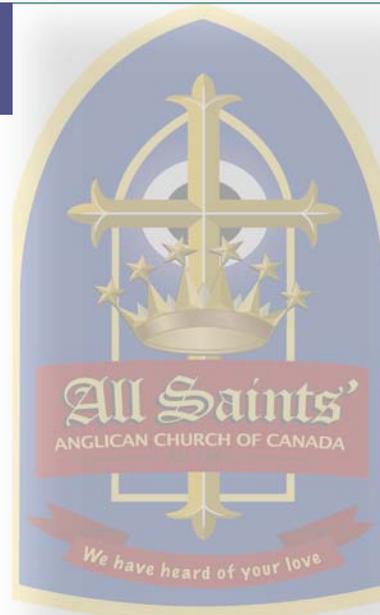


Saints Alive!

Editor:
A. Ralph

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Salt & Light

Thank you all for the kind words and encouragement you gave to me on February 9th when I had the privilege of preaching at all three services. I had a request to share the sermon in the newsletter and am happy to do so.

- Joanne Warman

The Sermon on the Mount is the longest recording of Jesus' teaching in the New Testament. Not only is it found in chapter 5 of Matthew's gospel but it continues into chapters 6 and 7 as well. This sermon focusses on Matthew 5:13-16.

Jesus liked imagery. All through his ministry, he used parables, analogies and metaphors to emphasize his points. The Gospel reading highlights one of these pictures in order to make important statements about Christian life and attitudes. In his teaching he tells us we are called to change things in the world and point the way to Jesus.

How do you answer the question "who are you?" The most obvious answer would be your name, maybe some family history, where you were born, how many siblings you have,

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EDITOR'S VIEW: Interim Blessings

It's a commonly held view that a season of interimcy can have damaging effects on the health and ministry of a congregation. It's commonly held because it often is true. But just as often it is not the case. As a congregation prepares for new leadership, the pause can yield many benefits. A church can double down on valued ministries, it can take the time to clean house a bit of ineffectual ministries or toxic relationships, it can implement

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DON'T MISS ...

- March 3 ongoing: Lenten Study
- March 29: "Come Together" Service
- April 5: Palm Sunday
- April 12: Easter Sunday
- May 10: Mother's Day Apple Crisp Sales
- May 31: Pentecost

All Saints' Anglican Church
www.allsaintswhitby.org





Interim Blessings *continued from p. 1*

changes that makes for an easier entry for its new Incumbent, it can find unexpected renewal and energy as lay folk take more responsibility for the church's ministry and claim its mission as their own.

One of the great strengths of All Saints is that (as we saw

with the post-fire rebuild) we do take a hopeful and strategic approach to our "wilderness" experiences. We create space for grief or anger, we pray intentionally for each other and for unity of spirit, and we work together to uphold our shared goals and priorities.

And one of the great gifts of this interim season has been our Interim priest-in-charge. We are

blessed that Geoff has years of experience as a priest, a deep and varied history of service, a currency with and openness to various ministry approaches, and a seemingly unending reserve of good humour, time and patience.

Many churches in transition take a "do no harm; mark time" attitude. I don't think that has been the case at All Saints. Geoff has continued to inspire and encourage members to make decisions and take action, and our lay leaders have kept their sights not only on the needs of current members but also on All Saints' call to minister to those outside the church walls, those who are seeking to know Christ through worship and outreach. Lay members are stretching themselves and applying their gifts in new contexts.

The selection process is a journey, and this is a theme with which Christians are very familiar.

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"lay leaders have kept their sights not only on the needs of current members but also on our calling to minister to those outside the church walls"

A Prayer for God's Creation

O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of and care for your Creation. Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your Creatures as signs of your wondrous love. Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable. Lord, hear our prayer.

(From jesuitresource.com, prayers for sustainability)

POWER of PRAYER: #ASW40daygiveandpray

This year for Lent, you are invited to participate in a special prayer event focussed on **reflection on blessings, prayer, and giving to others**. Each day in Lent, you will find a new prayer prompt on the All Saints 'Prayer Life' webpage under the News & Events tab. You'll be asked to

- count a particular blessing in your life;
- pray for an identified need; and
- set aside a small amount of money in a specific and fun way for donation to the Deacon's Cupboard (food bank)

Those three easy things in one daily prompt! Here's an example:

Feb 28: How many litres of milk are in your fridge right now? Donate 15¢ for each. Pray for God to pour love into the lives of three people who need His care and kindness.

Check the website daily or follow @allsaintswhitby on Twitter or Instagram to see each day's prompt for the 40 days of Lent.

Total donations will be received as part of the offertory on Easter Sunday (April 12) and blessed to the use of the food bank ministry.

An Open Letter

TO MY FRIENDS AT ALL SAINTS'

As most, if not all of you know, my left leg was amputated below the knee in March of 2018. While I of course am exceedingly grateful to all the doctors, nurses (God love them for their patient, kind and gentle care), therapists and especially the wonderful Sisters of SSJD, a critical part of my recovery was the prayers, cards and visits from my Faith Family at All Saints' Whitby. One of the highlights of my recovery, to my mind at least, was the first time I was able to return to worship with you in the spring of last year.

Thank you and blessings to you all for your prayers and support.

~ Stew Ball



The Biblio-File

The Great Believers
Rebecca Makkai (Viking/June 2018)

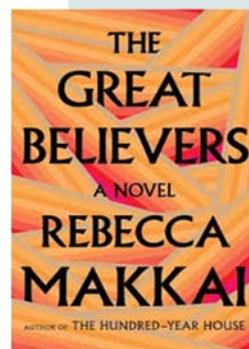
The Great Believers is set mainly in the 1980s during the first wave of the AIDS/HIV epidemic and told through the experiences of a group of friends living in Chicago. The fear of the early days of the epidemic, when little was known about the virus, is well realized and very evocative for anyone who remembers that time. The novel reflects the devastation of a whole community, both nationally and internationally. Using the story of an elderly woman, Norah, who was a model and artist in Paris just before World War I broke out, Makkai compares the alienation of the gay community to WWI survivors whose experiences isolated them from a "normal" life.

Yale Tishman is the 28-year old development director at a Chicago art gallery, who is given the job of soliciting a bequest of early 20th-century modern art from Norah, who was the model for many of the sketches from the likes of Modigliani. Just as Tishman's career seems to be on the rise with the coup of the valuable donation, the AIDS epidemic strikes his group of friends and what had seemed an open group quickly draws into a tight circle of fear, illness and death.

Meanwhile, Fiona, younger sister of one of the earliest victims, becomes a caretaker to the community, burning out with caring for so many of her brother's friends that it takes her years to recognize the toll it has taken on her life and family.

The Great Believers is a fascinating story of people being swept up in events too large to even comprehend and of the effects those events have on the survivors.

~ Lesley Nightingale



My Journey

My name is Allan Robinson. I have been married for 45 years. I have 4 children and 9 grandchildren. I was baptized as a baby in London, England, and as an adult 2 and a ½ years ago in Oshawa.

When I was a young boy, Jesus was my best friend. One Christmas day, I bought a birthday card addressed to him and burned it in my backyard, watching the smoke going skyward. I went to his house every Sunday and talked to him every day.

As I grew older, we drifted apart. Or, I should say I grew more dependent on Me. By the time I was in my late teens, I had turned my back on him. I characterize it as falling down a well (the world). No water at the bottom just darkness, and I loved it. I answered to no one, did what I wanted, when I wanted.

But Jesus did not turn his back on me. He constantly pulled at my inner feelings. Until finally, I started to climb out of the darkness. The walls were slimy and I slipped back down to where I wanted to be. I was happy.

But Jesus didn't give up. I tried again. This time I made

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Salt & Light *continued from p. 1*

your job, but how many of you have ever answered “oh I am the salt of the earth” or “I am the light of world”. But that is exactly who Jesus is telling us we are.

Jesus declares you are the salt of the earth not you may be or you will be or you should be. What is salt? In today’s world it is often taken for granted. It is inexpensive and easily obtained. Even so, if you say somebody is “worth their salt” it is high praise. In Jesus’s day salt was a very valuable commodity. It was so valuable that Roman soldiers were often paid in salt because salt was considered to be as valuable as gold. Salt was used not only for preserving food but for seasoning it. What does this mean for us?

Firstly, we are valuable. We are not just ordinary table salt either, we are the expensive pink Himalayan rock salt.

We are called to have a preserving influence. With today’s climate change woes, we all need to do our part to preserve the planet by recycling and by being environmentally conscious. Preserving our world goes beyond the environment, it means looking into the eyes of that person on the street, showing compassion, speaking words of kindness. It is loving God, our neighbours, our loved ones, our enemies and ourselves. If the church does not fulfill its mission as the salt of the earth, who will? There are no salt substitutes – we are it. We flavour the world by revealing God to the world.

For salt to be any good, it must retain its saltiness. Nobody puts salt on their French fries that doesn’t want to make them taste better. If we fail to be

the salt of the earth we are neglecting our duties as Jesus’s disciples.

Salt is a preservative that delays decay. We are salt when we stand up for what is right. We need to fight against what is wrong and make a difference. How can we stop the world from going bad if we just go along with it. We are to be active in the world and exercise a positive Christian influence at home, at school, in our community, in politics, in everything we do.

Ask yourself, “am I a good neighbour, do I treat people well at work, am I full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control commonly known as the fruits of the Spirit.” Without compromising the Gospel message, we are to make that message attractive to the world around us. The ways in which God calls us to be that salt will be specific to our individual circumstances and relationships but they will all reveal the embodiment of God in humanity.

When Jesus says we are the light of the world, it is both a compliment and a huge responsibility. In John 9:5, we read these words of Jesus “but while I am here in

the world. I am the light of the world.” We are not only receiving the light of Christ but sharing it as well. Our light is derived from our



***concluded on
page 7***

A PRIMER ON PRIMATES & OTHER OFFICES

If you're an avid reader of history buff and regular contributor, Bertie Weatherbottom, you'll be relieved ... I mean, interested to learn that Bertie will be away for a while longer. His book, *Sanctuary Knockers & Rectory Bells*, has (inexplicably) been optioned by the BBC for production as a 4-part docudrama. Our dear Bertie will be on location in Parson's Stole, Wiltshire for the next few months. But, as I have done so often before, I have agreed to step into my brother's oversized shoes (matched in size only by his pedantry) to bring his liturgical notes & queries to you.

For this issue, Bertie sent copious pages on Church of England nomenclature as well as several intricate hand-drawn flowcharts on clerical hierarchy. I used them to wrap fish. I can't possibly believe anyone is staying awake at night worrying about this minutiae, but in case you are, let's get into the question at hand:

Is a Primate an Archbishop, and when is a Bishop not?

Each Sunday we pray for Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, that is, the chief or ranking cleric of the Church in our country. A Primate is also an Archbishop

(though without a Diocese) and is addressed as "The Most Reverend."

We used to be led by Archbishop Colin (but he wasn't a Primate) and his successor is known to us as Bishop Andrew. How is it he took the same office as head of the Diocese of Toronto, but not the same title?

In the Canadian Anglican Church there are 4 Ecclesiastical Provinces each headed by an Archbishop, the elected (and usually most senior) Bishop of all the Dioceses within that Province. In the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, there are seven Dioceses and when Archbishop Colin retired, the Most Rev. Anne Germond of Algoma and Moosonee succeeded him as Archbishop, while the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil succeeded him as Diocesan Bishop.

There you have it. Makes perfect sense, right?

I should be back next issue ... unless Bertie finds out what I did with his priceless first-edition *Crockford's Clerical Directory*. I am afraid it came to a ripping end when I learned that Clooney might be playing my brother in the BBC miniseries. Seriously? I can't even.

~ Esmé Weatherbottom



Earth Day Sesquicentennial Challenge

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the theme and focus is climate action, which represents the biggest threat to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. Challenge yourself to start making small climate-friendly changes in your daily life:

- Eat more meat-free meals
- Reject fast fashion and start thrifting instead
- Say no to single-use plastics in stores and restaurants
- Then, find three more ways to green your life and ensure a climate-stable planet for the future.



Residential Hospice coming to Durham Region



Did you know that Durham Region is one of the only regions of its size in Ontario without a fully operational hospice care centre?

Did you know that this year 2020, there are three hospices being built in Durham Region: one in Port Perry, one in Whitby and one in Clarington? The location for the Whitby Hospice is Kathleen and Crowthurst Streets, at the south end of Prince of Wales Park.

The Town of Whitby donated the property where a 10-bed (rooms) hospice will be built this year. The Ministry of Health provides

funding towards the medical care while the community is responsible for the funding of the operation of the hospice. Volunteers will provide compassionate care for family members.

For the past year, we have been fundraising and have almost reached our goal. With your help, we plan to put the shovel in the ground this spring.

As a member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, I invite you to visit durhamregionhospice.ca and find us on facebook for information on how the community is helping us to raise the necessary funds. Our telephone # is 905-240-4522, ext 243.

Your financial support, no matter the amount, is most needed and appreciated.

~ Joyce Marshall



The Journey *continued from p. 3*

progress. Very slowly and with very hard climbing. Never sure I was going in the right direction.

As I climbed up the wall, my footholds became larger and they had names on them. My MOM, Charles Price, Brett McBride (Peoples Church), Rick Baker, Kelvin Kaufeldt (Calvary Baptist), Dean Vail, Geoff Lloyd (All Saints) and my family.

It's been a long climb. I am retired and a senior now, but still in the well. When I started my journey, the opening was small with only a single light shining down. Now the opening is large and the sun is shining on me.

I believe that on my last day on this earth and with my last breath I will look up and see Jesus, my best friend. He will have his arm extended into the well. I will reach up, take his hand and he will pull me out. And my journey will be over.

~ Allan Robinson

Salt & Light *continued from p. 4*

relationship with Jesus and the brightness of that light will only be as bright as you make it.

Our light should be a reflection of Jesus's light in us. Three ways to fulfill our roles as light of the world are (1) **shine** – stand out as a follower of Christ, (2) **illuminate** – we are to show others how God wants His people to live and (3) **encourage** –



encourage others by your witness. The purpose of letting our light shine by doing good works is so others will glorify God. Whatever we do as either salt or light, we don't do to have people tell us

how wonderful we are but rather that people would see God in us. As Father Stephen often told us "it's not about you."

Christ intends for each of us to be salt and light. If every Christian preserved and flavoured the world and had their lights turned on brightly what a different world this would be.

~ Joanne Warman



Steve Bell & Pilgrim Year

The name Steve Bell will be familiar to those of you who attended his concerts here in past years. Steve is a wonderful Canadian Christian singer, songwriter, guitarist, and story-teller ... and also a writer. His latest writing project is a collection of seven books, one for each liturgical season of the year, entitled *PILGRIM YEAR*. As he puts it:

The Church tells and retells her sacred stories year after year, much as a mother to her children who ask for the same stories night after night. Each time we rehearse and harrow these stories, we unearth something new, precisely because there is so much more to receive, but also because our capacity to receive has deepened.

It is a timeless treasury of feasts, fasts and remembrances which nourish the Christian mind, body and soul. Although it is a series, each book stands alone, and may be purchased separately. This year at All Saints the Lenten study will be on his book, *LENT*. Bell's writing is both engaging and thought-provoking, and for each chapter there is an accompanying song from his recordings.



~ Jacky Bramma

See page 8 for details of this year's Lenten study based on Bell's book.

Interim Blessings *continued from p. 2*

Consider the articles in this issue. They are very much about journeying and trusting in renewal and return, knowing that the path or struggle or climb leads us closer to God. Whether the journey is a very personal one like that of Stewart or Allan (page 3) or a collective pilgrimage toward a shared goal such as offering shelter and dignity to the vulnerable or taking action to protect the planet for future generations, we are called, as Joanne's sermon says, to glorify God, to be salt or light: "we don't do [this] to have people tell us how wonderful we are but rather that people would see God in us." In other words, ministry is never really about the minister; it is always about the gospel that the minister (ordained or layperson) proclaims.

And the gospel we proclaim, even as we must ponder the future and carry on steadfastly and remain patient, is that even a wilderness experience can be a transformative moment, in and of itself. And as Easter people, we know that the Lenten journey is redeemed by a new beginning. And that God doesn't always take an obvious route.

~ Arleane Ralph

NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS

2020 Lenten Study: This year's study will be held on five consecutive Tuesday evenings at the church in March, beginning on March 3 at 7:00pm. It will also be offered on Thursday mornings at 10:15am. Final details will be in upcoming bulletins closer to the start date. Books (see page 7) will be available for \$10 each, but must be pre-ordered. Please let Jacky Bramma know if you are interested. To learn more about the study book and its remarkable author, go to stevebell.com.

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Easter Greetings to Alumni Youth: We are sending Easter greetings to youth/young adults from our parish who are newly living away from home for work or post-secondary schooling (or whose studies or work prevent

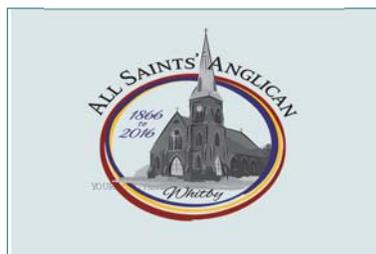
them from getting to church anymore). If you would like to participate in this ministry either by naming a possible card recipient or by making a donation, see the Sunday bulletin for more details or contact Arleane Ralph at arlyanne@hotmail.com.

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Chancel Guild: Could you help one Saturday a month with set up for Sunday services and/or clear away after services on a Sunday. If so please speak to Fr. Geoff or Sandy Clarke about joining this invisible but essential ministry.

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Shout Out to the PSC: Gratitude to our parish selection committee members for their servant hearts. This one's for you. —>



The *Saints Alive!* Editor is Arleane Ralph (arlyanne@hotmail.com).

The next issue will be available in mid-June. Submit articles or comments by June 4, 2020.