

Parish profile: St. Matthew's, the Anglican church in the Glebe December 2019

We are a vibrant Anglican community of faith striving to respond to God's call with open minds, open hearts and open doors. As a welcoming Christian community, we are committed to growing in faith, offering joyous worship and reaching out in loving service.

We seek an inspirational priest who is a strong preacher and communicator, with a sense of humour, who values collaboration with committed lay leaders. St. Matthew's is known for traditional liturgy and excellence in music. We are looking for a priest who shares these passions but is also open to exploring alternative forms of worship. We are searching for strong leadership for our ministries of pastoral care, outreach, youth, education, and fellowship.

We need a priest who understands the administrative side of managing a large church and its extensive activities, who can inspire parish staff and is well-organized. We are looking for a priest who is engaged in the Ministry of Stewardship.

St. Matthew's is an essential parish that fills a niche of classic Anglicanism needed within the Ottawa diocese, says Bishop John Chapman. We are a busy parish that recognizes the need to invest in ministry for our community, youth, and seekers of spiritual fulfilment. In 2020, we plan to invest in mission by hiring a curate to assist the new incumbent, drive new ministry initiatives and help grow the parish in richness, diversity and numbers.

We believe outreach and mission are key components for the future success of our church. As we move towards completion of a major refugee sponsorship program (FACES) in which three neighborhood churches and the community directly sponsored and supported many government-sponsored families, we have begun to consider future focuses of ministry and outreach. We are looking for a motivated and empathetic priest who will re-energize parishioners and can attract young and justice-conscious parishioners.

About St. Matthew's

The Parish: Founded in 1898 and rebuilt in 1930, the church is a handsome neo-gothic stone structure with a large nave and beautiful chapel. The lower level of the church consists of the church hall, kitchen, and smaller rooms, used for parish activities including choir rehearsals, parish administration and for rentals. We have undertaken considerable work on the building in the past 20 years and anticipate ongoing work to prevent deferred maintenance issues.

We have a growing Sunday School, a widely respected choir, and a robust outreach program. We have worked hard on stewardship, especially welcoming initiatives. Sunday attendance is rising and average weekly attendance for all services is 177. Additionally, special Christmas services cumulatively attract more than 1,100 people. There are 258 households on the parish list.

The parish is liturgically traditional and socially progressive with a long history of providing diocesan leadership. St. Matthew's founded Harmony House, a women's shelter, co-founded FACES and initiated a program that provides necessities for at-risk youth through the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa. Members of the parish have also been key proponents of climate change initiatives within the national Anglican Church.

The Community: St. Matthew's is located in The Glebe, an urban neighbourhood near downtown Ottawa. The Glebe's population is characterized by high levels of education, employment, and community involvement. With three universities nearby, many students live here. The Glebe has an active community association, excellent access to recreational opportunities, sporting events, stores and restaurants, the Rideau Canal paths and a winter skate-way. The neighbourhood has an energetic cultural life enhanced by the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park.

Ministries

a) Worship: Worship is central to our communal life. We worship Sundays at 8 a.m. for said Eucharist and 10 a.m. for choral Eucharist followed by coffee hour. Twice a month, during nine months of the year, we celebrate choral Evensong. Weekday services include said Eucharist as well as a monthly Eucharist followed by lunch.

b) Music: St. Matthew's has a strong reputation for traditional choral music that enhances our worship and is a significant attraction for newcomers and visitors. In addition to singing on Sundays and other liturgical services, the choir presents concerts, often on a freewill donation basis.

c) Pastoral Care: Led by the priest, the active pastoral care team includes several trained lay visitors who visit parishioners during hospital stays and in long-term care.

d) Building Christian Community through Education and Fellowship: We offer a varied adult education program including "Chapel Chats," evening learning sessions, and Bible studies. Our Sunday School uses the Spark curriculum. Building Christian Community is sustained by a variety of events, including a newcomer lunch, the Pancake Supper, Annual Picnic, St. Nicholas Party, Vestry lunch and "Souper" Sundays. We are a strong and supportive community.

e) Outreach: St. Matthew's has a wide-ranging outreach program driven by committed leadership. We support the "Out of the Cold" supper program, Harmony House, and the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. We are members of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee and Multi-Faith Housing, providing donations and volunteers to these programs and the Diocesan Community Ministries: Centre 454, Cornerstone Housing for Women, St. Luke's Table, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre and The Well. These and other initiatives give life and meaning to the Parish.

Governance

a) Finance, Stewardship and Fundraising: St. Matthew's is a well-run church with rigorous financial controls and a good record for balanced budgets. Our Finance Committee meets often and provides regular financial updates. Our stewardship co-ordinator promotes financial giving and regular attendance when possible. The fundraising committee is extremely active and organizes several activities each year. These activities are supplemented by successful triennial auctions. Since 2000, St. Matthew's has held three successful capital campaigns for much needed work on the church and the organ. Also, rental revenues contribute significantly to the payment of operating costs.

b) Administration: Staff positions at St. Matthew's include a full-time Priest, a three-quarter time Director of Music, a three-quarter time Parish Administrator, a part-time Sunday School & Youth Coordinator and two part-time custodians. The administrative governance of the parish is the responsibility of Corporation (rector and wardens), which meets biweekly. Corporation is advised by the Executive Parish Council, including the chairs of major committees, and Parish Council, a broader leadership group.