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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 226th Edition August 16th, 2024

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### ...L'hymn savoir faire. Part 1

How does one decide when to use the piano or organ for a hymn. Or, further, when is it the right time to sing something unaccompanied?

The French have this lovely saying that one should always use "le bon mot". This concept of "the right word" refers to the context of word and language. Certain expressions and idioms are more linguistically elegant in specific idioms than others, and one's grasp of the language, and hence regard by others, heightened, by the use of the right word.

In a similar way, performers strive to show their grasp of "le bon mot" in the way they approach music of specific periods of music history. Musicologists (sort of like bishops) show us the way by researching the manner in which music was performed in the specific time. For example, how would Bach have played his music for organ? What influences shaped his compositional style?

How would that certain knowledge help performers to make a more authentic representation of tempo, articulation and use of the instrument in a modern performance? Therefore, musicians are very aware of and steeped in the *performance practice* of different periods of music.

In the same way we can approach the *performance practice* of hymn singing and accompaniment from a similar standpoint. In general, as congregational singing developed into larger and larger communities, the need for instrumental leadership progressed with it. But, it all had to start somewhere.

The early singing of the monastic tradition was almost entirely unaccompanied. Imagine the blended and warm sound of monks singing plainchant in unison, ensconced in their pews, in a resonant abbey chapel. They captured the free flowing of the text without restriction of metre save that of the text and with the freedom of the leading of their own voices. Thus, in our singing together of a plainchant psalm setting (as we did a few Sundays ago) we do so unaccompanied. Our voices blend warmly and fully pausing at the asterisk (\*) before

continuing. The free flow of the text becomes exquisitely clear and leads all to sing such musical phrases, unhindered by an instrumental accompaniment.

Ultimately, this unaccompanied singing found its full flowering in the Mennonite tradition of congregational four part singing led only by a pitch fork bearing song leader. Last Sunday's opening hymn sung to the tune RESIGNATION comes from the American folk song tradition which is a cousin to the Mennonite style. As we get to know and sing this tune and others like it more and more, we will try singing them unaccompanied.

Another major element in the tradition of unaccompanied singing comes from the African-American song. Known as spirituals, these songs were often of a call/response or verse/refrain form. As this repertoire was sung in the open, there were no instruments to accompany the singing. Once again, the practice would be to sing this together without accompaniment. A single voice begins and everyone else joins in as they are inspired and/or able. *Were You There* sung on Good Friday is a good example of this genre where the texture moves from single line to 4 part response and the assembly moves at its own tempo as it feels the emotion of the text and story deeply and together.

Stay tuned for next week's blog when we will consider the performance practice in hymns psalms and spiritual songs that have come from the accompanied tradition. That's something to sing about.

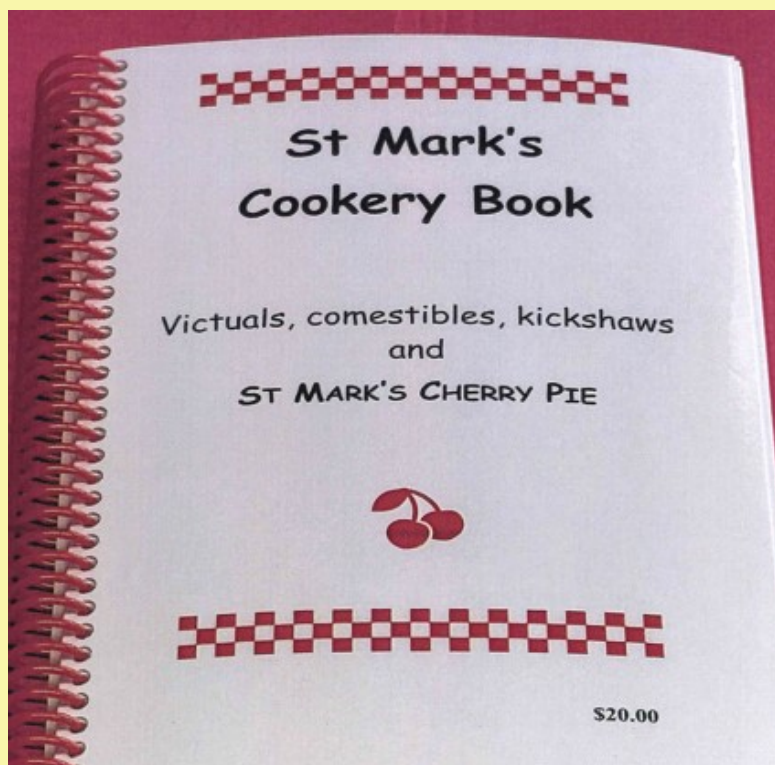
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### **From the Wardens**

**As always, a reminder to advise the office of anyone who requires assistance, including a phone call, food delivery or some companionship. Even a chat over the fence!**

**Called to Life - Compelled to Love**

**Andrea Douglas  
Gene Anne Smith  
Wardens**



## **St. Mark's Cookery Book**

Everyone knows that St. Mark's Anglican Church makes the most delicious cherry pies each year for our famous

### **CHERRY FESTIVAL.**

Until now, the recipe has been a well-kept secret.

**Now, we are sharing our recipe with you!**

**St. Mark's Anglican Church NOTL**

**presents**

**ST. MARK'S COOKERY BOOK**

**\$20.00**

**Have you ever wondered about the connection between  
St. Mark's and cherries?  
Wonder no more!**

Legend has it that on one St. Mark's Feast Day long ago, His Holiness Pope Gregory I had a sudden overwhelming desire for cherries. (Like most NOTLers do every July!) The servants and gardeners were at a loss. The cherry trees were in bloom, but the fruit was weeks away. Miraculously, St. Mark appeared to one of the gardeners and when he heard about Gregory's craving, he blessed a cherry tree causing it to be covered with ripe, red cherries.

Church ladies are often good cooks, and this is certainly true of the ladies (and gentlemen) of St. Mark's who have contributed their recipes to this book.

Not only will you have access to St. Mark's famous Cherry Pie recipe, but you will also have recipes for Appetizers, Soups and Snacks, Main Courses, Salads and Sides, Jams, Chutney, jellies, Cherry Blossom syrup, and many recipes for sweet and savoury baked goods including

**Cherries Jubilee.**

**If you would like to purchase a copy of St. Mark's Cookery Book  
Call St. Mark's at 905-468-3123  
or email us at  
stmarks@cogeco.net**

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**Please join us this  
Sunday August 18th  
for  
a MIDSUMMER MUSIC concert  
by our very own  
Michael Bloss.  
"MOZART AND HANDEL IN MINIATURE"  
Michael Bloss, Organ  
St. Mark's String Ensemble  
2 p.m.**

**FREE ADMISSION**



**MIDSUMMER MUSIC AT  
ST MARK'S ANGLICAN  
CHURCH**

**AUGUST SUNDAYS AT 2 PM**

**AUGUST 18  
MOZART AND HANDEL IN  
MINIATURE**

**MICHAEL BLOSS, Organ  
ST. MARK'S STRING ENSEMBLE**

**41 BYDON ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE • (905) 468-3123  
FREE ADMISSION**

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**How much do you know about St. Mark's Cemetery? Why not take a tour with Dr. Earle Waugh and learn all about Ontario's oldest operating cemetery? Afterward, you can enjoy some nibbles, a glass of wine, and a discussion about what you have just learned!**



**Tour**  
**Ontario's oldest burial ground**  
at  
**St. Mark's, Niagara on the Lake**

**Dr. Earle Waugh**  
will lead tours  
followed by refreshments &  
informal discussion

**2024 tour dates**

**Tuesday, September 24**  
**Tuesday, October 22**

at  
**3:30-5:00** in the  
afternoon

The **\$25 admission** fee will  
support our on-going  
**Monument Restoration**  
**Programme**

**Tour group size limited**

**Information & reservation**  
Phone St. Mark's  
**905 468 3123**

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**Join us for the final Chiming Concert of the summer!**  
**Bring a blanket or lawn chair and listen to**  
**The Bells of St. Mark's**

ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
PRESENTS  
SUMMER CHIMING CONCERTS

FEATURING ST. MARK'S BELL CHIMER  
BERNADETTE SECCO



Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup>

12 NOON

Rain or shine

Please bring a lawn chair or blanket and sit in the churchyard  
and enjoy the sounds of ST. MARK'S BELLS

FREE ADMISSION

St. Mark's first rector, the Reverend Robert Addison, arrived in July 1792 with a collection of over 1,500 volumes, which is the oldest library in Ontario. In 1862, Addison's grandsons presented the library "To the Rector of St. Mark's Church, Niagara, And his Successors in perpetuity." Two of the volumes in the Addison Library are manuscripts. One of them, a collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century sermons, has already been published by St. Mark's Archives Committee. The scholars who catalogued the Addison Library said about the other, "One of the most interesting and valuable items that may have been added to Robert Addison's library before his departure for Canada is not a printed book, but a MS (No. 1254) filled with notes on sermons and records of sermons preached from early in 1756 to the end of 1780, kept in a neat 18<sup>th</sup> century hand."

St. Mark's Archives Committee plans to publish the Notebook, as a companion to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Sermons to make it more available to scholars studying the English Dissenters, and particularly their community in Hackney in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Like the Sermons, the Notebook will be published as a limited edition. Carruthers will print the 188-page text on 70 lb. natural text stock and Van Huizen will complete the volumes with Smyth sewn pages and marble endpapers, bound and trimmed to 8-3/8 x 10-7/8 with calf leather and gold stamped spines.

We invite those interested in supporting this project to become patrons. Patrons' names will be listed in the front of the limited-edition publication of the Notebook. Patrons may choose either to sponsor the donation of a copy to a library, or archive, or to receive a copy for their personal library at a reception for all patrons in St. Mark's Addison Hall.

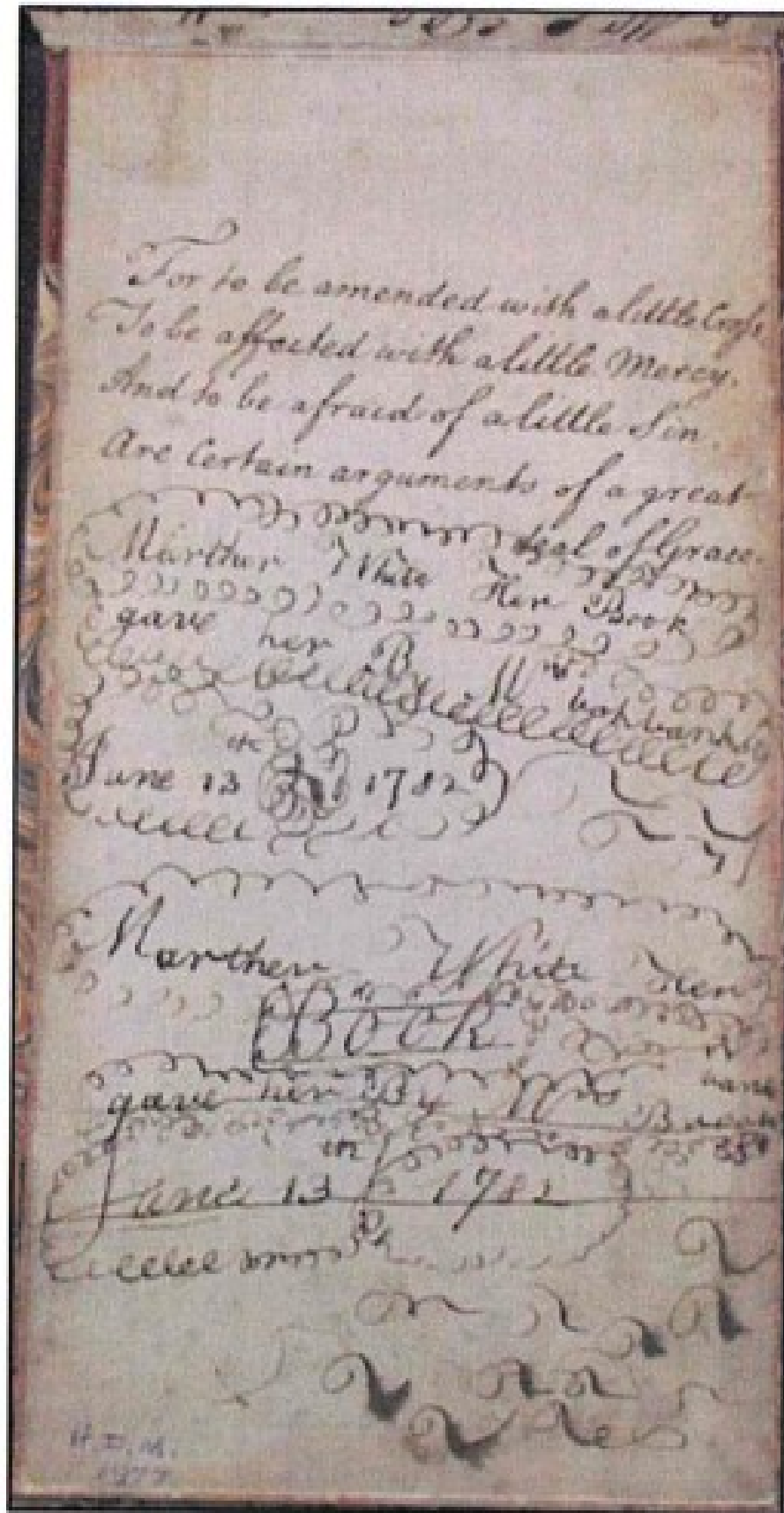
PATRONS: Two Hundred Dollars

For further information please contact:

Susan Peacock at 905-262-0869  
[speacock23@hotmail.com](mailto:speacock23@hotmail.com)

Donald Combe at 905-932-4175  
[donaldcombe@me.com](mailto:donaldcombe@me.com)

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Enigmatic Graffiti found on inside cover of the manuscript

**Parish Updates**

**In-Person Sunday Services**

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the livestream on YouTube](#)



## ***On Duty this Week***

**August 18th - Greeter(s)** - Chris Bjorgan and Marilyn Bardeau

**Reader** - Jamie Mainprize

**Intercessor** - Larry Bourke

**Altar Guild** - Virginia Mainprize and Jennifer Smith

**Server** - Sue Baxter

## ***Order of Service***

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Website Page](#)

## **Church Bells**

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 p.m. Enjoy!

## ***Staying Up to Date!***

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [Visit our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our: [Visit our Calendar](#)

## **[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook Page](#)**

You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "F".

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## **Prayer Cycles – We pray for:**

**In St. Mark's parish:** Gloria Petrunick, Carolyn and Drew Porter, Jodey Porter, and Dave Roberts and their families.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** Grace Church, Milton, The Reverend Karine Snowdon, Rector; The Reverend Mark Curtis, Honorary Assistant, and the people of that parish.

**In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer:** The Rt. Rev Adam Halkett, Bishop of Mississippi, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Saskatchewan, and the dean, council, and congregations of the South West Area of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

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**\* Looking for VOLUNTEERS for READERS and INTERCESSORS group \***

**[An important part at St. Mark's is the involvement and participation of our Readers.](#)**

I am hoping to hear from a few parishioners who may be interested in joining our R&I group. The next schedule begins in September.

Please contact me at [tammy@garyzalepa.com](mailto:tammy@garyzalepa.com)

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[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)





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