in the capacity of teacher, Department Head, Vice-Principal and, for the final seven years as Principal. Bob was chair of the Cathedral Selection Committee after the retirement of Dean Douglas Stoute. Since 2013 Bob has been a Diocesan volunteer serving as a mentor to Parish Selection
Committees. As well, he participated in a number of Cathedral committees and served in a number of roles (Reader, Intercessor, Communion Minister) during the tenures of Andrew Asbil, Stephen Vail, and Peter Wall. Most recently, Bob served as Assistant Deputy Warden.

David Hedley is standing for the position of Synod Representative at this Vestry meeting. He has served in this position for two years and is willing to serve for a third. David has been an active member of the Cathedral community for twelve years, following his conversion from a skeptical agnostic to a lively Christian faith. He served on the recent Parish Selection Committee tasked with the selection of our new Dean. Prior to his retirement in 2020, for more than 30 years he held joint positions as a physician and scientist at Princess Margaret Hospital, specializing in cancer biology and treatment. He brings a deep understanding of reductionist science and its application to incurable forms of cancer.

Ric Hillyer - Ric's career was in the Information Technology field. As member and volunteer at St. James Cathedral for 33 years, he has been involved as follows: St. James-appointed Director/Treasurer at a non-profit housing corporation for 10 years; Member of Council for 2 years; for 12 years, helped make soup for Drop-in and for 2 years led the group; Member of Property Committee and Outreach Committee; Open Doors volunteer; for the international conference of Friends of The Creche Conference, hosted by St. James Cathedral, he was Treasurer and several other roles; as a volunteer he has been: Director/Treasurer for 12 years for the Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM); President or Treasurer on 3 different condominium corporations; Treasurer/Director on the Board of George Brown College Seniors' Association about 10 years; Once Treasurer/Director and now Interim Treasurer of Church of the Holy Trinity – Eaton Centre.

Barbara Hirst - Barbara was a cradle Anglican until, at the age 18, she heeded the siren call of Pure Reason and became an atheist. A couple of decades later, she heeded the call of God and began attending services at St. James in the early 2000s. Since that time, she has volunteered with the Altar Guild, done outreach at Toronto Jail, Co-chaired the Amnesty Group at the Cathedral, and was a sidesperson and Coordinator of Sidespersons. She served on Council for two years and was a Deputy Warden for a year. Currently, Barbara is a Vice-Chair of the York Group Executive, a sidesperson and serves at Morning Prayer online. Before she retired, she was a longtime investigator with Ombudsman Ontario and latterly served in the same capacity with the Toronto Ombudsman.

John Hopperton - John has been a committed member of the congregation of St James for over 20 years. His route to Anglicanism and St James was somewhat circuitous. Raised a Catholic, he attended St Michaels Choir School on Bond Street, a stone's throw from St James and later went to Jarvis Collegiate, making the neighbourhood of St James very much a part of his whole life. After not being a part of any congregation for many years he and his wife and partner Mary both came to realize that religion needs a community, and went to a few churches before coming to St James. It was like coming home. His two sons were both baptised at St James and serve with him as members of the Servers Guild and as Communion Ministers. He looks forward to deepening his faith commitment by serving as a member of Vestry.

Matt Jaeger - Matt has never known a religious life outside the worldwide Anglican community. A third-generation Episcopalian born in the United States but now happily residing in Toronto for the past 7 years, he has been worshipping at the Cathedral Church of St. James for almost just as long. In his school-age years he served as an acolyte, and for the past almost 30 years he has been rooted in liturgical lay ministry as a reader, intercessor, and communion minister. He has also spent the last three and a half years serving on the Cathedral Council. Beyond parish life, Matt has volunteered with organizations such as the Alpha Kappa Psi Foundation and the Cathedral's Drop-In Program. He works in human resources for a non-profit advocacy organization, is passionate about health and fitness, and shares his life with his spouse, Mac, and their dogs in their condo by the Humber River. You can usually find him at the 9 a.m. *Worship Together* service.

Christian Kingsmill - is a lifelong member of St. James Cathedral. It has been a constant part of Christian's life and that of his family for seven generations. Raised at the Cathedral, Christian and his

wife, Marta, were married at St. James; both their children, Maitland and Hanna, were christened and confirmed at St. James. Professionally, Christian has worked in the Social Services sector for twenty-five years. Christian is currently the Director of Services for Montage Support Services. Montage falls under the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. As a service provider to support people with complex medical needs, developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. Christian can often be seen at the Cathedral on Siderspersons' duty. He is also a member of the Cathedral Council and is a former Assistant Deputy Warden.

Sterling Mancuso - Sterling Mancuso was born into an Anglican Family and has been a regular at the 9 a.m. service at St. James since 2023. He has handled the elements at service and often volunteers as a greeter. Sterling attended Trinity College in his undergrad where he was active in chapel life and participated in the annual Trinity Divinity Faculty service at St. James. Sterling is a lawyer practising criminal defence and civil litigation in Toronto at Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP. He previously worked as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa and the Court of Appeal for Ontario in Toronto.

Sarah McKinnon - Sarah is a cradle Anglican who has been a member of St. James since 2001. She attends the 9 a.m. service where she volunteers as a Steward (Sidesperson and Communion Minister). She has just completed a term as Rector's Warden. Formerly she served as a Deputy Warden (Rector's and People's) and a Warden (People's) at the time of the planning and construction of the Cathedral Centre. Sarah is mostly retired from a career in academe. She worked as an art history professor and curator at the University of Winnipeg for 25 years. She is also a former VP Academic at OCAD U, former VP and Dean at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts - Boston, and former Interim President at NSCAD University in Halifax.

Paul Melville-Gray - Paul grew up in Streetsville, where his faith was first nurtured at Trinity Anglican Church. Over the years, his spiritual journey has included time at All Saints' Kingsway and Metropolitan Community Church Toronto, before finding his home at St. James Cathedral, where he has been a member for the past three years. Paul and his partner, Bassel, are familiar faces at the 9:00 am service, where they serve faithfully as greeters and communion ministers. Professionally, Paul is the owner of a creative design and print company in Mississauga that specializes in branding, strategic solutions, and the delivery of effective marketing materials. His professional expertise often carries into his volunteer commitments, where he supports a variety of charitable organizations. He serves on the Board of the Women's College Hospital Foundation, contributing his skills and leadership to advance important causes in the community.

Kelly Morgan - First drawn to St. James 30 years ago, after moving to the King & Yonge area: called to worship by the Sunday morning ringing of the cathedral bells. Deeply moved upon entering the cathedral, feeling a warm hug and peace while listening to the sacred angelic music of the choir. Began parish involvement by volunteering for the Christmas concerts through Anglican House. Kelly, retired now, a 35-year career banker with one of the 'Big 5;' experienced in Wealth Management, Canadian, Commercial & International Banking. Unfortunately, extensive travel and international assignments kept Kelly away from Toronto intermittently for decades but she would attend Sunday services whenever returning to Toronto. Formally baptized at St. James Cathedral in

June 2026, marking her personal commitment to the Anglican religion and community. Recently started volunteering at St. James Friday Drop-In and looks forward to many other volunteering opportunities. Kelly is very appreciative for this opportunity to deepen her faith and relationship with St James.

Sandra Mowat - Sandra Mowat grew up in an Anglican family in St. John's, Newfoundland. She earned a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She has served the cathedral in a variety of ways; for the past 3 years as a member of the warden team, fulfilling the roles of Asst. Deputy, Deputy Warden and People's Warden. In the recent past she served on the former Outreach committee, on the Parish Selection Committee and at the Drop-in. She is currently a member of Executive Committee, Cathedral Council and Ministry Council, and also serves as a sidesperson, reader and intercessor. She has chaired the York Group Executive Committee for the past several years and has recently become a Lay Pastoral Visitor. Leisure activities include travel, art history and outdoor pursuits.

Wairimu Nduati - Wairimu was born in Rironi, Kenya. She was baptized Presbyterian and, as a teenager, began attending the Anglican Church, following her maternal faith. She moved to Canada 26 years ago and became a member of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario. After moving to Toronto 13 years ago, she joined St. James and has been part of the church community ever since. She currently serves as a Co-Coordinator for the 11 o'clock and Evensong Sidespersons. Wairimu studied Economics and Sociology at the University of Western Ontario. She works at a downtown Toronto law firm as an Audit and Regulatory Compliance Specialist and has volunteered with a number of causes in Toronto over the years. She enjoys being involved in the life of the church and is grateful for the friendships, fellowship, and sense of community she has found at St. James.

Dayna Nelson - Dayna is a lifelong Anglican who grew up attending one of the oldest churches in Jamaica. After some time away, she was drawn back to St. James following the Cathedral's Bob Marley Mass in 2025. Since then, she has become an active part of the Cathedral community through the Young Adults group, community-building initiatives, and Indigenous reconciliation efforts. Outside of St. James, Dayna is actively involved in civic and community life. She serves as an elected Director of the Spadina–Fort York Provincial Riding Association and as a member and Governance Chair of the Kiwanis Club of Casa Loma. Professionally, she is a public servant with the City of Toronto, where she works to support the revenue administration functions of the municipality. Dayna holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Waterloo, with double minors in Religious Studies and International Studies, as well as a Certificate in Global Experience. She later pursued postgraduate studies in International Development at Humber College. Her studies and interest in community development have taken her to Brazil and Ghana, and she has also volunteered with Alongside Hope (formerly The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund), the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development. She is currently pursuing further education in municipal administration. Across her professional, volunteer, and church life, Dayna has a particular interest in good governance, community connection, service, and creating spaces where people feel welcomed and meaningfully engaged. In her spare time, she enjoys photography, film, board games, art and culture, exploring new places, and is always up for a stimulating conversation. Say hi when you see her!

Louis (usually 'Lou') Nettleton - Lou is a cradle Anglican who attended St. Nicholas Birch Cliff Anglican Church in Toronto for many years, having been baptised and confirmed there and raising his family there. He has been a member of the Cathedral for the past 13 years, but had regular connections with the Cathedral when his eldest son sang as a boy treble 36 years ago. For the past 30 months, he has been a member of the Parish Council – an enriching experience and he looks forward to continuing his participation there. He is co-coordinator of the 11 o'clock and Evensong Sidesperson. Lou is a retired teacher, and he and his wife are the parents of 5 grown sons, 3 grandchildren, and an adorable miniature schnauzer.

Joan Peters - Joan retired in 2016, after more than 20 years as the Director of National Corporate Donations and Employee Engagement at CIBC. She was introduced to St. James Cathedral in 2002 by her husband, George McNeillie, who has worshipped here since 1980. Joan and George were married at the Cathedral in 2007. Joan has volunteered for various roles and supported several projects since joining the Cathedral, including the Drop-In and the Refugee Committee. She was honoured to serve as Deputy People's Warden for three years followed by two years as the People's Warden from 2019 – 2021. Currently, Joan is a Sidesperson and serves at the Friday Drop-In for the vulnerable people in our community.

Christoph Pike - Christoph was born in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics at Memorial University. On graduation in 2016, he moved to Toronto to pursue a law degree at the University of Toronto. During this time, Christoph experienced a renewal of faith and joined the congregation of St. James Cathedral. He has served as a leader of the Cathedral's Young Adults' group and as a coordinator of the Becoming the Story We Tell program. Christoph was also a member of the 2022-2023 Parish Selection Committee. Christoph was called to the Bar of Ontario in 2020, and then maintained a diverse litigation practice, first at Torkin Manes LLP and then at McCarthy Tétrault LLP. Christoph obtained a master's degree in law from the University of Oxford in 2024 and is currently pursuing a doctorate in law at the University of Toronto.

Daisy Pittis - Grace and Daisy moved from Christ Church Bolton to the Cathedral in the fall of 2008. Grace died in September 2018 and the digital sign on St. James's lawn is in memory of her life and years of service in many churches. At present Daisy is a lay pastoral visitor, the treasurer of the York Group, a reader and intercessor at the 11 a.m. service. When one is a member of a smaller church, the opportunities to serve are so much greater. For many years Daisy was the Synod Representative, and she really enjoyed being present when so many critical issues were discussed. She is happy to have her name stand for this office.

Billie Anne Robinson - Billie Anne is a cradle Anglican who came to St. James after the Covid lockdown. She was very involved in church activities at Saint Leonard's where she served in every capacity from warden to website chief. At the University of Sheffield, she was acting Anglican chaplain while she pursued biblical studies. Her sole claim to fame at St. James is that she sat two pews behind the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1992, thanks to her mother's next-door neighbour, whose husband was very active at Saint James.