

GRACE CHURCH, MARKHAM

1846 – 2020



2020 ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT

**Vestry Meeting – On Zoom
Sunday – February 28, 2021**

Please bring this report with you to the vestry meeting

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AGENDA

Annual Vestry Meeting February 28, 2021

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
3. Adoption of Minutes of Vestry, Sunday, February 23, 2020
4. Incumbent's Remark
5. Churchwarden's Financial Report
6. Presentation and adoption of Budget 2021
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Acceptance of Annual Reports
9. Elections & Appointments 2021
10. Appointment of Signing Officers
11. Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2021
12. Other Business
13. Appreciations and Acknowledgements
14. Closing Prayers
15. Adjournment

BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2021

To our Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.



Grow! You may remember that in my letter to you last year, I invited each community to embrace the essence of our diocesan strategic plan, *Growing in Christ*. The invitation was simple...grow! Well, none of us could have imagined the scope with which we would have to adjust, change, turn, accommodate, and innovate in 2020. Almost every aspect of how we do Church would need to be transformed: from worship to administration, from pastoral care to sacramental ministry, from finance to stewarding buildings and property. On Sunday, March 15th we closed the doors of our buildings and we were jettisoned into another way of gathering and being the Church.

Parishes small and large, rural and urban turned to online worship, telephone ministry, driveway conversations, pre-recording and livestreaming. We thought we would be back in our buildings by Easter. My, how we were wrong about that. Maybe by Pentecost things would be normal again, we thought. Summer turned into fall. A partial opening under strict guidelines would give way to a second wave that would carry us through Advent and Christmas, Epiphany and now into Lent. Through it all we have learned to live outside our comfort zone and grow. Like being tossed into the deep end of the pool we are learning to swim.

The Jubilee offered by the Diocese in 2020 helped to shore up a faltering financial confidence. Many parishes report that online worship and programming is reaching a wider audience. Some parishes tell us that financial support and donations are holding steady. Clergy tell me that there is a growing trust, cooperation, and companionship with colleagues. Many parishes speak of collaborating with neighbouring communities. We have also been wrestling with how to serve those who are falling through the cracks of our social structures and safety nets, particularly those who live in precarious housing, grapple with food insecurity, mental health issues and domestic violence.

The murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 thrust us into the depths of confronting anti-black and systemic racism. Each year at vestry we ask you to consider supporting a social justice initiative. In 2021, we invite you to support the motion on [*Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism*](#). The initiatives that are outlined give all of us the opportunity to be agents of dismantling racism in all of its forms. We are called to change. Throughout this time of pandemic, we are doing more than just treading water... we are growing. I believe we are growing in trust of one another, and deeper still, in trust that God has this whole situation in hand. And trust calls us to be faithful and to be prepared.

As you gather for your vestry meeting, likely online, I want to say two things. The first is to express my profound gratitude for your faithfulness, hard work, creativity, and innovative ways thus far in this pandemic. I am thankful for the tireless leadership of our clergy; bishops, priests, and deacons. I am moved beyond words by the ministry of our lay leaders who move mountains to keep the church moving. Thank you.

The second thing is, be prepared. We hear this summons often in scripture. *In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord*, cries the prophet. *I go to prepare a place for you*, Jesus says to his disciples. *Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season* writes Paul to Timothy. As circumstances begin to change, as the vaccine begins to take a hold for the better, I hope that you will take as much time planning for a return as you did when our doors closed in March of last year. Coming back will take a special kind of care and effort. It will take time to allay fears, it will take energy to coax the community to move forward in new ways. It will take a vision steeped in the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lift the eyes and hearts of a weary people.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6.9-10

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Andrew Toronto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

AREA BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

The Right Reverend
ANDREW J. ASBIL
Bishop of Toronto



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To our clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners of York Central Deanery

Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.

It is my joy to send this personal greeting to all in York Central Deanery. After serving 45 years of ordained ministry, the last seven as Area Bishop of York Simcoe, we bade farewell to Bishop Peter Fenty as he stepped into retirement. We are deeply grateful for his leadership, pastoral care, prophetic voice and prayerful presence. As a result of his retirement and in concert with Bishop Jenny Andison becoming the next rector of St. Paul's Bloor Street, the College of Bishops is once again in transition. In early 2020, I formed the Episcopal Leadership Working Group to help guide us in imagining how episcopal ministry might be expressed for the next season of our Church. Their report will be received shortly. In the meantime, Bishops Riscylla, Kevin and I will be sharing episcopal oversight in both York Simcoe and York Credit valley for the interim...it is my joy to be serving you.

I am thankful for the creative ways that you have been exercising ministry during these pandemic days, from offering worship and programming online to staying in touch with parishioners, reaching out to the most vulnerable and keeping an eye on mission and care. Throughout these difficult times we keep in prayer clergy and laity in our area who are facing significant health challenges. We pray for their families, care givers and the medical teams who support them.

We experienced both moments of joy and sorrow, arrival and departure last year. On November 22, 2020 we celebrated the new ministry of the Reverend Lisa Newland as the Incumbent at Christ Church, Stouffville and welcomed Lisa, her husband Geoff and their children Paige and Colin. We thank the Reverend Bob Bettson for his ministry at Christ Church as the Interim Priest in Charge. At the same time, we also grieved the loss of our friends and colleagues who departed this life. We remember especially:

The Reverend Earl Gerber – Feb. 28, 2020
The Reverend Canon Jeremy Van Lane – March 4, 2020
The Reverend Katherine Treganowan – March 13, 2020
The Reverend Canon Thomas Crawford – May 4, 2020
The Reverend Sheila Ashworth – June 28, 2020
The Reverend Canon Frances Lightbourne – July 5, 2020
The Reverend Ronald Scott – July 6, 2020
The Reverend Robert (Bob) Sinclair – October 20, 2020

We continue to hold their family and friends in our prayers and we give thanks for the way they lived and served among us. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

As you gather for your annual vestry meeting, I commend to you the social justice motion *Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism*. The Diocese of Toronto will be engaging all active clergy in anti racism and bias training in

MISSION: To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody—in word and action—God's reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation—through which knowledge of God's reign is extended.

2021. We are steadfast in our commitment to eradicating racism in all its forms. We hope that you will consider how to engage in this endeavour in your parish.

I am moved beyond words by your generosity toward FaithWorks in 2020. York Central had a remarkable year. All nine parishes participated, most experiencing increased giving over 2019. As a whole, the deanery raised \$110,053. This is an increase of nearly \$51,000 over 2019. The Deanery was responsible for 53% of all funds raised in York Simcoe. Wow! Thank you for your commitment to helping the most vulnerable.

I am truly appreciative of the leadership and support of our Regional Dean, Rev. Mark Stacey for his commitment and support especially in this time of transition. Thank you to our liturgical officer, Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields for his guidance with all matters of liturgy during this pandemic year. To our Youth Coordinators, Amy de Sousa & Sarah Layman a special word of gratitude for guiding, gathering and leading our youth through a year like no other. Finally, a word of deep thanks to our Area Administrative Assistant Jennipher Kean, who helps us all to keep moving, serving and offering ministry in York Simcoe. And she does so with such joy. Thank you Jennipher.

May God bless you in your ministry in 2021.

Yours in Christ

+ Adew Toronto

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MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday, February 23, 2020

Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham, ON L3P 2E9

In attendance: See Schedule A – Attendees List

The Annual Vestry Meeting convened in the Church as part of the 10:15 a.m. service with 93 parishioners in attendance.

Opening Prayer and Call to Order

Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, Incumbent, opened the meeting with a prayer for the community and for the decisions that were to be made. The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. She began by thanking the 8:15 parishioners for coming in later and that we were here to celebrate the life of our church, to think about the things that have happened in the last year, to look at what comes forward, and most of all to give thanks for one another and for our community. She welcomed visitors and advised there was a movie running in the upper hall for children who wanted to go up. Rev. Nicola also welcomed new members and asked parishioners to engage with newcomers at the Peace or over coffee.

Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Motion: That Maria Castle be appointed Vestry Clerk. Moved by Dave Shearer and seconded by Ruth Park. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda. Moved by Reg Waterman and seconded by Ginny Bidwell. Carried unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes of Vestry, Sunday, February 10, 2019

Rev. Nicola invited comments or concerns on the minutes. Reg Waterman noted there was a typographical error otherwise no concerns.

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of Sunday, February 10, 2019 be approved. Moved by Rogers Gardham and seconded by Ginny Unsted. Carried unanimously.

Report of the Incumbent

Rev. Nicola shared a few brief words. She stated that many wonderful things had happened over the last year. The church had done lots in terms of outreach and community events. Much had been done to refresh the building which has led to more renters and people coming in and out of the building. She stated that the heart of our parish is a sense of community and a sense of family. Rev. Nicola shared that when she had first arrived at Grace and saw the building, she was a bit disappointed as she likes a traditional church, with lots of stained windows and wood, etc., but in fact it is the people who are most important, not the building. One thing she found about our building is that it feels comfortable

like a home. There are churches that she had worked in before where if she had to visit during the night, the building would creak and groan and be a little scary to enter. But she has never felt like that about Grace Church, it always feels as though she is walking into a home. So much so, that her dog also loves the church, and if he ever escapes from the Rectory, he runs straight to the church (he is therefore a holy dog).

The building feels like a home because it is the parishioners that make it feel like home, and like family. It takes many people to make a community and to make a place feel like a home. This is what happens in the Old Testament when God is making his covenant with the people of Israel. Moses gives them the rules, and the rules that God is giving them is simply that they may live together in harmonious community. God desires harmonious relationship with his people, and for them to be in relationship with one another. God calls his people to be marked by faith and by community living. He says “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind and all your strength.” Jesus paraphrases this as “Love God, love one another, love your neighbour”. This is what it basically means to be a Christian community.

In the Transfiguration when Jesus takes his friends and goes up the mountain, his friends see him in his glory and get an incredible foretaste of who Jesus is. We also see something about community. Jesus is transfigured, transformed into glory before Peter’s eyes. Peter is touched by Jesus’ glory and is transfigured himself in his own heart. Up until this time, Jesus has just been a teacher for him but suddenly he sees Jesus in a new light and his heart is transformed. He falls to his knees and wants to keep the scene the way that it is forever but eventually it has to come to an end, and they have to get up and get on with ordinary life. Jesus reaches out and lifts Peter up and tells him to come down the mountain with him. They have to carry on the work they are called to. Peter, like us, was so very human. He knew Jesus personally, he was on the Mount of Transfiguration with him and yet we know he had times when he was filled with faith and he had times when he stumbled, and he fell. He had times when he proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah and spoke up for Jesus and he had times when he was so filled with fear that he denied him. But every time, Jesus raised him up. After Jesus was resurrected, we know that Peter denied Jesus three times and yet three times Jesus asked him “Do you love me? Then feed my sheep, feed my lambs”. There is a sense that we can understand who we are with Peter because he is like us – we fall and are raised up by God, but we are also here to walk with one another through life’s ups and downs, and that is what happens in this community. Rev Nicola gave thanks for all of us.

As a community we have been through some tough times over the past couple of years. We have mourned the deaths of many loved ones. Rev. Nicola has spoken with other clergy about this loss as our Anglican churches have many elderly in our congregations. But during these times she has seen people reaching out and picking other people up when they are down, giving a hand to them, and that is what Christian community is all about.

Rev. Nicola shared that she was reading about the redwood trees in British Columbia and California. Even though they are huge, their roots do not go deep into the ground. So how do they stand up? The way they stand up is that their branches intertwine with one another and they hold one another up. This is a wonderful illustration for us of what community is. It is that we hold one another up. She thanked parishioners for making Grace the community that it is, for creating a home where people can bring their joys and sorrows, and where we can always support one another.

We have heard all sorts of doom and gloom stories about the Anglican Church being gone by 2040. The fact is, first of all it is God’s church and God can do things with God’s church that we can neither

understand nor know, so the church is in God's hands. But it is also in our hands, and Rev. Nicola believes that our church will be here if we work with God and we want it to be here. So, if we keep loving one another and we keep caring for one another, we keep sharing our faith with those around us, we keep being the Church of Christ in this community then there is no reason why our church will not be here and will not be strong in 2040 because people are always looking for community. People live isolated lives and one thing we have to offer them is faith and community and for that she gives thanks.

Rev. Nicola concluded her address to parishioners with a prayer for our community.

Churchwardens' Financial Report

Debra Conrad Knight, Warden, reviewed the financial report. She thanked everyone for attending Vestry. She said that Phyllis, the Treasurer, would review the financial reports with us, but that she wanted to give a short recap of the report that is in the Vestry Report. She said we are blessed and that we have a tremendous community at Grace. Our finances are in excellent shape and she noted that we have a surplus this year of \$39,000. This funding has been moved mainly into capital, and funds have been put aside for Rev. Nicola's sabbatical. The Youth Ministry funds have also been topped up. Yohan joined us this year to look after the youth and he received a grant from the Diocese but it is not quite sufficient, and over time the church is expected to absorb the costs of his salary for Youth Ministry.

Debra stated that the building maintenance had been interesting. As Rev. Nicola had alluded to, there had been a lot of bits and pieces by way of repairs. Repairs are continuing and very shortly new stainless steel countertops would be fitted in the kitchen, and we are also looking at some repairs outside. After the kitchen countertops have been installed, there will be a pause because we had received notification that the engineer would be visiting to do an inspection of the church and the rectory. Often when an official engineer's inspection has been conducted, there are repairs to be made. This thorough inspection happens every 10 years. In the last report there was notice that the electrical panels would have to be replaced so it is expected they will come up again considering their age. It will probably mean significant rewiring in the church which could be a costly endeavour, so there will be a pause on further repairs until the engineer's report is received, which should be around June.

Debra indicated this was her second year as warden and she thinks the parishioners are wonderful people, always providing help as required.. On behalf of the warden team, this was greatly appreciated. She stated that the warden team are just a small part of Grace Church because there are many others who volunteer. She referred everyone to page 12 of the Vestry Report to see the names of folks who give up their time to help. Many people help including the Altar Guild, the Cemetery team, the Sunday school, and the list goes on.

Debra spoke to the income streams that the church needs and she thanked everyone for their continuing generosity through givings and through talent. Having refreshed the building, the church was getting significantly more rental requests, which is good. When a rental request is received, there is a process. Anyone renting at the church is required to have insurance, the Diocese is very clear about this and details can be found on their website. The warden team with Rev. Nicola are focussing on low impact rentals. This year yoga was added six days a week. The regular rentals continued: SOS Kids, Boy Scouts, Pathfinders, GCMNS, and the church is starting to bring in other people as well. This all helps to generate income which allows for the continuation of ministry in the community and to support changes and repairs to the building. If anyone is interested in renting the upper hall for a function, they should contact Debra or the office to let us know and we will do what we can to assist you. One of the

biggest changes and challenges this year has been to bring more people into our space, to see our church, and to use the facility and that has been working out really well.

Debra gave an update on City Park Development. A severance agreement had been signed and the Committee of Adjustments will meet on March 4. We expect there to be no issue and that the little daylighting triangle piece will be transferred over to City Park. There is still no knowledge of when construction will start, or when the exchange of services for that piece of land will occur; that is, when the Rectory will finally come off septic, when the driveway will get graded and paved, and a number of other things that will get done. The church will keep everyone posted as things get under way, although no doubt everyone will know when some large piece of equipment arrives. The servicing must go in first before any construction can be done.

The last part of the report is about Rev. Nicola's sabbatical. It will start at the beginning of May and go until the end of July, when she will join Yohan and the Youth Group on the trip to the Yukon. She will get fully underway back at the church in September. Rev. Nicola has found a priest, Rev. Canon John Wilton, who will cover most of her leave. She will arrange for John Wilton to come and meet the parish before she leaves. He will be joining Grace for three months with continuing assistance from Rev. Millie Hope.

On behalf of the warden team, Peter Castle, Martin Bufton and Dover Wynn and herself, Debra thanked everyone for their time, talent and treasure, and turned over to Phyllis to do the "interesting part".

Phyllis Doherty – Financial Reports:

Some people seemed confused about the report that was handed out with the bulletins. That document is the draft audited statements. The actual Vestry Report contains all the reports that Debra was referring to and could be found on the table outside the office, and this is the document she will be talking about. She addressed several reports, starting with the summary of all the numbers. Total income for the year was \$318,000 against a budget of \$290,000, \$28,000 above budget. Transfer in from funds: there is a fund to put aside money to pay for family ministry, church ministry, and youth ministry and funds were transferred in for that. Total income for the year is \$321,000 against a budget of \$294,000. \$26,000 above budget. Expenses: \$281,000 against a budget of \$294,000 (numbers are rounded off). We are below budget by \$12,000. The \$39,000 figure is the number Debra referred to that was transferred to capital, sabbatical and youth ministry funds. After transfers there is net \$628 against budget of \$682, almost right on budget.

Breakdown of income: envelopes were ahead of budget, special seasons was just slightly below, groups and events were very healthy - \$16,000 against \$14,750. Building use has been very busy \$29,242 against \$25,000, so \$3,800 above budget. Subtotal of income \$318,000 against \$290,000. Total income: \$321,000 against \$294,026.

Breakdown of expenses: Overall below budget. However, one of the things Debra addressed was the painting and the extra things that were done concerning church maintenance. Church maintenance is \$10,000 over budget, but it was money well spent to keep up the building. Lay staff: for this year, we did not know whether or not we would have to pay for the secretarial position or whether it would continue to have a volunteer so being a responsible church, we actually budgeted for it even though we did not end up spending, so that is why we have got a negative. Everything else on the report is in and out in little bits and is covered. At the end of the day, we ended up being \$12,000 under budget. If

you look at the over budget on the income funds, less expenses, that gives us the \$39,000 that we judiciously put aside for capital and ministry funds.

Funds: Capital fund is at \$36,000, this does not include the \$30,000 that we put aside so capital fund is actually \$66,000. The Memorial Fund, as a result of the deaths of a number of members this year, has increased to \$11,000. \$17,000 funding for our ministry, for our church school, for family ministry, and for youth ministry. We also have \$10,456, which is a combination of the funds that have been raised for the trip to the Yukon plus deposits for the trip itself, so we are at \$10,000 and in good shape. We wanted to raise \$10,000 and managed to hit that target this year.

Draft audited statements: We decided that we needed to go elsewhere this year regarding our auditor, to see if we could get a better rate for doing our auditing. We did find a new person, although for this initial year it is going to be about the same as our other auditors, going forward now that he has got everything established, we will save significant money by having made this change. The new auditor is Jeffrey D. Milgram, Professional Corporation. They basically say the same thing as the last auditor did in the audited opinion (as it does for any charity with donations). It is a qualified opinion, but it does say that we have done a good job in tracking our donations and in tracking our finances.

Motion: To accept the draft audited statements. Moved by Phyllis Doherty and seconded by Mike Clare. Carried unanimously.

Budget for 2020: Total income budget is put in at \$295,000. The reason why that is lower is that we had a special giving and have taken that out of envelopes, so we have put in a lower proposed budget. For expenses, we have again included funds for a secretary not knowing going through this year if we will end up having to pay for a secretary. Envelopes we have budgeted at \$215,000. It is a slight increase, but we take out the special giving and then increase from there. Special seasons, flower contributions and Open have left about the same. We have put in a significant increase in building use for this year because of the requests that we are receiving. We are also raising our rent for the nursery school a little bit and looking to get a larger amount of total rental income at \$36,000. Other income is basically from the Diocese in that the \$5,000 included a couple of special things that was taken out. So, anything that was unusual was removed from the actual numbers before the budget was done. Total income of \$295,000 for 2020.

Expenses for 2020: Payments for clergy, lay staff (including secretary). church utilities have been increased slightly, gas charges are slightly lower because of the new boiler. Church maintenance at \$43,000 for 2019, \$33,000 for the 2020 budget. Removed painting costs because it is a one-time expense. Rectory costs, office expenses, bank charges and everything else is about the same except for the Diocesan allotment. We had a good surprise from the Diocese when we got our notification of allotment for 2020. They reduced our allotment so instead of \$49,000 it came in at \$44,000 for 2020. This brings total expenses to \$295,729.

In summary, we are looking at 216 as a responsible surplus for the 2020 year.

Motion: To approve 2020 budget. Moved by Phyllis Doherty and seconded by Glenn Park. Carried unanimously.

Motion: Acceptance of Jeffrey D. Milgram, Professional Corporation as the 2020 auditor. Moved by Phyllis Doherty and seconded by Mike Clare. Carried unanimously.

Parochial Reports

Rev. Nicola asked if there were any questions or queries about any of the reports. No questions were asked. There was one observation that the World Day of Prayer Event is at the Baptist Church on Friday, March 1 at 6:30 pm. Rev. Nicola thanked everyone who wrote reports.

Motion: To accept the mission and ministry reports for 2019. Moved by Mandy Galloway and seconded by Jane Graham. Passed unanimously.

Appointments and Elections 2020

There were no changes to the Warden Team this year. As mentioned, Maria has agreed to continue working for the church as a volunteer. Looking at the elections: if there is anyone else who would like to be elected to the Advisory Board now would be the time to say. We do need to have an alternate for Synod. We did have alternates before, but Synod always clashes with the Bazaar which means that the women of the church who were alternates did not really want to be the alternate. Rev. Nicola asked if there was anyone who would like to go to Synod in case Rodgers or Carolyn could not make it. Reg Waterman was unanimously nominated as an alternate. A review of the list of Elections and Appointments for 2020.

Elections for 2020

People's Warden
Deputy Warden
Lay Delegates to Synod

Substitute Lay Delegate
Advisory Board Members at Large

Peter Castle
Dover Wynn
Rogers Gardham
Carolyn Stephenson
Reg Waterman
Mike Clare
Moira Krempulec
Fred Sheehy

Appointments for 2020

Rector's Warden
Deputy Warden
Treasurer
Envelope Secretary
Advisory Board Members at Large

Cemetery Board

Debra Conrad-Knight
Martin Bufton
Phyllis Doherty
Jean Carpenter
Dave Kelso
Adlin McFarlane
Phyllis Tyrie
Bob Baird
David Ashley
Jack White

Ministry Leader Reps to Advisory Board

ACW
Altar Guild
Audio Visual Team
Coffee Hour
FaithWorks
Knitting Guild
Lay Pastoral Visitors
Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers

Elizabeth Langdale
Linell Curr
Mike Clare
Nicole Laxton
Charles Herriot
Karen McCarthy
Jean Hoover
Jean Carpenter

Readers' Guild
Screening Coordinator
Sides People
Sunday School
Winchesters
Youth Leaders

Valerie Chatland
Ginny Bidwell
Ruth Park
Lianne McQuat
Marilyn Tunnicliff
Yohan Dumpala

Motion: To accept Elections and Appointments. Moved by Ann Murphy and seconded by Mignonette Davis. Carried unanimously.

Rev. Nicola reminded everyone that when we do have an Advisory Board meeting if you would like to come and are interested in taking part in the discussions, please do turn up because that is a way of knowing what is going on in church.

Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2020

The Vestry Motion that was proposed this year by Synod is "Taking action on Climate Change". The reports contained interesting and useful information. Scientists tell us that if we do not scale back our carbon footprint in the next ten years, the effects on planet Earth will be dire. Rev Nicola was speaking with John Wilton who had just got back from Ethiopia. He said in a population of 100 million people, 80 million are subsistence farmers. Imagine how climate change will affect people in nations where people are subsistence farmers. It is about being neighbours and caring for one another. What we do impacts people all around the world, and what they do impacts us. Rather than saying it is someone else's responsibility, we are being urged by the Diocese and by our governments to take responsibility in ways that we can. There is a list of things in our report that the Diocese has suggested, and we have picked out a few that are achievable that we can do, and can add more to this Vestry Motion if there are suggests.

Suggestions included eliminating or reducing our use of single use plastics. We had actually made a motion to do that at this church. There is still plastic lingering in the ACW cupboards, so ACW ladies were asked to please use them. We promised Marian Kenny that we would stop using them and we have not bought any more. A reminder that we cannot use Styrofoam in the church, so we ask that for any events please do not bring it to the church. Joan Bufton suggested training outside people who use our kitchens as much of the plastic left is left behind by rental groups who donate the left over products.

As reported in the Economist & Sun, we are planning to plant a community garden. Dave Ophek who is married to Nicole who normally does our coffee for us, is heading up a community garden and will be using part of the land behind the church. It has been really interesting since the article in the newspaper, that all kinds of people in the community have come forward to be involved and to help with it. There is a subgroup that will be doing some experimental gardening. Everything that is grown will be going back to the community. Rev. Nicola will be liaising with Phyllis about giving to the food bank, taking food to nursing homes, and it really will be a community outreach project that involves not only people in this church but also people in the wider community. We also have connections with the new Catholic church being built who have four acres of land on 16th Avenue that will be used to start a community garden, so they will be working with us as well. It will turn into a kind of ecumenical Markham project within time. Please bring in to church cardboard egg boxes and mason jars with lids so they can start growing seedlings to give.

Another suggestion made was planting trees in memory of loved ones. There are places on the property that we could plant some trees if we wanted to. It is a way of remembering people and giving thanks for them.

Rev. Nicola stated other suggestions through the year could be added to this Vestry Motion as we are always open to suggestions. Someone suggested fundraising events and Rev. Nicola invited any suggestions for fundraising to be forwarded to her. This year we had Robbie Burns night and those funds were given to people in need. A suggestion was made to install air dryers in the bathrooms instead of paper, this would reduce paper wastage. Also, a suggestion for a medicine wheel garden, Nicola asked that the information be given to Dave to incorporate into the gardens. It would contain First Nations herbs and plants. Another suggestion was to carpool to the church to reduce the number of cars on the road.

Motion: To support the Vestry Motion for 2020 and notify the Diocese of the things we have agreed to. Moved by Ruth Park and seconded by Olga Ingram. Carried unanimously.

General Business

Rev. Nicola thanked everyone. Salaried staff were thanked and gifts were given to most eminent volunteers. Thank you gifts were given to: Jean Carpenter (our wonderful Envelope Secretary), Debra Conrad-Knight (Rector's Warden and most organized person on the planet), Maria and Peter (People's Warden and Office Secretary - couple extraordinaire), Phyllis Doherty (Treasurer par excellence - it's a big job), Martin Bufton, Dover Wynn (Deputy Wardens) and Canon Millie Hope (assists Priest). Rev Nicola also thanked the Lay Readers, Choir, Sunday School, Altar Guild, ACW, Ginny Bidwell, Moira Krempulec, Father Ted and to so many people who contribute to the life of Grace.

Valerie Chatland thanked Rev. Nicola on behalf of the congregation, both the people in attendance and absent members. It takes a lot of time and a lot of energy and the parish is grateful for her pastoral care, her leadership, her direction and regarding putting a map on the wall, it could be like Where's Waldo but it should be a Where's Rev. Nicola, because when Valerie is around Markham people always share such wonderful stories about her visits with them. And because of the busyness, the commitment and for everything she does for us, the parish is sincerely grateful. Valerie also extended thanks to Rev. Nicola's family, to Tim, Noah and Olivia, for sharing the Rev. with the parish.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn. Moved by Ginny Bidwell. Carried unanimously.

SCHEDULE A

ATTENDANCE LIST

Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner
Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner
Debra Conrad-Knight
Peter Castle
Martin Bufton
Dover Wynn
Phyllis Doherty
Jean Carpenter

Beth Arden
Bob Baird
Carol Baird
Cheryl Barbeau
David Beckingham
George Beckingham
Diane Belair
Virginia Bidwell
Wayne Bidwell
Vera Brown
Ted Briffett
Joan Bufton
Anne Carrier
Jessica Carrington
Maria Castle
Kathryn Wakely Clare
Mike Clare
Erva Clarke
Valerie Chatland
Diana Daniel
Gracelyn Dottin
Aaron Dumpala
Yohan Dumpala
Mandy Galloway
Pat Gardham
Rogers Gardham
Jane Graham
Nicola Griffith
Helen Hamilton
Mignonette Hanchard-Davis
Pam Harrinandon
Audrey Hayle
Rose Henry
Charles Herriot

Patricia Hinds
Mary Anne Hockin
Millie Hope
Olga Ingram
Moiria Krempulec
Elizabeth Langdale
Judy Leslie
Paul Masaba
Gale May
Elizabeth McEwan
Adlin McFarlane
Marianne Milligan
Carol Mohammed
Moe Mohammed
Clare Mount
David Mount
Ann Murphy
Michael Norris
Glenn Park
Ruth Park
Steve Pitman
Roxanne Phillips
Caroline Pope
Anthony Schultz
Copie Senior
Joy Senior
David Shearer
Katherine Shearer
Fred Sheehy
Chris Shim
Nancy Shim
Tim Skinner
Elizabeth Smallwood
Mari Stoneman
Craig Sugden
Gertrude Taylor
Peter Taylor
Phyllis Tyrie
Virginia Unsted
Liz Valladares-Pereira
Paul Vesilovsky
Ken Waddington
Maggie Waddington

Wasanthi Warnakulsuriya
Alan Webber
Jennifer Webber
Russ Weeks
Pauline Wells
Emily Walsh
Reginald Waterman
Leslie White
May Zhang

February 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

I imagine that in years to come, new priests at Grace Church might possibly look at this Vestry Report to see exactly how we managed during the pandemic of 2020 – 2021. This year will have impacted the church (local and national) both positively and negatively, and in ways yet to unfold. Yet despite not knowing how long this will continue, I hope we can still say that we have seen the goodness of God at work amongst us.

The beginning of 2020 started as could be expected in an ordinary year. The first 11 weeks contained all the usual activities of our common life, such as church services in church, on a Sunday morning (imagine that!?), Sunday school, youth group, Lunch with Grace, Bible Study and so on. Some highlights included a sold-out Robbie Burns night which was a welcome lift to the winter blues, and a successful Mardi Gras pancake supper. Our youth group had been visiting different faith groups and along with other interested parishioners attended the lovely Family Shabbat service at Temple Har Zion.

When the reality of the pandemic hit us in mid-March and we were mandated into lockdown, we had to find new ways to do ministry. For the first couple of weeks, we asked folk to watch the service that was being broadcast from St James Cathedral whilst we worked on a plan. By Palm Sunday we were up and running with our own short, recorded services. We put out daily video reflections, and in April started a weekly Hymnsing on Zoom, which really became its own supportive community and morphed into a service of Compline with Hymns. I am profoundly grateful to our Music Director Aaron and his brother Yohan for all their enthusiasm and support in providing both the music and the technical skills needed for the task. One of the benefits that we discovered with Zoom is that we are able to include folks who are normally unable to come to church, and for a couple of people this has been a chance to become a real part of the Grace Community.

In terms of pastoral care, we formed a phoning system so that everybody in the parish would receive a check-in to see how they were doing, and we drew up a list of those most in need of care that Jean Hoover and myself would take responsibility for. We had a long list of protocols to follow and have continued to take good care when performing our pastoral duties. I am very grateful to our Parish Nurse for her incredible work and support in this area, which is always busy.

Easter was the strangest in my lifetime and probably yours also. We delivered gift baskets to all of our Sunday school children, filled with themed crafts, goodies and chocolate. Our shut-ins or those without internet received Lent booklets and chocolate. In Holy Week we put out a series of Reflections written from the point of view of those with Jesus during his last days, and we joined the Cathedral worship for the Triduum. Afterwards we continued to produce a short, pre-recorded Sunday service and all learned how to use iMovie., Zoom and prepared the church with the necessary equipment for livestreaming on re-opening.

Over the months, I cannot praise the Church Wardens enough for their diligence in making sure that the church operated within all of the Provincial and Diocesan guidelines. They were deluged with information, and what seems like the ‘new normal’ to everyone, began with a lot of groundwork.

Cleaning was ramped up, disinfecting supplies were brought in, screening protocols established, and the sanctuary was decorated with painter's tape arrows and 'stand here' marks ready for worship. It was very exciting to re-open on September 13 and celebrate Holy Communion again, albeit with limited numbers and very stringent rules. The weather cooperated for a few weeks, allowing us to have a second service in the car park at noon, up until Thanksgiving. We also managed some small meetings, a couple of craft nights and some evening candlelit prayer services, before we were unfortunately shut down once more. This time we were prepared!

In September, Andrew Colman arrived as our Curate, having been ordained in May in a moving, if slightly strange looking ordination service at the Cathedral, which had the optics of a Papal Mass crossed with a Venetian masked ball. Rev. Andrew has started his ordained life in most unusual circumstances with the added difficulty of having to get to know people with masks on or over the phone – not an easy task. Nevertheless, he has embarked on the work cheerfully and with gusto, taking on the Zoom Sunday School, leading Bible studies, starting a chess club, and becoming tech helper to numerous people, as well as all the usual tasks related to worship. Andrew also began to work with Aaron, and as a fellow musician took interest in the music studio that Aaron had received a grant for. His friendship with a music producer led to the scope of the studio enlarging from a small booth to a whole room, which has proved a blessing to the choir and music programme and which has already attracted interest from local musicians and music groups. Much more will be mentioned in Aaron and Andrew's reports. We know that even once we return fully to in-person worship we will still need to continue to offer livestreamed/recorded worship, and we now have the facility to do so.

We started a walking group in September that meets on Mondays to walk the trails, meeting the need to get outside for some exercise and see other people. I expect that this will be a permanent fixture post COVID. Our youth have met all year long with our Youth Minister, Yohan, who quickly transitioned to Zoom meetings. Sadly, both their Confirmation and their much-anticipated visit to Dawson City, Yukon were put on hold. The monies for the Yukon trip have been set aside so that the same group can go in 2022. We doubt that 2021 will be a possibility. The Youth group DID have fun filming the Christmas Pageant, each from their own home. It was a lot of work but thoroughly enjoyed by all who saw it. The pregnant Virgin Mary enjoying her ice cream and pickles was a comedic touch! Hopefully more videos will follow.

The end of the year included collecting and delivering Santa Sacks to Moorelands as always, and a Virtual Bazaar that Wendy Dottin and Lianne McOuat ran for the ACW. It was a big challenge to set up and run online, but they did a great job and proved it to be possible for Anglicans to change! We have all had to be flexible and come up with fresh ideas. At the end of November we enjoyed a wonderful celebration with Bishop Peter Fenty on his very last day before retirement. It was a real privilege to have him choose to be at Grace Church with us on Zoom. In December we spent time Christmas packages to the Sunday School and also delivering gifts to those who are elderly, living alone, or just in need of a pick-me-up. Amica Swan Lake donated 20 huge gift baskets to us for this purpose and we made up other packages for delivery. The tasty Turkey Dinner in December, thanks to Janet and Ian Rodger was a success, and the car park pick-up worked very well. And then there were the Christmas services: we opted to keep it simple but foster community by holding the services on Zoom, with two on Christmas Eve, and one on Christmas morning that would end in time for those who wished to tune in to the Cathedral afterwards. Zoom is not for everyone but it is a way for us to see each other and to keep community going. On that basis we have now tightened up the Zoom service with a powerpoint with videos and music embedded so that it runs smoothly and lasts about 40 minutes. A shorter version of our service is be made available for those who prefer to watch on Youtube afterwards.

This has certainly not been the easiest of years. We have watched our local community battle with the virus down the road at Markhaven and Participation House long term care facilities. We have had beloved members of our community die (not from COVID-19) and not be able to hold the kinds of celebrations for them that we would expect to. We have all had to contend with the inability to see and hug loved ones and grandchildren, or to travel to see family abroad. Those who live alone have had loneliness intensified, and many who used to spend more time at work have had to adjust to being indoors with family all day. We have all had to learn to be flexible, to entertain ourselves and to take life one day at a time so that the length of this pandemic does not overwhelm us. We have also spent the past year on the rollercoaster ride of American politics and perhaps the time has come for us all to spend less time on CNN and more time on CBC.

On a very positive note, we have seen people care for each other in wonderful ways this past year. Grace folk have called each other, visited when possible, donated to Faithworks, Moorelands, the homeless at All Saints Sherborne St and Holy Trinity Eaton Square and the Foodbank. Some of you have tirelessly sewn masks and knitted blankets. You have been there for one another on the phone and online. It is a joy to see your faces on Zoom calls or to hear your voices if your cameras are off. You have continued to support the church financially and that has been an incredible blessing in a very difficult year. God is at work in you and through you and for that I give thanks always for this wonderful and Spirit-filled community.

I must end with another thank you to the whole team; Jean, Debra, Peter, Phyllis, Maria, Dover, Martin, Aaron, Yohan and Rev. Andrew. It has taken a group effort this year to make the pivoting possible. We are still learning and still trying to find new ways to connect as the pandemic rolls on. We offer huge thanks also to the Diocese and Bishop Andrew for the financial help that each parish received in 2020. With zero rental income, all parishes were hit hard. The swift and generous action of the Diocese is greatly appreciated. The opportunity to worship at the Cathedral online also gave us a chance to come together as a Diocese in a new and unifying way, and gave the laity a chance to get to know the various Bishops. Please pray for the whole Diocese and our brothers and sisters in Christ as we journey on as Christian communities, and for all who work to bring this pandemic to an end.

Psalm 23 is known to us all. We sing it to various tunes, we recite it at funerals, on Good Shepherd Sunday, and whenever we need to be reminded of the nearness and love of God. May the truth of this beloved Psalm be in your heart and mind as we keep on going in 2021. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want."

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Canon Nicola Skinner

September 1st, 2020 was first day of my time serving at Grace Anglican Church, Markham. Though this report only accounts for three months at Grace it has been an eventful time. Needless to say that beginning a ministry during the COVID 19 pandemic lockdown has been a challenge. The leadership team, however, has been more than helpful in guiding me in getting to know the parishioners and the lay of the parish.

It was immediately obvious to me that pastoral care is of primary importance at Grace, Markham and I was brought into that as soon as I started. I had the pleasure to talk with many of you over the phone and zoom. A for a brief month or so to see you in person at church. That said, the online worship at Grace has been some of the most vital that I have seen or attended. The Thursday evening hymnsing that I have had the opportunity to lead on many occasions has been a joy to take part in.

One ministry initiative that I had not anticipated is the chess club. Craig Sugden tapped me on the shoulder and suggested that we see if there was interest in other parishioners in playing chess. As it turned out, there was. For about six weeks we met in person at the church, each player having their own board staying six feet apart calling out their moves so the other player could move the pieces on their board. Each week we had between six to eight players with a total participation of around ten separate people. The chess club has continued each week online though in much smaller numbers. I anticipate this will be a serious opportunity for ministry when the lockdown is lifted and it is safe to play in person once again.

Very shortly after my beginning at Grace, I was introduced to the Parkway Studio Ministry that was began by the music director Aaron Dumpala through a diocesan reach grant. I was asked to add my musical history and connections to see what I could do to help with the ministry project. My arrival at Grace coincided with the basement facilities vacating.

One of the recent contacts that I made at the end of my time at Christ Church Deer Park was James Finnerty, who happens to be a professional engineer and studio designer. When asked if he would offer some assistance with the studio, he informed me that he would be delighted as he had a previous connection to the church including the last curate The Rev. Ken McClure. At the end of November, we embarked on building a budget for an expanded studio ministry project. Upon review of the budget, the wardens agreed that the expanded ministry would be a significant way of investing in the community and giving the church a significant and relevant tool to do outreach and ministry to the un-churched and de-churched.

Due to COVID, the construction was both sped up because of the open schedule of the church. Also slowed because of disrupted supply of equipment. That said our projected first recording date of December 18, 2020, happened on schedule. Since then, according to COVID guidelines, the studio has been in constant use making recordings for worship services. We have had both congregation members and non-congregation members creating music and the bridges into the community are already being built. There are also some digital collaborations happening in Markham, Manitoba and Alberta as a direct result of for Parkway Studio Ministry outreach.

Respectfully submitted.
The Rev. Andrew Colman

**Churchwarden's 2020 Report
2020 Annual Report to Vestry on February 28, 2021**

Churchwarden Team

Martin Bufton, Deputy Warden
Dover Wynn, Deputy Warden

Peter Castle, People's Warden
Debra Conrad-Knight, Rector's Warden

2020 has been defined by COVID and the changes it made to the way we live, work, play, learn and worship. When the first lockdown occurred in March 2020, we received directions from the Diocese regarding safety protocols for staff, parishioners and anyone else entering the Church, as well as protocols for worship, outreach, pastoral care, rentals, building access, etc. Those directions formed the framework for how Grace Church responded to the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, the Diocese of Toronto continues to provide weekly updates to Churches through an online Q & A. This format has allowed churches and warden teams to share experiences, keep up with the government and public health protocols, ask questions, and receive timely answers from the Diocese. With this in mind, how has Grace Church fared? Overall, well.

Rentals

In late March, we cancelled all rentals and no longer accepted any monies for rental agreements. Although we had hoped that COVID would be under control by September, it quickly became apparent that would not occur. Consequently, we have not re-opened for rentals nor received any rental income since April 2020.

Grace Church Markham Nursery School

GCMNS operated in Grace Church from 1963 – 2020. What began as an extension of Sunday school for church families later became a separately incorporated nursery school with a morning program that followed Ministry of Education guidelines.

During COVID, we have been faced with some very challenging issues with regard to the nursery school and ongoing use of space. In order to continue to provide space for GCMNS and maintain the health and safety guidelines provided by the Province, the Ministry of Education, York Region Public Health, and the Diocese of Toronto, it became apparent that costly changes and enhancements would need to be made to the lower hall. Consequently, the Church Corporation felt that the ongoing use of shared space and the liability issues associated with GCMNS were no longer sustainable. After a few months of difficult discussions, the Church Corporation gave the GCMNS Board all of the assets of the nursery school, financial and physical, so that they might look for single use space in another location.

GCMNS had a great number of years supported by Grace Church and we are grateful for the happy memories provided to many people in our congregation and in the neighbourhood. Going forward, we will use our lower hall rooms for new ministry.

Revenue

We continue to be thankful for the generosity of our parishioners who have continued to provide regular contributions. When lockdown started, givings occurred through envelopes left in the drop box and online through Canada Helps. PAR continued uninterrupted. In late fall, we were able to setup the ability to accept etransfers and many parishioners are regularly using this method. Your givings allowed us to make some needed repairs and, most importantly, support the vision and outreach work of Reverend

Nicola and her team. In addition, we thank The Diocese of Toronto for establishing a three-month Jubilee for churches. Phyllis Doherty, our treasurer, will provide more detail on this and our overall financial status.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the ACW for their welcome contribution to general operations after a very successful virtual Bazaar. Thank you also to Janet Rodger for providing the Turkey Tuesday curbside pickup experience.

Worship

The Warden's group is responsible for supporting the Incumbent's vision for the Church and oversight of financial matters. To support worship, the Warden Team approved funds for the purchase of technology to live-stream worship services, funerals, recording of music, the preparation of the Christmas pageant, etc. We also approved the purchase of a zoom licence for the Church to support the various groups that continued to be active during the pandemic such as Bible Study, Advent Study, Chess Club, Thursday night Hymnsing, monthly Warden's meetings, and many other initiatives organized by Reverend Nicola and her team.

In March, services were recorded and posted. With support from Aaron and Yohan Dumpala, we learned to live-stream services. That was a leap of faith and it worked. In September, Grace Church welcomed Reverend Andrew. He has been a welcome addition to the team. In November with COVID numbers rising, we were told to close again. With Rev. Andrew's help, the Worship team was able to pivot quickly, leverage the technology, and expand their learning again to ensure that Christmas services occurred.

Facilities Maintenance

Peter Castle and Dave Shearer worked diligently throughout the spring, summer and early fall making several needed repairs. Please read Peter Castle's report regarding the repairs made at our church.

Health & Safety Protocols

In late June, the Diocese issued their Red and Amber protocols for reopening churches in September, if possible. The Wardens, Ruth Park, Sidespeople Coordinator, Jean Hoover, Parish Nurse, Rev. Nicola and Rev. Andrew developed a plan to reopen our church for in-person worship with all safety protocols in place. On Sunday, September 13, we successfully returned to in-person worship, inside and outside. Inside Sunday services definitely looked different and were limited to 30-35 people, registration was required, records for contact tracing maintained, masks mandatory, temperature check before entering, physical distancing in place, sanitizer everywhere, changes to communion, etc. Outside services were well attended and also included preregistration and followed all safety protocols.

Since enhanced cleaning measures have become the norm, and our church cleaning contract was up for renewal, we interviewed several cleaning companies before choosing to remain with the existing company. We also instituted a Sanitizing Checklist to be completed by the Wardens and Worship team at the end of all services. The enhanced cleaning and other COVID protocols ensure the health and safety of everyone.

Your ongoing support of Grace Church is sincerely appreciated. On behalf of the Warden Team, we look forward to welcoming everyone back when we can safely return to in-person worship once again.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Conrad-Knight
Rector's Warden

Vestry Report 2020

2020 has been a strange and wonderful year for Music here at Grace Markham. It has been such a pleasure to work with a group of hard-working and talented vocalists amidst all the COVID-19 chaos. I am of course talking about our wonderful Grace Markham Choir! At the beginning of this past year, we were on track to expanding our repertoire and exploring new styles. The beauty of this particular group of people is that there is a genuine passion and love for music. They are always eager to learn and enter the conversation when it comes to new challenges. This is what continues to make my time here even more exciting. I will always remember 2020, not because of the horrible pandemic, but rather because of our new Choir member total. Twenty!

During our first, and hopefully last, summer in lockdown. We had to reinvent the way we looked at the music program. As an experiment, I invited members of our Parish to participate in a musical recording project alongside Rev. Ken and Becca McClure. We were able to record 'Amazing Grace' remotely with over 10 people, and this had really proved that there was still a way to enjoy worship together. The pandemic limitations that we were under, now seemed to slowly melt away. The project ended up being a complete success with the final-cut video now available on our YouTube page. We also began a weekly Compline Hymn-sing service every Thursday at 7:00 pm. This allowed the congregation to still partake in singing favourite hymns from the comfort and safety of their own homes. As this is done over ZOOM, it is lovely to see the smiles on everyone's faces just from enjoying fellowship with each other and allowing ourselves to laugh in a time like this.

Grace Markham has been a loud example of how an intergenerational community can continue to grow. I always look back to when I was taken in, by all of you, five years ago at the age of 18. Being a firsthand witness to this warm welcome sparked the idea of a recording studio. A place where not only Choir members can come weekly to record their voices for Sunday worship, but also for musicians/artists, regardless of age, to come to explore their own gifts and share them with the church. As mentioned in last year's Vestry, we were awarded a grant to build a recording studio in the church itself. It is with great pleasure that I can finally announce that Grace Markham is now the proud custodian of The Parkway Av. Studio recording facility. With the timely entrance of Rev. Andrew Colman and studio designer/engineer James Finnerty, alongside many of the Grace community who spent long hours building the studio from the ground up, the Parkway Av. Studio welcomed its first guests in early November. When we approached the Christmas season, this studio served as an incredible solution and blessing. All of the musical items were either, recorded in the studio or done with the recording equipment purchased. It was wonderful, come Christmas Eve, to showcase a somewhat normal service and forget about reality for a few hours.

2021 has already been a brighter year, with numerous exciting projects underway and many more to come! Thank you again for all the love and support shown towards me, I have always been proud to say that I belong to the Grace Markham family.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Dumpala
Music Director

GRACE CHURCH ,MARKHAM
ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S REPORT TO VESTRY FOR FEBRUARY 2021
(REPORT FOR JANUARY 1- DECEMBER 31, 2020)

RECEIPTABLE INCOME	2018	2019	2020
General	235,291.86	242,874.21	232,384.75
Capital	15,438.50	14,995.00	14,586.50
Faith Works	19,717.00	12,076.00	10,710.00
Special Seasons	21,754.00	18,375.16	11,935.00
ACW	* * *	75.00	100.00
Flowers	1,410.00	1,340.00	675.00
Food Bank	100.00	100.00	50.00
Memorial Fund	5,860.00*	10,136.59*	2,155.00*
Outreach	250.00	965.00	70.00
PWRDF	640.00	6,831.00	1,130.00
Rector's Discretionary	100.00	* * *	1,500.00
Refugee Fund	255.00	* * *	* * *
Youth Ministry	772.00	3,345.00	585.00
Miscellaneous	* * *	* * *	4,840.00**
TOTAL	301,588.36	311,112.96	280,721.25

*2018 - \$900.00 in Memorial Fund was designated Memorial Trust Fund

*2019 - \$600.00 in Memorial Fund was designated memorial Trust Fund

*2020 - \$900.00 in memorial Fund was designated Memorial Trust Fund

** - Miscellaneous Funds consist of funds designated to Ashworth Fund, Beirut Relief, Black Anglicans, and Parish Faithworks.

F.Y.I. Contributions made through pre-authorized remittance are included in the above reported income. The Administration Fees charged to the church were \$224.56.

Also additional contributions, because of Covid-19, were made through Canada Helps. These donations are receipted by Canada Helps and are therefore not included in the above.

ENVELOPE STATISTICS	2018	2019	2020
Contributors using Church Offering Envelopes	162	160	144
Contributors using PAR	26	27	30
Regular contributors not using envelopes or PAR	26	31	27
TOTAL REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS	214	218	201

Official Tax Receipts for 2020 will be issued in February 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jean Carpenter, Envelope Secretary

CANADA HELPS: We now have approximately 15 regular identifiable givers on this programme.

REPORTS

PARISH NURSE AND LAY PASTORAL VISITORS

This report for 2020 is like no other as my practice as a Parish Nurse was totally different than other years. The year started out with visiting parish members in their home, in hospital and enjoying coffee and lunch with many. Then the month of March, April, and May pretty much kept me at home. I spent that time writing notes to all of the parish and using the old standby, the phone. In total 209 letters or cards were sent out last year.

Once Ontario opened up a little, I was back to visiting some on your porches, coffee and lunches in canopy restaurants. The year also was one that my nursing assessment skills were used often as maneuvering health care was a challenge for some. By year-end I had made approximate 139 visits.

One activity I did enjoy as well, was the Monday morning walks. This gave me quality time with you.

As Christmas dawned, I assisted with putting some Christmas hampers together.

The workshop “Is it the Cold, Flu or COVID-19” was presented.

My education was primarily reading articles by CAPNM and the College of Nurses.

In conclusion, I want to compliment all the Parish for your diligence in daily protocol for your protection against COVID-19. You all show great resilience.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hoover RN Parish Nurse

Grace Anglican Church 2020 Income Statement Review				
	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	Year to Date Var to Budget	2021 Annual Budget
Weeks	52	52		52
Average Env./Week	4,968	4,487		4,731
<u>INCOME</u>				
Envelopes	246,314	215,074	31,240	225,985
Special Seasons	12,010	18,225	(6,215)	20,041
Flower Contributions	675	1,340	(665)	400
Open Contributions	1,275	5,128	(3,853)	5,128
Groups and Events	8,090	16,000	(7,910)	16,000
Building Use	6,998	36,216	(29,217)	5,600
Diocesan Assistance	49,270	-	49,270	55,500
Other Income	12,721	3,962	8,759	6,013
Sub-Total Income	337,354	295,945	41,409	334,667
Transfer in From Funds	8,700	-	8,700	2,300
	346,054	295,945	50,109	336,967
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Clergy	99,674	81,486	18,188	144,211
Lay Staff	43,676	64,642	(20,966)	58,565
Church Utilities	19,646	22,809	(3,163)	21,742
Church Maintenance	39,989	33,300	6,689	29,003
Rectory	11,853	11,705	148	11,072
Office Expenses	7,648	8,252	(604)	7,760
Interest & Bank	2,223	2,500	(278)	2,500
Canada Helps fees	497	-	497	-
Advertising	3,171	2,045	1,126	2,045
Worship	2,781	8,452	(5,671)	5,841
Music	1,014	1,000	14	1,000
Christian Education	1,411	3,400	(1,988)	3,050
Audit Fees	6,724	6,500	224	6,000
Legal	5,429			-
General Ministry	2,189	5,610	(3,422)	2,985
Diocesan Allotment	44,026	44,028	(2)	41,112
	291,949	295,728	(9,208)	336,887
Transfers out to funds	-			
Net operating results	54,104	217	53,888	80
Extraordinary expenses	-		-	
Net after extraordinary	54,104	217	53,888	80

SUMMARY TABLE OF FUNDS

Year End December 2020

Account Description	1 Beg. Balance	2 Envelopes	2 Groups, Events	2 Other Income	2 Transfers In	3 Disbursed	3 Transfers Out	TOTAL
Bequests at Diocese (CTF)	122,872.99	600.00	-	-	-	-	-	123,472.99
Capital Fund	66,433.68	14,696.50	-	5,110.00	-	(36,820.90)	(8,107.32)	41,311.96
Capital Fund - Acoustics	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Capital Fund - Brickwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Fund - Roof	1,612.96	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,612.96
MAF Grant-Music	-	-	-	5,000.00	-	(5,000.00)	-	-
MAF Grant-Garden	-	-	-	3,440.00	-	(139.26)	-	3,300.74
MICAH	-	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	20.00
FaithWorks	-	11,050.00	-	10.00	-	(9,449.25)	(1,365.75)	245.00
Food Bank	-	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	50.00
Fund for Curate	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Memorial Fund	11,507.33	1,555.00	-	475.00	-	-	-	13,537.33
ACW	6,414.75	-	6,932.25	-	-	(10,977.59)	-	2,369.41
Ashworth Fund	-	4,050.00	-	7,830.00	-	(11,880.00)	-	-
Ministry	11,001.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,001.00
Outreach Committee	593.62	-	-	-	-	(468.00)	-	125.62
Other Funds	-	140.00	2,112.10	-	-	-	-	2,252.10
Parish FaithWorks	4,209.83	50.00	2,936.65	-	1,365.75	(4,028.97)	-	4,533.26
Primate's Fund	-	1,730.00	-	-	-	(730.00)	-	1,000.00
Rectory Fund	(0.00)	-	-	-	8,107.32	(8,107.32)	-	(0.00)
Refugee Fund	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	200.00
Strength for Service	19,914.26	270.00	-	7,500.00	-	-	(8,142.19)	19,542.07
Kiva Youth Fund	23.55	-	-	-	-	-	(23.55)	-
Youth Fund to Yukon	10,956.63	315.00	726.00	-	23.55	(553.19)	-	11,467.99
OVERALL TOTAL	255,740.60	34,526.50	12,707.00	29,365.00	9,496.62	(88,154.48)	(17,638.81)	236,042.43

Grace Church
2020 Financial Statement Review

Funds Review

Miscellaneous Capital Account

Balance January 1, 2020					\$ 66,433.68
Envelopes 2020				\$ 14,696.50	
Canada Helps				\$ 110.00	
Funds from Barbados Overseas for music studio				\$ 5,000.00	
					\$ 19,806.50
					\$ 86,240.18
Disbursements					
Stainless Steel countertops in kitchen				\$ 2,588.11	
Electrical panels				\$ 12,935.33	
New office furniture				\$ 5,800.90	
Tankless water heaters				\$ 4,365.48	
New office computer				\$ 1,227.51	
Live streaming equipment				\$ 1,995.18	
Music Studio				\$ 7,908.39	
Transfer to rectory to cover capital spent				\$ 8,107.32	
					\$ 44,928.22
Balance					\$ 41,311.96

Rectory

Transfer in from capital fund				\$ 8,107.32	
					\$ 8,107.32
					\$ 8,107.32
Disbursements					
New furnace and HVAC				\$ 6,652.16	
New hot water heater				\$ 1,455.16	
					\$ 8,107.32
Balance January 0, 1900					\$ -

[To follow]

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS 2021

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Churchwardens

Rector's Warden	Debra Conrad-Knight	Appointed
People's Warden	Peter Castle	Elected
Deputy Warden	Martin Bufton	Appointed
Deputy Warden	Dover Wynn	Elected

Treasurer - Appointed

Phyllis Doherty

Envelope Secretary - Appointed

Jean Carpenter

Auditor

Jeffrey D. Milgram, Professional Corporation

Vestry Clerk

Maria Castle

Advisory Board Elected/Appointed

The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner

The Churchwardens

Phyllis Doherty - Treasurer

Carolyn Stephenson - Synod Rep

Rogers Gardham - Synod Rep

Bob Baird - Cemetery Rep

Mike Clare - Elected

David Kelso - Appointed

Adlin McFarlane - Appointed

Fred Sheehy - Elected

Phyllis Tyrie - Appointed

N.B. Heads of Committees are encouraged to attend.

Cemetery Board

Bob Baird – Chair - Appointed

The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner

Peter Castle - Warden

David Ashley

Jack White

Facilities Committee

Peter Castle

David Shearer

Lay Members of Synod – Elected

Carolyn Stephenson

Rogers Gardham

Alternate: Reg Waterman

Nominating Committee 2021

The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner

The Churchwardens

Bob Baird

Carolyn Stephenson

Phyllis Tyrie

MINISTRY LEADERS

ACW	Elizabeth Langdale
Altar Guild	Linell Curr
Audio Visual Team	TBA
Coffee Hour	Nicole Laxton
Faithworks	Charles Herriot
Knitting Guild	Karen McCarthy
Lay Pastoral Visitors	Jean Hoover
Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers	Reg Waterman
Men's Coffee	Fred Sheehy
Reader's Guild	Valerie Chatland
Servers Guild	TBA
Screening Coordinator	Ginny Bidwell
Sides People	Ruth Park
Sunday School	Andrew Colman
Winchesters	Marilyn Tunncliffe
Youth Leader	Yohan Dumpala

Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism: 2021 Social Justice Vestry Motion

The vision of God's Kingdom is one where all races, tribes and nations are welcomed and made one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28), where barriers are broken down and all are full citizens of the household of God (Ephesians 2:17-21) and where all are invited to contribute the gifts and glory of their heritage (Revelation 21:26). Yet, as racialized members of our communities can attest, and as has been made painfully visible in the events of this past year, our society and even our Church fall far short of this goal.

Canadians, particularly those of European decent, may be tempted to look at racial tensions in the U.S. and congratulate ourselves that we live in a comparably diverse and tolerant society, but the experiences of racialized people in Canada do not bear out this assumption. A recent study by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has found that, although Black people make up less than 9% of the population of Toronto, they are “grossly overrepresented” in cases of discretionary arrests for low-level offences, as well as in police use of force, including fatal shootings. Another report from the OHRC found that between 2013 and 2017, a Black person was nearly 20 times more likely than a white person to be fatally shot by police in Toronto.¹

Indigenous people make up only 5% of Canada's population, but more than 30% of incarcerated individuals in Canada.² Several school boards in the GTA have faced inquiries into their systemic inequitable treatment of racialized students. These are all present realities within the most racially diverse region of Canada.

Nor can we claim that our Church is free of racist attitudes and the systems that entrench and perpetuate them. Black clergy in our Diocese can attest not only to being racially profiled in shops but to encountering surprise and discomfort when people realize they are the senior cleric in charge. Nor does our leadership fully represent the ethnic and racial diversity of our Church. The first bishop of African descent in the Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop Peter Fenty, was only elected in 2013 – less than a decade ago. Nearly 30 years have elapsed since the Rev. Dr. Romney Moseley's report “No Longer Strangers” was presented to General Synod, and many of its recommendations have yet to be implemented. We have a long way to go before we fulfil God's vision of a people “from every language, tribe and nation” (Revelation 7:9) where all are fully welcome.

However, there are signs of positive change. In our Diocese, ethnic and linguistic-based congregations are centres of growth and vitality. Our recent ordinands and postulants represent a wider range of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Indigenous Anglicans in Canada are taking steady steps toward self-determination, while this past year has seen the formation of the group Black Anglicans of Canada, whose mission is to improve the participation, representation, empowerment and inclusion of Black people in lay and ordained leadership roles within the Anglican Church of Canada. **Our Diocese will be implementing anti-racism and anti-bias training for Diocesan staff and clergy starting in early**

¹ <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/08/10/black-people-more-likely-to-be-arrested-charged-shot-and-killed-by-toronto-police-ontario-human-rights-commission-report-finds.html>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/indigenous-people-in-federal-custody-surpasses-30-correctional-investigator-issues-statement-and-challenge.html>

2021. An Anti-Racism/Anti-Bias Pod will be created to carry this work forward among volunteers and lay leaders and over the long term.

In his letter to the Diocese of July 17, 2020, Bishop Andrew wrote: “It is time to challenge and to question how structures shape our attitudes, beliefs, assumptions and bias. We must understand and confront white privilege, institutional and systemic racism that so many of us have been blind to for too long. And we must not be afraid to become agents of transformation. To dismantle racism in all of its forms takes commitment, community and faith in order to realize progress and change. It means becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable. It means taking a very long look in the mirror and understanding the part that we each play.”

Some of this work has already begun. Just as many Anglicans in our Diocese and beyond have committed themselves to education and action as part of the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Anglicans in our Diocese have started to examine their own attitudes, beliefs, assumptions, and bias. Virtual study groups have sprung up around books such as Robin diAngelo’s *White Fragility*, Desmond Cole’s *The Skin We’re In*, or the late Rev. Dr. James Cone’s *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Many signed up for the Black Anglicans of Canada’s summer roundtable series (still available on YouTube) and workshops on anti-racism at the Diocesan Outreach Conference.

In the September 2020 issue of *The Anglican*, the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields wrote: “The compassionate Church cannot be an observer on the sidelines, reluctant to judge the values by which racism is allowed to take root. It must be disposed to listening, open to being transformed by reality, and accountable for being contributory to the situation, where that is the case.” In the second part of his column, published in October 2020, Canon Fields discussed the parts we must all play – from the institutional to the individual level - to grapple with systemic racism and make our Church and our society a place of mutual healing. Let each member of our Church take up this work with intention and goodwill.

The Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2021 is offered by the Bishop’s Committee on Intercultural Ministry with the full support of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee:

The parish of Grace Church Markham acknowledges that Anti-Black racism exists in our society and in our Church, and that it and all forms of racism against Black, Indigenous and other racialized people are a sin against God and against our neighbour. We commit ourselves to the recognition, dismantling, and elimination of Anti-Black and other forms of racism in our secular institutions, in our Church, and in ourselves, and to work for the full inclusion, participation and belongingness of Black, Indigenous and other racialized people in all sectors of our common life.

In light of this acknowledgment, and in keeping with this commitment, our parish undertakes to do the following: _____

Some examples of possible parish actions:

- Hold a special service to celebrate the contributions of racialized people to Canada and to our church, i.e. Black History Month (February); Asian & South Asian History Month (May); Indigenous History Month (June).

- Start an anti-racism study series at your parish. For suggestions of books, audio-visual and other resources, see <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/diversity-resources/> .
- Invite someone from a racialized community to speak on anti-racism, or to give an anti-racism workshop at your parish.
- Are people of racialized communities well represented in your parish life and leadership (churchwardens, parish council, Synod members, committees)? What barriers to inclusion exist? How can they be dismantled?
- Other: (please specify).

The Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry would be happy to recommend resources and potential speakers for parishes to aid them in this work. For more information, please contact the co-chairs, Christina Yu and André Lyn, at intercultural.ministry@toronto.anglican.ca.

A.C.W. ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The year started as usual with meetings in February and March. Plans were well in hand for the first Rummage Sale of the year in April but had to be put on hold when the Pandemic arrived. We did cater one Lions' Dinner in February and one funeral reception. Sadly, due to COVID we were unable to put on a funeral reception for a former President, Toni Harding, later in the year.

In March the World Day of Prayer Service was held at the Baptist Church with 4 of our ladies taking part in the service. This was thought by all to be one of the best we had attended.

Ruth Park was appointed as the new Treasurer and with the Budget Committee arranged for the disbursement of funds in June. A total of \$5,700 was disbursed to several of the charities which we usually support, and also to the church. There were no further catering events for the rest of the year and the Fall Rummage Sale and Bazaar were cancelled.

The committee met again on Zoom in October when Wendy Dottin, Bazaar Convenor, put forward the idea of holding a Virtual Bazaar on Facebook. We agreed that she should go ahead along with Lianne McOuat, who sold some items this way earlier in the year. A date of November 28 was set and dates advertised when items for sale could be dropped off at the church. They put in a tremendous amount of time arranging everything and working with the restrictions of COVID. The weather was co-operative on the day of the bazaar, and a coffee tent was set up in the parking lot, along with tables for baking and surprise packages. Pick up and payment went well with only 1 sold item not being picked up. The amount raised was \$5298.44. Congratulations to Wendy and Lianne and thanks to everyone who helped out with sorting and distributing on the day.

The Budget Committee met in December, and on their recommendation, \$5,000 was disbursed to the church and several charities. This brings our total disbursement for 2020 to \$10,700.

All the members of the 2020 Executive Committee agreed to continue for 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Baird
ACW Secretary

ALTAR GUILD VESTRY REPORT**JANUARY 2020**

Nothing to report due to COVID-19 closures.

Respectfully submitted,
Linell Curr

BIBLE STUDY AND STUDY GROUPS

This year we spent Wednesday afternoons reading and discussing St. Paul's Prison Letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon, using the study guide by N.T.Wright. We then moved into the Hebrew Scriptures and looked at the wisdom to be found in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. The group is very open to newcomers and everyone's opinion is valued. We try to look at both the history and context of the scriptures, and also be open to simply listening to what the Spirit is saying to us through them today. The Wisdom literature, though often repetitive, is filled with good advice for many of life's circumstances, not least it's dominant theme 'The fear (awe) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'. The positivity and irrepressible faith of St Paul shines through the letters he writes from prison. His faith in Christ, whether in joy or sorrow, free or chains, sickness or health, and his unshakeable belief that whether we live or die we belong to God, was a reminder to look to God for strength during the pandemic.

We made the move to Zoom when we could no longer meet in person, and the format seems to work quite well for most people. The group averages about 10-12, looking to be larger in 2021 and split between 2 sessions; the usual Wednesday at 2pm, and an evening session for those who work daytimes.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner

Grace Church Cemetery

Annual Report to Vestry

February 2021

1. Cemetery Board

Grace Church Cemetery Board consists of Rev Nicola Skinner, Debra Conrad-Knight, Peter Castle, David Ashley, Jack White and Bob Baird. The Board met on two occasions during the year, as required by our By-Laws

2. Cemetery Maintenance

Apart from grass cutting, for which we have an outside contract, the Cemetery is kept in good shape by a dedicated maintenance team, including Jack White, Bryan Bufton, Peter Castle, Peter Taylor and Dover Wynn. The Team attended the Cemetery on 5 occasions during the year.

3. Dividends from Diocese

The Diocese is still in discussion with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario with regard to the distribution of dividends from the Care and Maintenance Fund held at the Diocese. We again saw a slight increase in those dividends in 2020, but the matter is not yet resolved.

4. Sales of Interment and Scattering Rights

During the year we sold 1 full size plot and 4 Scattering Rights, and 1 Cremation plot.

During 2020 there were 2 interments of ashes in existing 4x10 plots, 2 interments in cremation plots and 3 Scatterings.

5. Cremation Plots

Under our present cemetery layout we have only 4 more 4 X 4 plots left. New layout patterns will be reviewed in 2021

6. Tree Pruning

The Black Walnut tree in the centre of the Cemetery was pruned in April.

Grace Church Cemetery
2020 Annual Report for Vestry
Financial Statement 2020

Opening Balance Dec. 31, 2019 \$ 7,421.25

Receipts

Plots, donations & Scatter Fees	7,300.00	
Diocesan Dividends funds	1,690.14	
Monument Fund	<u>226.00</u>	
	9,216.14	16,637.39

Disbursements

Cemetery monuments & maintenance	6,035.50
Administration	192.90
Care & Maintenance Diocese	<u>2,400.00</u>
	8,628.40

Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2020 **\$ 8,008.99**

Reviewed by: Rogers Gardham

¹ **Note to Financial Statement:** For perpetual care and other purposes the Cemetery Board maintains accounts with the Diocese of Toronto for investment purposes which totalled in aggregate \$69,027.07 as of Dec 31, 2020 and yielded Dividends of \$1,690.14 during the year ended Dec. 31, 2020. The accounts are managed on behalf of the Diocese by the trust division of a major Canadian Chartered Bank.

Respectfully Submitted
Robert L. Baird
Chair: Grace Church Cemetery Board

Nothing to report due to COVID-19 closures.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Laxton and Fred Sheehy

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The COVID-19 church closure in March 2020 presented an (unwanted) opportunity to catch up on some deferred maintenance and upgrades.

Dave Shearer and myself completed the repairs to the basement emergency exit stairs.

An electrician was engaged to replace the four remaining pushmatic circuit breaker panels and this work was carried out. At the same time the lights at the back of the sanctuary were upgraded and some extension cords replaced with permanent wiring.

The 10-year inspection of the church was carried out by Carson Dunlop Weldon in May. This was very thorough, and several non-urgent matters were raised.

The 5-year rectory inspection was over due and carried out. A number of non-urgent issues were brought to our attention.

The two large water heaters in the furnace room were replaced by a tankless unit. This should result in a significant saving in electricity as water is only heated on demand, not heated and stored. The water heater in the rectory was found to be leaking and due to its age was replaced.

The desks in the office were replaced due to their unsuitability for their purpose particularly in regard to COVID-19 working arrangements. The opportunity was taken to redecorate the office. This met with generally very favourable comments, and some were speechless.

The COVID-19 closure and subsequent limited reopening in September resulted in some organizational and cleaning changes in the church. One of the rooms in the basement has been reconfigured as a recording studio. The opportunities here are many and varied.

The daylighting triangle was transferred to City Park on September 30, 2020. In exchange, the works at the rectory should be completed by June 30, 2021. The works include installation of a new driveway to the rectory, new water sewer lines, and removal of septic tank.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Castle

Knitting Guild 2019

Nothing to report due to COVID-19 closures.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen McCarthy
Coordinator

LAY MEMBERS OF SYNOD

Lay Members of Synod – Vestry Report

The Diocese of Toronto had no planned Synod scheduled for November 2020, however the next planned synod will be held November 26th and 27th 2021. Due to COVID 19 the meeting will be held virtually with all regular pre Synod meetings taking place in October. This will also be virtual.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Stephenson
Synod Representative

LAY READERS AND CHALICE BEARERS

**VESTRY REPORT FOR LAY READERS
AND CHALICE BEARERS FOR AGM 2020**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all activities at the church have been curtailed, including Sunday services and funerals. These are the times when lay readers and chalice bearers are called upon to assist the incumbent. We look forward to the time when we can resume our activities in the church.

May the lay readers and chalice bearers take this opportunity to welcome the Rev. Andrew Colman as curate at Grace Church, and we look forward to getting to know him better and to serve with him in in-church services. Meantime, we benefit from his friendship and leadership on Zoom.

I want now to inform my fellow parishioners that I am on leave, and probably retired, as lay reader. It has been a privilege to serve as lay reader, and to work alongside dedicated incumbents, lay readers and chalice bearers for many years.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Carpenter,
Coordinator of Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer Teams

FAITHWORKS

Since 1996, this annual community program has contributed millions of dollars to support the work of 16 Ministry Partners. Services are provided without discrimination and at no cost to the clients they serve.

This program allows us to share our blessings with those who desperately need our help. Your gift will provide hope to the thousands of individuals and families caught up in the overwhelming challenge of homelessness, violence, health issues and the pressures facing today's youth.

FaithWorks will also make a difference to our community, as 15% of our donations are retained to respond to urgent local needs and services.

The 2020 result of 10,815.00 was the sum of the annual parish contributions.

The parish retained \$1,365.75 with \$9,449.25 forwarded to the Diocese.

Specific FaithWorks donation designations were:

- Undesignated: \$9,105
- Bridge Brampton: \$350.00
- LOFT Community Services: \$620
- PWRDF: \$470
- Toronto Urban Native Ministry: \$235
- Pikangikum Water Project: \$35

St Paul calls on us to project ourselves into the struggles and challenges of others and see their hurt, despair and hope as our own. Grace Church Markham continues to answer the call in an extremely generous way.

"We who are many are one body" [1st Corinthians 10:17]

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Herriot

LUNCH WITH GRACE

The Lunch with Grace team had two very successful lunches in January and February 2020 before making the difficult decision to shut down due to concerns about the new coronavirus. At the time we had hoped to be back at work before the summer. This was postponed until September and then we had hoped for January 2021. In the late Fall of 2020, I turned over all of our funds to Rev. Nicola to be deposited to Grace Church as it became more apparent that gathering for a meal was still many months or perhaps years away. Many thanks to all who worked so hard on this very worthwhile initiative.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Murphy

MOORELANDS – SANTA SACKS

For the past several years, Grace Church has supported Moorelands with donations of “Santa Sacks” for children in their after-school programs who range in age from 5 years old – early teens. In 2020, Grace provided Santa Sacks for 65 children from 5-10 years old. Each year in late October, Moorelands provides Grace with a list of names and ages of children in their programs. Parishioners purchase a warm hat, waterproof mitts, and an age-appropriate toy/craft/game, etc. for their assigned child then wrap it all up in a festive gift bag. Voila! a Santa Sack! In 2020, a “personal shopper” service was extended to those parishioners who wished to provide a Santa Sack but due to the COVID situation were unable to get out to make the purchases themselves.

The Santa Sacks are gathered at Grace and transported to Moorelands for distribution at their Christmas party. The generous donation of an empty warehouse facility gave Moorelands the space required to gather and store Santa Sacks and other donations for their programs supporting families in need while following social distancing and other COVID 19 protocols. Rev. Andrew, Debra Conrad-Knight and Ruth Park got to “play Santa” as we transported the gifts to this facility and had the opportunity to meet a couple of the Moorelands staff. As always, they expressed their sincere appreciation of Grace Church’s support for this and other programs. We in turn, pass that appreciation to you for your generous support and look forward to being able to provide much needed support to Moorelands in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Park

READERS' GUILD REPORT

In 2020, with parishes closed for most of the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Readers' Guild was required to take a different approach to worship services at Grace Church and develop new skills to become adept at on-line participation.

Readers were given an option to record their reading at home and submit it for insertion into the 10:15 service on Sunday morning or to read during the live session of the service on Zoom. Readers who felt comfortable doing so, were also presented with a third option; to meet individually at the church at an appointed time to have their reading recorded there and then have it inserted into the on-line service by the Grace Church technical team. We are grateful to our rector Nicola and the skills of the people on the tech team who made these various options possible to us to continue our participation in worship at Grace Church.

We are also grateful to Carol Baird who, as secretary of the Readers' Guild, faithfully looks after the e-mail distribution of readings one week in advance, allowing us the opportunity to practice our assigned reading.

New members are always welcome to join the Guild and we look forward to greater on-site reader participation as our parish hopefully reopens for worship in 2021.

For more information about the Readers' Guild please e-mail Valerie Chatland supplyteach@rogers.com or call 905 294 0960.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Chatland

SIDESPEOPLE TEAM

The Sidespeople team at Grace are the friendly folks who welcome you to our services, help you find a seat and, during this pandemic, help get you signed in. We gratefully accept your contributions in the offering plates, assist the congregation to the altar for communion and to safely exit the sacristy after the service. Additionally, some of the team tally the offerings or as precautions allow, assist at special services and funerals.

As was the case with most things as we grapple with COVID 19, the essence of what we do as Sidespeople remained the same. We just did things a little differently to accommodate the various Health & Safety protocols from the Diocese, Province, Region and other authorities.

I wish to thank the Clergy, Lay Staff, Churchwardens and parishioners for your support and guidance to our Sidespeople team as we navigated the challenges of worshipping during this pandemic. Together we made it work! We look forward, God willing, to working together in 2021 as we find our way out of COVID 19 and on a path to new norms.

If you are interested in becoming a Sidesperson, I would love to hear from you and can be reached at rpark1401@gmail.com. There are many long serving members who are very happy to share their experience with newer volunteers. It is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow parishioners and participate in the life of our parish.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Park
Sidespeople Coordinator

GRACE KIDS**Sunday School Vestry Report 2020**

Sunday School during the COVID 19 Pandemic has made significant changes. Many thanks to Lianne McOuat and all who led Sunday School up until COVID started. Sunday School has been running once a month over ZOOM. There has been a range of ten to fifteen children each session. There were two packages dropped off to the regular Sunday School families including Easter, Halloween, and Christmas crafts. These seemed to be a hit! Most recently I introduced the Whirl Curriculum made by Sparkhouse. It is an animated video series that has a cast of characters that are very relatable. The feedback I have received from parents has been very positive. We will continue delivering supplies for major feast days and Sunday School once a month on ZOOM until COVID restrictions are lifted.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Andrew Colman

WINCHESTERS

The Quilting Group has nothing to report due to COVID-19 closures.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Tunncliff
Coordinator

VESTRY REPORT – 2020 – YOUTH MINISTRY

Like many of our programs here at Grace, the pandemic has given us opportunities to adapt to ongoing changes and adopt new practices. Given our present circumstances our Youth have been meeting regularly, every Sunday evening, over Zoom, and have been doing so since March 2020. Currently we have 9 youth in attendance, 1 of whom is a new addition to the group and has joined us in the Fall.

Between January to March, our Youth Group were meeting every Friday at 7:00pm, however, due to the virtual nature of their school activities, we had decided to meet on Sundays, to give our Youth a break from all things virtual.

Our 2 hour meeting (Sundays at 5:00pm), consists of games (Pictionary, Kahoot!, etc.), BibleProject and other YouTube videos based on the topic for the day, the study of scripture and a period of time given for open and frank discussion. A few topics we have explored so far are Prayer, the Book of Job, various Parables and currently we are reading the Gospel according to Mark. Zoom has been a wonderful platform as it allows for the incorporation of various online tools which captures the attention of our Youth and keeps them focused on the topic of the day. In essence, COVID-19 has not hindered Youth Ministry in any way, it has in fact enhanced it.

Once every two months, the Youth take a break from scripture to have a movie night, which is now being done via Netflix as a TeleParty. All members join in from the comfort and safety of their homes, to watch the movie together online. These movie nights have been quite successful and is an event that all members look forward to.

One of the major events of 2020 was the Youth Group's trip to Toronto. We all hopped on the GO Train in Markham and spent an entire day in Toronto exploring the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and Trinity College. An event that the Youth were really looking forward to was the trip in August to the Yukon, however, that plan was unfortunately disrupted by the pandemic.

The potential for creative ministry was immediately recognized as we came closer to the Advent season. In utilizing all the tools at our disposal, the Youth came together quite quickly to put together our first ever Virtual Pageant. All members of our Youth Group participated in playing a role in the pageant and did a wonderful job as all scenes were recorded over Zoom. This project in and of itself has sparked new interest among the Youth regarding other potentially creative projects to be explored in 2021 in conjunction with the new recording studio.

It is amazing to see the Youth grow in faith, maturity and creativity especially in the middle of a pandemic. We look forward to all that 2021 has to offer and we hope and pray that the momentum which began in 2020 will continue on in wonderful ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Yohan V.S. Dumpala,
Youth Director

PAROCHIAL STATISTICS 2020

	2018	2019	2020
Financial Supporters (individuals and families)	214	218	216
Easter Day attendance	436	422	N/A**
Christmas Eve and Day Attendance	513**	518	N/A**
Baptisms – Children	8	9	2
Baptisms - Adult	2	0	0
Confirmation – Youth	0	0	0
– Adult	1	0	0
Marriages	2	1	2
Funerals	21	17	12
Average Weekly Attendance*	185	186	N/A**
Average Sunday Attendance*	167	161	N/A**

* These figures include attendance at all weekly services except weddings and funerals.

** Due to the different platforms used for worship during COVID-19 (Zoom, Youtube, Facebook, watching the Cathedral, etc.), it is not possible to estimate attendance in 2020.

PASTORAL OFFICES 2020

BAPTISMS

Teresa Marie Bufton

March 2020

Cameron Anthony Cheong

March 2020

MARRIAGES

Kristen Joe and Duane Lai

July 2020

Alison Van Ginkel and Elliott
DeLauney

September 2020

FUNERALS

Florence Morris

Andrea Orlovski

Maxwell Hayward

John “Laurie” Groves

Hazel Husbands

Marilyn Wright

George Shipley

George McKelvey

Bruce Henry

Antonia Harding

Diane Kumabe

Julian King