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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 235th Edition October 18th, 2024

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### From the Rector

Henry Higgins is now being played by a Black man in the Shaw Festival's acclaimed production of *My Fair Lady*. A generation ago, such casting would have been unthinkable. We're thankfully beyond such thinking—and after all, what could be more Shavian? I say that because Higgins is what these days we'd call a disruptor. He's all about challenging the establishment and its assumptions, conventions, and divisions—especially where language is concerned. As Alan Jay Lerner's witty lyric says, "These verbal class distinctions by now should be antique."

These days, they certainly are antique, yet they still persist—even though we like to think we don't judge people on external things like skin colour or language. That's certainly been true for the Church whose peculiar language has long been a barrier to people longing to know the grace of Jesus' radical message of inclusion in their lives.

I'm thinking of the language of creeds and confessions which, while an important and historic part of the faith, are scarcely understandable to the average person. Over time they have displaced the Church's *lingua franca* which the dictionary defines as a language used for communication between groups of people who speak different languages. And that *lingua franca* is, of course, love.

In David Leavitt's novel *The Lost Language of Cranes*, a character reads a story in a psychiatric journal about a young child, Michel. Left alone in his cot, he learned to emulate construction cranes, as they were the only thing he would see out of his window: "*How wondrous, how grand those cranes must have seemed to Michel, compared to the small and clumsy creatures who surrounded him. For each, in his own way ... finds what it is he must love, and loves it; the window becomes a mirror; whatever it is that we love, that is who we are.*"

For too long the window the Church has looked through was one of conformity and conversion. We fell in love with the language of rules and regulations, and that's what we became. "One common language, I'm afraid we'll never speak," Higgins sings in *My Fair Lady*. But if we are to survive very far into the future—as people, as community, as Church—we must learn again the language of love. For only that language can help us see beyond

the barriers—real and imagined—that separate us. Only that language can disrupt the devilish powers that seek to divide us.

Lerner and Loewe based their iconic musical on G. B. Shaw's play *Pygmalion* and those of you who remember the Greek myths know that Pygmalion was a sculptor who fell in love with his sculpture. Dare I say that God is the divine Pygmalion who looked through the window of his son and fell in love with us to the point that he became what we are so we, in turn, can become what he is?

Great works of theatre, like great novels and works of art, are the window which show us who we really are. They show us our common humanity. They remind us of our core values. But they can't teach us how to speak love's language. Only the One in whom there is no east or west, no north or south but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth can do that.

It's not a difficult language to learn, but it must be practiced. At least, it must be if we are to become like the One we love.

Grace and Peace,  
Leighton

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### **From the Wardens**

We hope that everyone is enjoying our beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake Fall season. St. Mark's is buzzing with activity for the next few months and we want to remind you of a few events.

Tomorrow, **Saturday, October 19th**, St. Mark's will welcome visitors to our historic church from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as part of **Doors Open Niagara**.

**The Volunteer Appreciation Chili Supper** is scheduled for **Friday, November 1st at 6 p.m.** Everyone is invited to come to show appreciation to our volunteers. There are some changes from our last announcement. Chili, bread, salad, and drinks will be provided, along with donated desserts. Space may be limited so please phone the office and let Erin know if you plan to come.

**Tea With Teddy** promises to be a wonderful event featuring tea with fresh scones and a chance to shop for vintage teddy bears, Christmas décor, and other treasures and collectibles. Join us on **Friday and Saturday, November 29th and 30th**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost will be \$15 per person at the door.

And finally, we are excited to announce that we will be offering a **Christmas concert** on Sunday afternoon, **December 22nd, at 4:30 p.m.** Tickets for **A Christmas Homecoming** will be available in advance for \$25. Five dollars from each ticket sold will be donated to Newark Neighbours. **The concert will feature Christmas music and readings, with special guests, Trillium Brass. Our own Michael Bloss will be directing. Be sure to mark your calendars for what promises to be a magical event.**

November will also feature our first formal **Stewardship Campaign** in many years. Please stay tuned for information on how we can all contribute to the enrichment of our work and worship at St. Mark's.

**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**

## Third-quarter financial results

Parish Council reviewed St. Mark's third-quarter financial statements ending September 30th at its meeting on Thursday. A summary of income and expenses is presented here to keep the parish informed. The operating balance is solidly in the black at \$42,210, due to a donation of \$50,000 received in July. We are deeply grateful for this one-time, extremely generous donation which has transformed St. Mark's financial stability. While we celebrate this gift, there remain financial liabilities that impact the bottom line, including \$37,000 owing in Diocesan assessment for 2024 and repayment of \$35,000 to the Historic Properties Foundation by 2026.

St Marks Church				
Summary of Income General a/c				
for the period ended YTD September 30, 2024				
as at 10/10/24				
	Budget	Actual	Variance	
	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>positive (negative)</u>	
<b><u>Income:</u></b>				
-General Offering	\$ 151,500.00	\$ 149,924.09	-\$	1,575.91
-Specified Offerings	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 55,761.80	\$	54,661.80
-Parish Activities	\$ 64,700.00	\$ 82,401.91	\$	17,701.91
-Parish Services	\$ 28,850.00	\$ 21,689.07	-\$	7,160.93
-Other Income	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,936.62	\$	3,936.62
	<b>\$ 247,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 314,713.49</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>67,563.49</b>
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>				
-Building & Grounds	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 19,036.00	\$	736.00
-Church Program - Activities	\$ 1,865.00	\$ 5,625.53	\$	3,760.53
-Church Program - Music	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 12,885.00	\$	8,635.00
-Diocesan Assessment	\$ 36,918.00	\$ 36,910.53	-\$	7.47
-Financial Expenses	\$ 4,025.00	\$ 3,599.15	-\$	425.85
-Parish Activities Expenses	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 22,813.83	\$	5,313.83
-Parish Office Expenses	\$ 17,275.00	\$ 14,353.74	-\$	2,921.26
-Payroll	\$ 147,800.00	\$ 138,072.01	-\$	9,727.99
-Utilities	\$ 21,575.00	\$ 19,207.24	-\$	2,367.76
	<b>\$ 269,508.00</b>	<b>\$ 272,503.03</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,995.03</b>
<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>-\$ 22,358.00</b>	<b>\$ 42,210.46</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>64,568.46</b>

NOTES: The large variances to budget in payroll and the music program result from a transfer of costs from one category to the other. Most of Parish Activities revenue is Cherry Festival.

### **FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Joy Gilchrist  
Friday October 25th, 2024 at 11 a.m.  
Reception to follow in Addison Hall

Beverly Garrett  
Saturday October 26th, 2024 at 11 a.m.  
Reception to follow in Addison Hall

### **\*\*Volunteer Appreciation Dinner\*\***

We are excited to invite you to our  
**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**  
on All Saints Day, Friday, November 1st, at 6 p.m. in Addison Hall.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together to celebrate and express

our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who make a difference at St. Mark's.

**Your presence is important as we honour their hard work and dedication.**

Chili, bread, salad, drinks, and desserts will be provided.

If you would like to help set up, serve, or clean up, please get in touch with Erin in the church office at [stmarks@cogeco.net](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.net) or 905-468-3123.

**Don't miss out—mark your calendars for this important event and help us honour our amazing volunteers!**

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ENTHUSIASTIC FOR **SINGING** IN AN ENSEMBLE?



INTERESTED IN **EXPLORING** REPERTOIRE OLD AND NEW?

MOVED TO **SHARING** LITURGY AND MUSIC IN COMMUNITY?

CONSIDER **JOINING THE ST. MARK'S SINGERS!**

CONTACT INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MICHAEL BLOSS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

[MICHAELBLOSS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:MICHAELBLOSS@HOTMAIL.COM)

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### **Men's Communion and Breakfast**

**Wednesday, November 6th, 8:00AM**

Quiet spoken Eucharist in the Church at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m.

If you would like to join, please contact:

**Greg Walker by email: [gregoryfwalker@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryfwalker@gmail.com) by Noon on Tuesday prior** so that numbers for breakfast can be confirmed.

We look forward to seeing you!

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### **\*\*Ladies Discussion Group\*\***

**We invite you to be part of something meaningful!**

Join Susan MacLaren as she leads our ladies' discussion group at 10 AM on Wednesday, October 30th, and Wednesday, November 6th in Addison Hall. Together, we'll delve into "The Lord's Prayer," exploring its significance through questions like: What does it say? What does it mean? Why is it relevant to us?

**The format will be warm and welcoming, just like last year's group, and yes, there will be coffee!**

We're excited to share this time with you—don't miss out!

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**Join us for the heartwarming  
Teddy Bear Tea and Sale**

This delightful event is organized by the ever-enthusiastic Trudi Watson, who has taken a wonderful donation of 30 collectible teddy bears and transformed it into a charming gathering for the community!

This isn't just any tea party; it's a treasure trove of unique finds, including clothes and festive Christmas decor, all while sipping on warm tea and indulging in fresh scones.

Mark your calendars for

**Friday and Saturday, November 29th and 30th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,**  
and don't forget to bring a friend to share in the joy and support of  
**St. Mark's!**

After all, it's not just about bears; it's about building memories, one cup at a time!

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**Christmas Fundraising Tea and Sale**

**We need your help to stock our sales tables!**

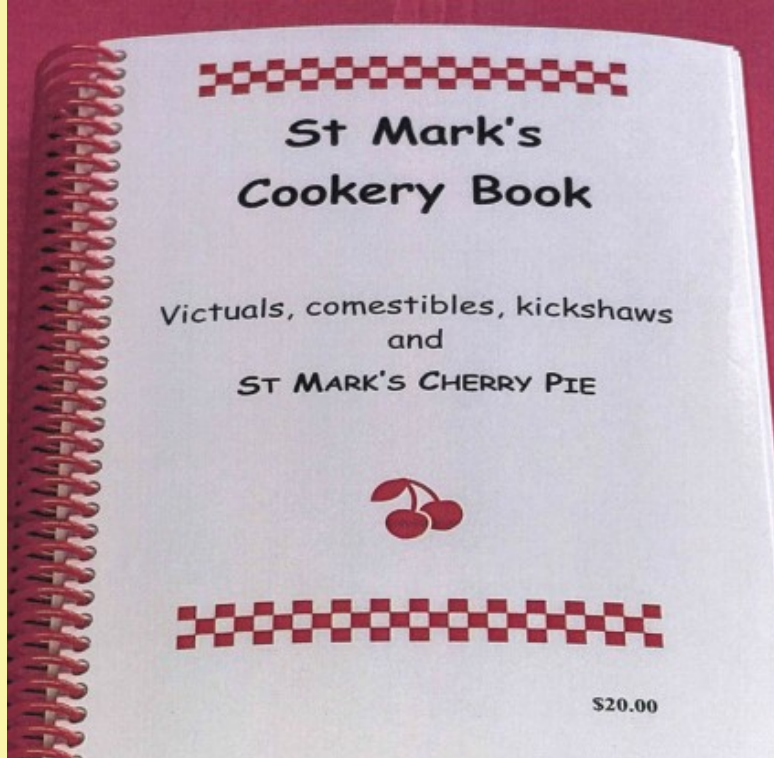
We are seeking donations of holiday clothing, Christmas decorations, linens, china, crystal, jewelry, and even more teddy bears!

If you have items to donate, we will arrange to pick them up.

**Please call Trudi Watson at 905-468-3314 or Elizabeth Jamieson at 416-577-0750**  
to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support!

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

Indulge in the deliciousness of St. Mark's Anglican Church, famed for its mouthwatering cherry pies at our beloved Cherry Festival. Until now, the secret recipe has been closely guarded. But now, we're thrilled to reveal it to you!

*Presenting St. Mark's Cookery Book*  
**\*\*Price: \$20.00\*\***

Curious about the connection between St. Mark's and cherries? Let us enlighten you!

According to legend, on a St. Mark's Feast Day long ago, Pope Gregory I experienced an intense craving for cherries. (A sentiment familiar to most NOTLers every July!) The servants and gardeners were perplexed; while the cherry trees were in bloom, the fruit remained weeks away. In an extraordinary turn of events, St. Mark appeared to a gardener. Upon hearing of Gregory's craving, he blessed a cherry tree, and it instantly bore ripe, red cherries.

At St. Mark's, we take pride in our exceptional cooks, and you'll find this is true for the talented men and women who have contributed to this cookbook.

Inside, you'll discover not only the cherished cherry pie recipe but also an array of enticing recipes—from appetizers and soups to main courses, salads, jams, chutneys, jellies, cherry blossom syrup, and delightfully sweet and savory baked goods, including Cherries Jubilee.

Don't miss out on this culinary treasure! To purchase your copy of St. Mark's Cookery Book, call us at 905-468-3123 or email us at [stmarks@cogeco.net](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.net). Join us in celebrating the joy of cooking!

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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 about Ontario's oldest operating cemetery? Afterward, 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 Anglican Church in Niagara on the Lake**

Dr. Earle Waugh

leads the tour which is followed by refreshments and informal discussion

**The \$25.00 admission fee supports our on-going Monument Restoration Programme**

Tour group is limited to 10

**Last tour of 2024 takes place on**

**Tuesday October 22  
3:30-5:00 pm**

For more information and to purchase tickets please call St. Mark's office at 905-468-3123

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### **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**

**October 20th - Greeter(s)** - Trudi Watson and Earle Waugh

**Reader** - Wes Turner

**Intercessor** - Diane Turner

**Altar Guild** - Virginia Mainprize and Dorothy Walker

**Server** - Virginia Mainprize

#### **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:** Nancy Bongard, Anne Bookbinder, Larry and Joan Bourk, and

their families.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** St. John, Stewarttown, The Reverend Audrius Sarka, Priest-in-Charge, and the people of that parish.

**In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer:** The Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of New Westminster. For an end to gender-based violence and human trafficking.

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



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