

## CAPTURING THE LIGHT ▶

The Anglican Journal continues its series of readers' photo and text submissions on stained-glass windows.

Send us a photo of a stained-glass window that has been especially important to you, and tell us why. Photos should be high resolution files in jpg format. Please email them to: [editor@national.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@national.anglican.ca)

Submissions are subject to editing.

## A risen Christ hides in plain sight

Since 1972 I have worshipped at the Church of St. Bartholomew in Ottawa's New Edinburgh neighbourhood and have enjoyed the beauty and wonder of the East Memorial Window. Only now do I have a more complete understanding of its genesis and message. Commissioned by Canada's 10th Governor General, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, to commemorate the members of his staff at Rideau Hall who fell in the Great War, it was unveiled in 1919 by the then Prince of Wales. It had been designed and made by the young Irish artist, Wilhelmina Margaret Geddes (1887-1955), who titled it *The Welcoming of a Slain Warrior by Saints, Champions and Angels*.

The years took their toll on the window, and the parish launched a major capital campaign in 2021 to finance its refurbishment. On Sunday Nov. 6, 2022, almost 103 years to the day after its original unveiling, Canon David Clunie rededicated the restored window at a moving and well-attended Remembrance service. In parallel with the restoration, a team of parish volunteers researched, wrote and produced a 50-minute historical documentary video, *In the Company of Angels*, about the window, the life of Wilhelmina Geddes and the significance of Canada's memorials from the Great War.

Remembrance services at St. Bart's



◀ Designed and produced by Irish artist Wilhelmina Margaret Geddes, St. Bartholomew's East Memorial Window commemorates soldiers killed during the First World War.

PHOTO: BARRY WALKER

▶ This image of the resurrected Christ forms part of the East Memorial Window. Can you find it in the photo above?

PHOTO: KEVIN MCQUINN



have often featured sermons about the sacrifice of Canada's veterans and the East Memorial Window. In the last

decade, through his own reflections and insights, Canon Clunie helped us discover and see more clearly the resurrected Christ on the banner of St. Longinus. It is "hidden in plain sight" on his standard in the centre panel of this magnificent window. Many more elements, both religious and mythical, are included in Geddes's masterful work. Now fully restored, the window is preserved so that generations to come may enjoy discovering its beauty, complex iconography and meaning. It is a memorial which portrays for all time grief and sacrifice in periods of war, as well as the redemption represented by Christus Rex.

**Meriel Beament Bradford**  
Church of St. Bartholomew  
Ottawa

## LETTERS ▶

## Colonization has had 'horrific effects' on Indigenous people

I WAS DISMAYED to read the Rev. Derek Perry's letter ("Study found no children's remains at Kamloops site," January, p. 4) and specifically by his view that Canadian society has little to apologize for to Indigenous peoples. Apparently, he believes the media has exaggerated the horrific effects of colonization. So, I'd like to draw his attention to a recent film. Movies are a good way to vicariously experience life, and the 2018 film *The Grizzlies*, based on a true story, takes the viewer into a small Inuit community. Three separate suicides by Inuit highschoolers frame the story, capturing the very real epidemic of death that ravages the North. One family starves while neighbours drink themselves into daily stupors to obliterate the trauma of residential school experience and the loss of loved ones. Almost all the characters experience physical and emotional abuse. Astronomical food prices compound poverty.

If these cruel realities and

legacies of colonial policies do not convince, please visit the city of Ottawa, which has the largest Inuit population south of the Arctic. A trip downtown will feature Inuit sitting on sidewalks panhandling. A few years ago, you would have seen internationally-acclaimed Inuit artist Annie Pootoogook sitting there, too. After winning the Sobey Art Award, which recognizes young Canadian artists, in 2006 and exhibiting around the world, she ended up living on the streets. Like the characters in *The Grizzlies*, she struggled with substance abuse and abusive relationships. Her body was found in the Ottawa River in 2016. Tragically, the death of Pootoogook and the Inuit youth are not isolated. I would urge the reverent to read the final reports of both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. May the stories shared in these reports open hardened hearts.

**Lucianne Poole**  
Ottawa



IMAGE: GOOD STUDIO

### Anglicans should be more welcoming to newcomers

I agree that broader trends in society are, in part, influencing declining Anglican Church numbers ("Data show membership falling 10 per cent each year during 2020 and 2021: church statistician," January, p. 1). But I disagree with the argument that our shrinking church cannot be impacted by responses by clergy or parishioners. From my experience as a former diocese of Toronto staffperson, I believe Anglicans could do better at welcoming newcomers to their parishes. A few examples:

- When I joined my current parish, I said hello to one person three times. Each time he stared right through me without any greeting in response, of any kind.
- A young couple I knew attended

a Toronto parish five or six times and enjoyed the service, but once the service ended, no one did anything at coffee hour to welcome them or find out who they were. They stopped going there.

- A man I knew moved to Ottawa and began looking for a parish. He chanced to come to one church on what they'd billed as "Newcomer Sunday." After the service he stood alone for a full 12 minutes while people milled around him, chatting with friends. They ignored him. Finally someone spoke to him.
- My brother sang in a church choir, then left the choir and that church. When I asked why, he replied, "I felt it was a club and that I didn't belong."

**Murray MacAdam**  
Peterborough, Ont.

The Anglican Journal welcomes letters to the editor. Since not all letters can be published, preference is given to short correspondence (300 words or less). All letters are subject to editing.