



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener ON EAGLE'S WINGS

Summer 2020

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Harry Potter has the Answer

Elaine Duncanson

Have you been watching the numbers south of the border with amazement and horror? They go up like a missile. Other countries have been hard hit by the virus but even poor countries with few resources have fared better. Some countries have had leaders who downplayed its seriousness, until they got sick. One very frustrated American doctor admits that other countries have shown how the virus can be contained and continued "It's not like we don't know what works. We do." The Record August 5, 2020.

This week I picked up a Harry Potter magazine and began reflecting on characters and events in the series. One parallel struck me: the resemblance of POTUS to that charming Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, Gilderoy Lockhart, who arrives in the second year. Both have the same colour of hair and are precise in keeping it just so. Both have fine wardrobes and dress to impress. I doubt that Gilderoy ever played golf but he was literate enough to write all seven of his own books.

In those books his adoring fans could read of high adventures and great achievements. Unfortunately, those were actually 'borrowed' (stolen) from lesser folk since he needed the fame and glory to maintain the fiction that he was a great man. During the year he was called on several times to solve a problem but always found an excuse to disappear. At the end of the term, his attempt to destroy Ron Weasley backfired on him and he became a pathetic little man who was led off to the hospital wing.

Clear and consistent leadership is the best policy to get a large group of people out of a difficult situation. Moses managed to get his people out of Egypt and on their way to the Promised Land and he never went to business school. The scientists have laid out what must be done to progress safely while the virus is all around us but the politicians thought this was alarmist and too restrictive and told the scientists to come up with a more comfortable plan. And the numbers go up.

A clear and consistent leader arrived at Hogwarts School in the fifth year: Dolores Umbridge who dressed in pink with fluffy and frilly bits and had a girlish giggle. She gave strong leadership but in the wrong direction. The Ministry of Magic would not allow the truth about Voldemort's return to be mentioned. Students were not allowed to learn anything practical in their Defense Against the Dark Arts even though they had to be prepared for the danger ahead. Also, they had exams with a practical component. Students were punished for speaking the truth or questioning her in any way.

The Weasley twins settled the score in spectacular fashion much to everyone's delight. Their efforts caused the plethora of executive orders – excuse me, her education decrees, - to come tumbling off the walls and shatter on the stone floor to be swept up and put in the trash. But Dolores retaliated, threatening Harry with the illegal curse of extreme pain unless he told her what she wanted to hear. At the last second, Hermione diverts her attention by offering to reveal Dumbledore's secret weapon.

Hermione led them deep into the forest uncertain how this would end. The

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September 27th.

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centaurs appeared and Dolores became demanding and nasty. When they would not obey her, she took out her wand and killed one. She was out of her element and no one was willing to protect her. She had no respect for others and they had none for her.

Respect was part of the lesson when Hagrid introduced third year students to the Buckbeak the Hippogriff. The class became anxious about the huge beast and when Hagrid asked for a volunteer to ride him, all but Harry hastily stepped back. Harry followed instructions and approached slowly, bowed low politely, and waited for a response. Buckbeak bowed in return and Harry was rewarded with an amazing ride. Draco Malfoy was too arrogant to obey and was rewarded with a bite on the arm. He exaggerated the injury and made such a fuss that the innocent beast was condemned to death.

The Dracos of the world refuse to follow guidelines set by doctors and scientists because they are too restrictive for their likes. Just today in the advice column, a young woman wanted assurance that she could go out with her friends and even strangers because she was bored. She knew her grandmother was frail but her interesting plans for the summer dissolved with the arrival of the virus. She took some precautions so it was okay, wasn't it? NO! All of us are bored and have had plans scuttled but the rules are for the safety of everyone. Even the bored young woman.

The article in the Record on August 5 puts the blame for surge in numbers on selfishness. It was an important graduation, or a wedding that had been planned for ages, or some other celebration, or just a trip to a favourite bar. What is the matter with that? Life can't just stop because someone might get sick. A house party with about sixty people saw at least a dozen get sick. That is one person in five. Some of them may not live. Some may have a serious chronic condition for the rest of their life. Some may not be able to work again. Some may spend their life savings for hospital treatment and therapy afterwards.

There has been enough said about masks, washing hands frequently, social distance, staying home, limiting contact with other people. Any who have ears should have heard by now. Yet there are stories of people insisting that restaurant tables be moved together, disparaging names for those who wear masks, tourist going to Alaska enjoying the day in Banff, politicians ignoring science in order to get re-elected.

Scientists and politicians are like two horses for the cart of society. Instead of being hitched together to pull it forward, they are hitched to opposite ends. The cart is going nowhere and may be split apart. Honest people obey the rules because they respect others as well as themselves. Honest leaders want to improve life for those they are leading. If the message is confusing, or changes on a whim, then people are not likely to follow the best advice. One doctor said this is a behavioural disease and to prevent it we must change our behaviour.

After a harrowing escape from the Chamber of Secrets, Dumbledore told Harry that it is the choices a person makes that shows what they truly are. Harry had chosen Gryffindor over Slytherin, shown loyalty to Dumbledore, bravery in rescuing Ginny Weasley. He was rewarded with the sword of Godric Gryffindor to slay the Basilisk and the life saving tears of the phoenix to heal him.

Choices have to be made in the time of a pandemic. They may not be what we want but what is necessary to keep most people safe. We have examples to follow from history as well as guidance from science. We were also given sufficient intelligence to see whether a leader has our best interests at heart or his own. When faced with a beast we can respond with patience and respect like Harry or with arrogance and selfishness like Draco Malfoy.

Public Protectors

Margaret Hendley

The news seems endless on either COVID-19 or police brutality. As I was reading yet one more time about the tragedy of George Floyd, it brought back contrasting memories of many years ago when our children were little. I remember when our twin sons Nathan and Matthew were about five or six telling them that if they ever got lost or in trouble, and neither parent was around, to look for a policeman who would help and protect them. On a walk downtown one day I saw a policeman on patrol and walked over to him to show the boys the nice uniform that he wore so that they would know what to look for. This man smiled at our little guys and wished them a good day.

A few years later in 1975-1976 my husband Brian, a philosophy professor at the University of Waterloo, took a sabbatical year as a Visiting Scholar at the University of London, England. Our sons were then nine and our daughter Alicia, four turning five. We ended up renting a newish townhouse in the city of Bromley, which was an easy 40 minute train ride into London for Brian and a pleasant ten minute walk for the children and me to the excellent school they all attended. I bought little Canadian flag pins for them, which I would attach to their clothing whenever we traveled with them and reminded them of what I had told them earlier in Canada: if you are ever lost or in trouble, to look for a man (few women back then were in the police forces), in uniform for help.

The first to heed this advise was Nathan. He and Matthew were very excited about taking a field trip with their class to go see the Tower of London. But sadly, on the morning of the trip Matthew awoke with a fever and sore throat and could not go. Before Nathan left for school I took him aside and gave him some money, asking that if he had the opportunity, to purchase a souvenir for his sick brother. Later that day while touring the Tower with his class Nathan spied a souvenir shop and wandered in to buy the promised gift. When the purchase was made he came out to find, not surprisingly, that his classmates had disappeared. He ran about for a bit, growing more frantic, until he bumped into one of the guards patrolling the Tower, dressed in the costume of a Beef Eater. Although not the uniform he expected to see on someone giving help, Nathan by this time in tears, was very happy to accept help from this kind man, who managed to reunite him with his class and teacher.

During the children's long break at Easter time we decided to all cross the English Channel and go visit some cities in Europe. Our first stop was in Paris and we quickly determined that while the mornings would be devoted to visiting historical sites and/or art museums, the sunny spring afternoons would be spent in one of the many lovely Parisian parks where the children could run about a bit and play. This scheme worked well until one day when the boys wanted to play by a shallow pool where children pushed little boats in the water but Alicia was desperate to take a pony ride. So Brian stayed with the boys and Alicia and I headed off for the horses. All seemed to go well until after about 30 minutes and a successful pony ride, she and I returned to the pool to find Brian and Nathan looking all over for Matthew, who was nowhere in sight. Shortly later a French policeman came up to us holding Matthew's hand. For some unknown reason he had wandered off from the pool, then found himself lost, but remembered to look for a man in uniform. Unfortunately this policeman could not speak English and Matthew could not speak French, but his tears and the Canadian pin on his coat gave a clue that something was wrong. At that point a kind woman joined them, who translated for the policeman who then walked Matthew back to the pool to be reunited with his family. I scolded Matthew for leaving his brother, but he looked up at me and said, "I'm sorry Mommy, but I did remember to look for a policeman."

These memories came back to me as I read in the paper about the current protests against the police. When I told our small children to look for a man in a uniform to help them if ever lost or in trouble I had perfect confidence that

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they would be treated kindly. And I believe that our grandchildren in similar circumstances would be treated so today. But I wonder how many mothers of Black children feel confident in giving such instruction to their youngsters or, even more so, to their teenagers? I do not presume to understand the complexity of raising children of colour in North America in a culture where racial prejudice is either often rampant or sometimes lies just under the surface. Neither do I condemn all police, as I am sure that the majority of them wish only to be of help to all their constituents. But I do feel I have some insight and much compassion for those parents trying to raise their innocent children to believe the best in all people, yet somehow keeping them safe from those who might harm them. And I hope and pray that change soon will come to our society and that the protests that are now so current will no longer be a necessity to arouse the powers-that-be to protect and nurture all of us.

DEANERY OF WATERLOO REFUGEE COMMITTEE Chronicle of 2015 – 2020

Part 1

In 2015 a call went out to the Anglican churches of Waterloo Region. A Steering Committee of three; Jane Townshend, Margaret Walker and Fred Walther challenged the community by asking, “What could we do to help with the recent refugee crisis?” Anyone interested should attend a gathering on Dec. 7th, 2015 at St. John’s in Cambridge.

December 2015

Reverend Margaret Walker called the meeting to order. We were a group of 52 interested parishioners. We were all of the same mind; something needed to be done to help with the Syrian Crisis. Few of us really understood what that would look like in the coming years but we were here to help in whatever way we could. 52 parishioners from 13 churches from the Waterloo Deanery had stepped forward.

At our first official meeting we were able to organize ourselves into working groups. Donations were beginning to come in from the parishes. \$60,000.00 had been pledged so far from 8 parishes. Finances were not going to be a problem. Parishioners were more than generous and very willing to help.

We understood we would be applying to participate in the BVOR (Blended Visa Office Referred) program <https://refugeehub.ca/program/bvor/> to settle refugees and provide financial assistance for one full year. We would be responsible for half of that expense. The government would cover the other half. The group determined we were ready to submit our first application to settle a family of 4 with the intent of applying for up to 3 more families later in the year. Jane Townshend would move forward with the application and we could expect a family to arrive as early as 3 weeks after we make application – our first family would probably arrive early January 2016.

We agreed to meet weekly. Much needed to be done. Housing and furnishings would need to be secured and set up ahead of the family’s arrival. Medical and dental supports needed to be investigated and we needed to resource translators as none of us spoke Arabic. The family would be required to attend English language training and the children would need to be enrolled as soon as possible in school. Anyone who may have contact with the new family must go through Safe Church screening process.

During the month of December and January we continued to meet. The Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee attendance list grew to 70 participants. We invited speakers from the community to attend our meetings to share

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Checking the building

Jonathan Malton

I just finished a building check of the church, which I do two days a week. It's usually quite uninteresting, entailing collecting rubbish in the grounds, emptying dehumidifiers in basement rooms, filling humidifiers in pianos, running taps and flushing toilets in a largely unused building, and entering every room in the building to check for oddities (evidence of mice, leaky ceilings, windows left unlatched, mail under the front door, etc). It takes about ninety minutes. For insurance purposes, the Property Committee team takes care of doing it daily.

We recently put garbage receptacles in the garden and grounds. Most of those who visit regularly (a lot of unsheltered folk, & others who spend a lot of their time on the streets, but others too) are using them diligently and gratefully, which is a whole lot nicer for the property committee than having to go around the grounds finding beer cans, discarded food containers, and other rubbish. We haven't found more than a very few sharps in there lately, since the Consumption and Treatment Services site opened across the street in October, before which there was drug paraphernalia there most days. The CTS is saving a lot of lives.

It feels odd to empty dehumidifiers and fill humidifiers on the same visit, as I had to do today. I felt that I really should have used the water from the dehumidifiers to fill the humidifiers, but I didn't.

For many of the rooms, the smell is so distinctive (old building, poor ventilation, long-term storage of not-very-clean material) that I hardly need to look around or even enter very much. If anything was amiss, I'd notice the smell was wrong.

Hmm...sweat, old fabric, wine, and mothballs... all is ok in the vestry.

Beeswax and bleach in the sacristy.

Dust & old electronics in the organ chambers.

Crayons and pencil shavings in the Sunday school.

Grease, acid, gas, and drains in the boiler room and utility plant.

Gas stoves, dishwasher soap, and vegetables in the kitchen.

Christmas puddings and old books in the Pudding Factory storage and church archive room.

Dust and electric motor in the organ blower closet.

Faint body odour in both choir change rooms. The same, yet subtly different.

Grass clippings and soil in the gardening equipment rooms.

Stale disuse in the old shower rooms.

Oil and rubber in the fan room.

And that universal and welcome smell of "nave" in the nave.

This is a building that misses its people.

Church Note Cards

If anyone is interested in taking on a project to create and sell St John's note cards as a fundraiser, please contact Syd Reginato (reginatosyd@gmail.com) or Judy Shantz (judyshantz13@gmail.com)

Parish Update June 30, 2020

During the pandemic, the Wardens and Parish Council continue working, although the focus has shifted significantly. Please receive this update as a report on the activities of your parish leaders during this unusual time.

WARDENS

Receiving and implementing policies from the diocese and the House of Bishops during the pandemic

Annual employee reviews for the Rector, Music Director and Office Administrator are in process.

Financials necessary for the federal Wage Subsidy program were submitted to the diocese. The application for March and April has gained substantial relief for salaries. We won't qualify for May, but will be applying for subsequent months.

Finances are being supervised by the Wardens, but we're still looking for a treasurer.

Regular giving has been encouraged through direct electronic fund transfers (DEFT), dropping off envelopes, or online through Canada Helps.

Rental of the building during the pandemic has changed.

All Jam Packed left their space at the end of June.

Food-Not-Bombs and the Community Kitchen are preparing food on Friday for distribution at city hall on Saturday—under the supervision of the Health Department.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

A Property Committee was established and the team is working on:

- Prioritizing short- and long-term maintenance and improvements.
- Regular Building checks to identify issues quickly. This has become even more important since the building is largely vacant in the pandemic.
- Regular utility maintenance and inspections.
- Duke Street doors were fitted with lock protectors to thwart break-ins.
- Reduced custodial services during the pandemic.
- Continued grounds clean up with the addition of waste receptacles.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish leadership is working on how to proceed (next steps) in the current situation while following Diocesan guidelines. The Mission and Ministry Plan is being monitored and modified as the pandemic evolves.

Parish Council realizes that relationships have become more important since Parish life is not centred on the building. We're all missing the person-to-person contact. Decisions have been taken with these realities in mind.

\$1194 was raised through the Virtual Dinner.

Terms of reference for the Fund Raising Committee are being developed.

The Memorial Garden has new Trustees. They will be announced once the official paperwork is completed.

A policy for the use of bequests is being developed.

PARISH LIFE

WORSHIP

Weekly worship has gone online, as well as Come To The Table, our monthly worship for families and children.

There has been a very rapid adaptation to digital media for these services.

Parishioners with technical expertise have stepped up to the plate to assist with on-line needs.

Lay leadership has been involved with services, and the Director of Music has adapted and marshalled musicians for the remote services.

Funerals have been adapted during the pandemic.

We've been learning to pray from home.

FELLOWSHIP

The church website and regular emails from the church office have become key in coordinating weekly activities.

Coffee hours each week are Zoom meetings.

It is encouraging to hear that so many people are in touch with each. When someone is brought to mind, pick up the phone! There has been no need for formal organization!

The Young Adult group has met monthly on zoom for study, reflection and socializing.

The Parish visitors and phone buddies are busy, as is the Parish intercessor network informed through the Rector. There is prayer support for any need, so please be in touch.

The main medium for the Rector's pastoral care is through phone and Zoom.

There was a concerted effort to update the parish directory with accurate contact information at the beginning of the pandemic isolation. If anyone knows of changes, please be in touch with the church office so we don't inadvertently lose track of anyone.

We're trying to keep in touch with persons who are not on email (about 45 households). Information beyond that communicated by phone, has been mailed via Canada Post.

Please remember to contact the church office prior to any entry into the building to ensure proper procedures and prevent unexpected encounters. Prevention is the best form of defence.

Sunday Singalong

Jonathan Malton

I remember car trips from my youth, when we'd pack up & head out, singing along with Freddy Mercury, Gordon Lightfoot, Maria Callas, the Beatles, or whomever, on the cassette or 8-track. Yes, those "car tapes" were an important part of it all. The singing was easy, and we sounded at least as good as they did!

Here's your chance to do that again, as we introduce the St John's Fourth Sunday Singalong of a congregational hymn for Sunday worship. We tried this recently, with great success, and hope to continue as a way of participating in worship together while we can't meet or sing praises in the same place.

Here's how it works: A small group from our choir will record a hymn for the 4th Sunday, with organ or piano, and you are invited to sing along, in your own home, using your headset, and record yourself on your computer or smartphone. Send the recording to me (Jonathan Malton at jmalton@gto.net), and I will mix all the recordings, including similar ones from our choir members, into a Congregational Choral Collaboration hymn to be part of our Sunday online and by-telephone worship service. If you're interested, then please email me, & I will send you the audio track, the music for the hymn, and instructions.

Let's sing together, while we're apart!



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their expertise and experience of refugee settlement. We were particularly interested in what was immediately required when the family arrived. A worker from a ShamRose, a community agency who helps with Refugee Settlement, reported that Syrians who have been in Canada for a while now step forward to prepare food for any newly arriving family so they have enough food for the first few days. We were also advised new families are anxious to call home to let everyone know they have arrived safely. There is a need to have a cell phone immediately when they arrive.

We were able to secure an apartment in Kitchener. A request for furniture and clothing was sent out to parishes. We were overwhelmed with the generous response from members of the participating churches. We were beginning to gather what was needed to furnish a 2-bedroom apartment. We had a group of able-bodied individuals who were to clean the apartment, pick up and deliver furniture and set up everything in anticipation of the family's arrival. All of this was going on as we were also busy preparing for our own Christmas celebrations. We felt truly blessed.

On January 20th, 2016 we were told our application for our first Syrian family had been received by the government and we were to now wait to hear when they would arrive. Kathi and Roy Thibodeau were to be primary contacts for this family.

February 2016

Many people worked hard in setting up the apartment. Everything was beautifully arranged. Items were donated by many people and then put together to complete a room. Surprisingly each one of the rooms were fully colour coordinated once they were furnished. It seemed God's hand was behind our efforts!! Last minute arrangements were being made to ensure the cupboards would be stocked and prepared food would be waiting in the fridge upon their arrival. Detailed budgets were created, Clothing gathered and was sent to the apartment. The anticipated date of arrival was



First week at their new apartment.

February 29th. We would be notified by the government of travel details. There could be as little as 3 days

Months later. A visit to the school.

notice. Kathi and Roy Thibodeau were ready and waiting for the call to be at the airport at the appropriate time. Everyone was extremely excited!!

It wasn't long before we heard the family had arrived in Montreal late Saturday night Feb. 27th, they were put up in a hotel where they met government officials to complete necessary paperwork. They were given winter coats and by Monday evening, 2 days later were put on a flight to Toronto. Kathy, Roy, a translator and Gord Miller set off in a bit of a rush to be at the airport in time to greet the family. They needn't have rushed as the flight was delayed by 2 hours in Montreal due to an ice storm. Good thing they were given winter coats when they arrived in Montreal on Saturday!! Kathi and Roy, with the

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help of Shamrose had created a welcome sign in Arabic to help the family spot them. The sign was a big success!! By the time they all got back to the apartment in Kitchener it was after midnight on Tuesday March 1st. The family was very pleased with the apartment and also with the full Syrian dinner waiting in the fridge for them – prepared by Shamrose.

Family # 1 – Arrived February 2016 – The group will assume full responsibility for settlement and shared financial support for 12 mths. Support ends February 2017.

The family consisted of Thaer, Rim, Monier and Anwar

Primary Contact: Kathi and Roy Thibodeau

Our groups were organized and through the primary contacts were connecting with the family to begin settlement in the community. Someone would be with them almost every day for banking, grocery shopping, completing government forms, attending medical and dental appointments and getting enrolled in school and ESL courses.

Furniture and clothing donations were continuing to come in from parishioners. We were in need of storage!! We knew our work would continue for 3 more families, so it was important to accept whatever furniture was donated. This was a huge cost savings for us to be able to accept goods instead of purchasing new items.

Parishioners were so very generous and kind in providing whatever we seemed to need. It is difficult to list all of the individuals who went above and beyond with their assistance however one comes to mind as it was a unique kind of situation. Simon Guthrie from St. John the Evangelist in Kitchener had an idea to do a solo “Ride for Refugees”. He mounted his road bike on stationery blocks in the basement of the church and for some many hours he pedaled. Parishioners from all parishes sponsored his ride and he was able to contribute \$5000.00 to the refugee committee. The committee decided this money would be used for transportation needs of all families. We were able to purchase bus tickets and passes and provide for transportation as it was needed throughout the 5 years.

April 2016

We had planned to apply for an additional family at this time but changes were happening within the government about sponsorship. The best we could do at this point would be to offer our help to refugee families who were already here. Community agencies were overwhelmed with the recent influx of refugees and they were barely able to provide the support and attention that was needed to settle them well. We offered our assistance. There would be no financial support required just social support to assist in family integration. We knew how to do this now and so people stepped up to take on this added responsibility. We made the commitment to support two families under the Family Partnership Program and Reception House. One family with four young children was delighted when we showed them the fully furnished apartment we had waiting for them. This was done with donations from parishioners. They were so happy to finally be in their own place. The second family, an older mother and her adult son who is blind moved into their apartment in Cambridge. They were also very pleased to have a safe and comfortable place to call their own. Our teams continued to provide social support to both of these families to assist them to settle successfully in our community.

The committee was overwhelmed with the outpouring of support from the congregation and the community at

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large. We were surprised when we were advised of a fundraiser that was going on St John's in Kitchener. Here is a submission from the leader of the fundraiser. Simon Guthrie and "The Ride" raised \$5000.00

The ride began at midnight in the upper parish hall (at St. John's in Kitchener) and went for the first 12 hours of April 3rd, 2016 and I can't believe it's been 4 years already! I used some training videos from an online company called The Sufferfest, taking quick breaks between videos to stretch out and change clothes as needed. I estimated that if I'd done it outside I might have covered ~250km. I was on a triathlon bike that was mounted on a bike trainer (it kept the back wheel off the ground and applied resistance to it). The Sufferfest has a thing that if you finish 10 of their videos consecutively, they deem you to be a Knight of Sufferlandria. I have a certificate attesting to it, and I occasionally mention it on a resume.

We timed the ride to end during coffee hour after church on Sunday, and it was pretty nice to have a crowd there for the last few minutes. It was very tough at times, but there were always a few from the congregation keeping me company. I remember the weather was miserable as we brought my equipment in the night before - cold and icy outside. I think I had a very large plate of poutine afterwards (and a nap).

CTV News sent a cameraman to film and interview me in the last hour or so - I was on the news that night.



The committee went on to use the money raised for costs related to any form of transportation. It was a welcome contribution. We were truly blessed.

Look for Part 2 of the Chronicle in the next edition of OEW.