



# Connections

*Speak to one another in the words of psalms and hymns and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord, with praise in your hearts.*  
*Ephesians 5: 19*

Volume 3  
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*Sam Tam at the Christ Church organ*

What I have greatly appreciated about Sam, along with his musical ability and his technological knowledge, is his integrity, that he is a person of faith, he is hard-working, generous, and he has a great sense of humour. I will miss working with him.

*Pastor Pam*

## MUSIC - SWEET SOUND OF WORSHIP

People have given expression to their faith in song from earliest times. When the Jews were taken as prisoners to Babylon, their captors demanded that they sing “the songs of Zion” for their amusement. But they refused, saying, “How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” For to them, music was meant to praise God.

And through the centuries, from the psalms to the soaring majesty of Handel’s “Messiah” to the modern day lilt of “Godspell” to the tiny piping of a little child singing “Jesus Loves Me”, sacred voice and instrumental music have always enhanced the worship of faithful people.

Christ Church has enjoyed a strong musical tradition for many years. Our worship is enriched by the leadership of our 14 choristers, a few with vocal training, but most just with a love of using their voices to praise God.

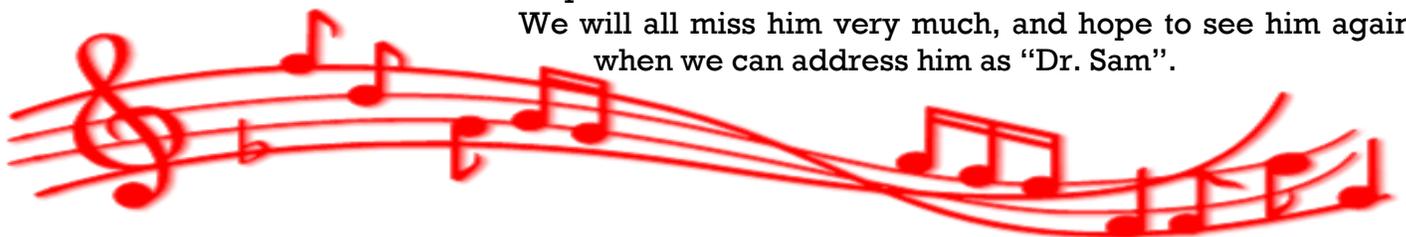
When Music Director Sam Tam came to our parish, he moulded this small group into a happy band of singers achieving more than they had ever thought they could. His own history of study, experience and Christian faith, matched with the enthusiasm of choir and congregation, has lifted hearts every Sunday, and we thank him.

COVID-19 put an end to in-person services, but Sam has recorded 137 hymns to be used online so the fellowship at home can still make music.

We also discovered a different aspect of expertise in this many-faceted man. Sam is the computer-literate person who has been coordinating the officiants, readers and preachers into a seamless presentation of online worship. This is no small feat, as we are separated, each in our own home and with varying degrees of skill.

However, the time has come that we must say goodbye to Sam as he concentrates on his pursuit of a PhD degree. With a September deadline to complete the work for his doctorate, the pressure is on him to give up any other responsibilities until it is done.

We will all miss him very much, and hope to see him again when we can address him as “Dr. Sam”.





## Appreciation

Sam, heartfelt thanks for all you have done for us at CCSV. It's unfortunate that we didn't have longer together as a choir, but I am sure we have not seen the last of each other. We wish you every success and many blessings.

*Leonora*

Thank you Sam for all you did at Christ Church. *Olivia*

Sam, your musical vibes was well appreciated. Blessings as you continue to reach your goals. *Monica*

Sam, I have certainly enjoyed the time you spent with us as our choir director. You have dealt with all our little foibles with great patience and humour. I also want to thank you for the wonderful presentations you have done producing the online services. Best wishes for success as you complete your thesis for your PhD and your future musical career. *Beverly*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam. We will miss him so much. I wish him good luck in his studies. God bless him.

*Dusky*

I liked his credentials. I liked the sound he got from a happy choir. I liked his organ and piano playing. I liked his work ethic. I liked his jumping in with skill and expertise to produce our online worship. I admired his patience when I was late with a sermon.

Above all, I liked his smile and his warm personality. I'll miss you, Sam. *Fr. Roy*

Sam, you are awesome. Thanks for everything, and best wishes for a successful dissertation. *Bill*

## HOW CONNECTIONS SERVES CHRIST CHURCH

In May of 2019 a twice-monthly newsletter called *Connections* was launched at Christ Church. Its purpose was mainly to keep in touch with people who could not get to services on Sunday mornings and so did not receive information posted in the bulletin.

Little did we know that by March 15, 2020, that would include all of us, as we changed from a close-knit fellowship of friends who smiled, shook hands and hugged one another to a people separated by a vicious disease which threatened our lives.

The role of *Connections* changed too, as it became one of many ways we could keep in touch with each other. There were still phone calls, of course, and something new we struggled with called Zoom, but all the news about saints days, feasts of the Church, ministries like the Food Bank that were and are continuing, was not easy to hear about.



Until now, most of the writing in *Connections* has been done by your Editor, who fortunately has a background in this kind of writing. Others regularly add articles in their particular field — Ian Campbell on Finance, Miriam Mifsud about children, Deacon Jacquie on the Food Bank and of course, Pastor Pam with insightful theological reflections.

**Now it's your turn.** We know that there are others in the congregation who could enrich our pages by exploring and writing about feasts, saints days, holy days of other faiths and a host of other areas we have been covering.

If this is a ministry that interests you, please contact the Editor at [aandrshepherd@rogers.com](mailto:aandrshepherd@rogers.com). I will be delighted to tell you all about how you can be a part of keeping our fellowship vibrant and alive, separated by distance but bound together as we share friendship and faith.

*Audrey*

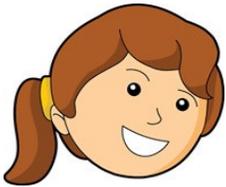
**We will continue to offer an online service with the help of parishioner Kelvin Mugisha. We will be applying for a diocesan Reach Grant to be able to purchase the resources we need, as Sam kindly brought in all his own equipment to record the service. Please pray for a positive response to the grant application and continue to participate in our online service by going on our website: [www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com)**

# CHILDREN AND THE EXTENDED FAMILY DURING COVID TIMES

None of us know for certain what harm is being done to children by being kept apart from their extended families who love them. In the bible (2 Timothy 1:1-7) Paul assigns great importance to Timothy's extended family, in his grandmother Lois, who played a lasting, powerful role in his spiritual life.



## CHRISTIAN LIFE IS COMPLEX



Now as then, Christian faith life is a complex development, instilled in us by many and most particularly by our grandparents, godparents, aunts and uncles.

Generally these extended members of the family are a little older and often with this maturity comes many gifts that should not go unused. These folks are keepers of their family's history, which they can proudly pass down to the younger generation to provide continuity.

Children, because they are children, have the goal in childhood to learn how to develop self-control. This is a long process which needs steady and reliable role models from those who love



them. How would a youngster know how to behave unless he sees how those around them treat/love one another?

## REINFORCING THE MESSAGE

A Sunday school teacher will explain to a child that they should "rely on the Lord in these difficult times". This message is then reinforced, in the child, when they see and hear adults around them actually doing this. Knowing family members do call out to the Lord in prayer for comfort and guidance for their family is a powerful action.

I have heard many Sunday school children say they liked to be around their extended family for reasons that may be surprising to adults. Mature

folks often provide the element of time to listen fully to a child in a calm, non-judgemental environment. Folks who are not constantly distracted by devices can provide a much needed respite for younger ones. A child can have his self-worth restored by a totally focused, in the moment, extended family member.

## BRIDGING THE GAP

By now we all know we must, by governmental decree, stay physically away from many who are so

important to us. How can we bridge this gap and still provide the loving closeness and moral guidance that generations have in past provided?

Youngsters still love to receive a card specially selected for them and with your personal greeting/signature on it. Having the letter carrier deliver something to a child still brings the surprise, pleasure and connection to the loved one who sent it, just as it always has. Having a concrete reminder in their hand is a very powerful reminder that they are connected and, while everything may seem upside down in their world, your love and faithfulness remain constant.

## OVERCOMING SEPARATION

While Zoom get togethers may not seem as pleasant as in-person family affairs, there can be ways that these help the child maintain the closeness of their relationship with the ones who love them. Often when the child sees the relative on the screen with a very familiar room behind them and hears a familiar voice speaking to them, the memories start to flow of things that should never be forgotten.

Belonging to Christ and to a mindful, earthly, loving extended family can dispel anxiety or loneliness, even in pandemic times.



*Miriam Mifsud*

## SPRING BIBLE STUDY HAS IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR US

Someone said "It was a great short story." Someone said "It moved so fast I thought Mark was running out of papyrus." Someone said "He used the word 'immediately' umpteen times."

All agreed we had a good time and learned a lot in our study of the Gospel of Mark. There are really two stories. One is the story of Jesus, the Good News about the Son of God

And the other, the story of the disciples, who had a really hard time understanding who Jesus was and what was his message.

We studied for six weeks in eight units and had four great Zoom meetings to share our insights and concerns.

Thanks to Pastor Pam for being our Zoom host and to Father Roy for designing and moderating this interesting and challenging program.

## Scripture readings

**May 2 Acts 8: 26 to 40**  
**1 John 4: 7 to 21**  
**John 15: 1 to 8**

**May 9 Acts 10: 44 to 48**  
**Psalm 98**  
**1 John 5: 1 to 6**  
**John 15: 9 to 17**

***GROUNDING IN FAITH, A SKILLED LEADER,  
A MAN WHO FOUND JOY IN SERVICE***

Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones died on Sunday, April 18, a victim of COVID-19. Ordained priest in 1968, he served as senior assistant to the dean of St. James Cathedral, incumbent of Epiphany Scarborough, St. Aidan Toronto, regional dean, honorary assistant of St. Martin in-the-Fields Toronto, canon of St. James Cathedral, and executive assistant to the Bishop of Toronto.

In 1991, he was appointed incumbent of St. George's Cathedral in Kingston, and dean of Ontario and rector of Kingston. Elected Bishop Suffragan for Toronto in 1994, he served as area bishop, first in York-Scarborough and later in Trent-Durham.

After retiring in 2008, Bishop Michael held appointments as interim priest-in-charge in several parishes, including St. Jude Wexford and St. Peter Cobourg.

He is remembered for his sunny smile and warm affection for his parishioners, as well as for his administrative ability and deep faith, shared in word and action over a lifetime of service to God and his fellow Christians.

Mrs. Bonnie Bedford-Jones has been discharged from hospital and continues to recover from COVID-19 at home. She appreciates the love and prayers which have been expressed for her, and the messages of affection from many who recall her husband's ministry with gratitude.



***Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones with his wife Bonnie in happier times.***

*Photo by Michael Hudson for the Diocese of Toronto website*

*Please pray for these members of our community and their families*

<b>Alan S</b>	<b>Eleanor I</b>
<b>Anita &amp; Dave F</b>	<b>Helen W</b>
<b>Anna Mary K</b>	<b>James Y</b>
<b>Carol &amp; Ernie O</b>	<b>Jenille L</b>
<b>Carolyn W</b>	<b>John J</b>
<b>Chris P</b>	<b>Lennox &amp; Leonora Y</b>
<b>Christina &amp; Joshua</b>	<b>Linda &amp; Robert E</b>
<b>David D</b>	<b>Madhuri M</b>
<b>Deb A</b>	<b>Margaret C</b>
<b>Deborah T</b>	<b>Sherri-Ann &amp; Ron</b>
<b>Ebun D B</b>	<b>Viggy M</b>
<b>Edna S</b>	

*and for all those affected by COVID-19,  
racial discrimination or any injustice*

**TWO WAYS TO LOOK AT IT**

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
Those haggard faces could belong to you  
or me  
Should life have dealt us a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really  
are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not OK to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who  
are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way  
**NOW READ THE POEM FROM  
THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP**

***First in a series***

***STORIES TOLD IN LIGHT AND COLOUR***

Tourists visiting the centuries-old cathedrals in Europe stand awestruck before the Rose Window, a treasure at Notre Dame in Paris that survived the recent fire. They marvel at the 11th century windows in the cathedral in Augsburg, Germany, especially when sunshine enhances the brilliant colours designed by craftsmen so long ago.

Stained glass windows were first used by rich Romans in their homes in the early years of the Christian era. They were adapted for churches as a means of telling the stories in the Bible and the history of Jesus' life to people who were mostly illiterate.

All across Europe, churches glowed with the light coming through the rainbow of colours in these windows. For many worshippers, who had little other beauty in their hardscrabble lives, this was the only place they could bask in such richness. By the 14th century these magnificent windows had reached their highest level of skill, and they have never been surpassed.

Like most parish churches, Christ Church has several very beautiful stained glass windows, given in memory of parishioners long gone, many donated after the disastrous fire which destroyed the building at Christmas in 1918.

In preparation for the 175th anniversary of Christ Church later this year, *Connections* will feature one of these windows in each issue.

The first, shown here, is in memory of Mary Beldam, who was born in 1843 and died in 1920. Mary's family were active members of this parish through three generations after immigrating from England in 1869. The inscription in the window says "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Beldam, for many years a faithful member of this church."

Some parishioners will remember Mary's grandson, Murray, a Warden in the 1930s and still a member 70 years later, until his death at the age of 98.

Mary's husband, David, was an auctioneer, who also had a farm implement business. They lived on the northeast corner of Markham and Eglinton. We are told that when the church burned down, services were held in the Beldams' implement shed.

Our thanks go to Ian Campbell and Deacon Jacquie, who are working together to bring the stories of our stained glass windows to life for us.

We await the day when we can again enjoy their beauty as the sun shines through the lovely colours.



*The story in this window tells of a woman being crowned with a laurel wreath, as children and adults look on in admiration.*

*Is she the one of whom the author of the proverbs wrote in chapter 31, verses 28 and 29 "Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praises her ..."?*



Two young women for whom we have been praying for a long time have had their prayers and ours answered in the best possible way. After a long time of anxious waiting, Annet Kawuma and Moureen Namono have been granted permanent residency in Canada. We'll tell you more about them in our next issue, but meanwhile - Praise God!

## ***From the Bishop's Office***

A recent announcement from the Provincial government returned us to a limit of ten people for all worship services, indoors or outdoors, including weddings and funerals. Until further notice, clergy and others should only access our buildings, observing all protocols, including mask wearing and physical distancing, primarily for the provision of livestreaming or filming worship, to a maximum of 10 people present.

These are discouraging and frightening times. But we serve an Almighty God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. We urge all Anglicans to remain faithful and calm, to commit to fervent prayer for all those who are ill and for those who care for them, and to do everything in our power to be safe, and keep others safe, during this public health emergency.

**NOTE:** The work of the Food Bank is exempted from the above limitations because of its essential nature in our community. We thank the faithful volunteers who make sure to follow safe procedures as they carry out this vital ministry on our behalf.

*Pastor Pam*



**Virtual meeting Sunday, May 23**

**Details in the next Connections**

**CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH**

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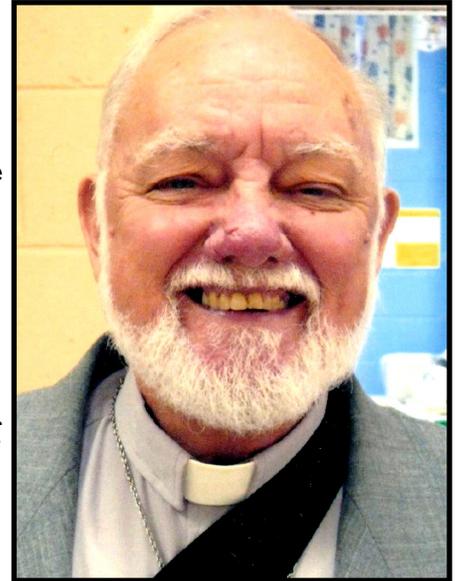
**Web: www.christchurchscarborough.com**

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## **A MAN OF MANY INTERESTS IS REMEMBERED AT CHRIST CHURCH**

The Rev. Kenneth Keen, a man of wide interests and talents, died April 20.

Ken Keen came to the ordained ministry after many years working in hospitals in the field of microbiology. This early background may be the source of his deep interest in the Order of St. Luke, the healing ministry of the church. He was a chaplain to the local Chapter of the Order.



***The Rev. Kenneth Keen***

Other great interests were model railways and airplanes. Ken's passion for aircraft led him to join the Pearson-based branch of an international volunteer group called Airport Watch. Called a "second set of eyes" by the official personnel, this enabled him to see and film special planes like the Concorde. He was also chaplain to the British Airborne Forces Association in Toronto.

Ordained deacon in 1996 and priest in 1997, he served as Assistant Curate of All Saints, Whitby, and Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew, Japanese congregation.

In his retirement Christ Church, Scarborough, was blessed to have Fr. Keen as an Honorary Assistant. We will hold a Celebration of Life for this good man when the pandemic is over and we can gather in the church again. Please remember his wife, Anna Mary, and his family in your prayers.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

**GOD**   
**is**  
**LOVE**