



St Cuthbert's Anglican Church

Venerable Jeff Ward: rector.stcuthbert@gmail.com  
905-617-9717

# e-Messenger May 2025



**ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH**  
AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

EST. 1960

## Sunday Services

8.00 a.m. Traditional Anglican Service (BCP)  
10.00 a.m. Contemporary Eucharist with Choir

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Friday Service

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom  
(followed by coffee)

## May Is Youth Ministry Month at St Cuthbert's

We have teams of at least four youth who regularly participate in various roles during our 10 a.m. service at St Cuthbert's. With the Crucifer, they serve as Acolytes, and with the audiovisual team, they perform technical duties to make the service available online for those watching at home.

The photo right shows our Crucifer, Dave MacKay with the two Acolytes serving on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks to Dave MacKay for serving as Crucifer, almost every Sunday. Also thanks to Jeff Bamford who leads the audio-visual team every Sunday, bringing the service into your homes.



During the month of May our Sunday Morning Youth Group will be taking part in the 10 a.m. service.

On Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> one of our Youth Leaders, Goleo, read the first lesson. Goleo is home from University for the summer.

The prayers of the people were given by two teenage members of our Sunday Morning Youth group.



*Coffee and fellowship  
following the 10am service*

Every Sunday Eliza leads the youth team preparing our after-service hospitality. We all enjoy the sandwiches, cakes and fruit that they prepare. Thank you Eliza and the team for feeding us so well every Sunday.



*Eliza*



*Sunday youth catering team*



## Youth Food Drive May 3<sup>rd</sup>

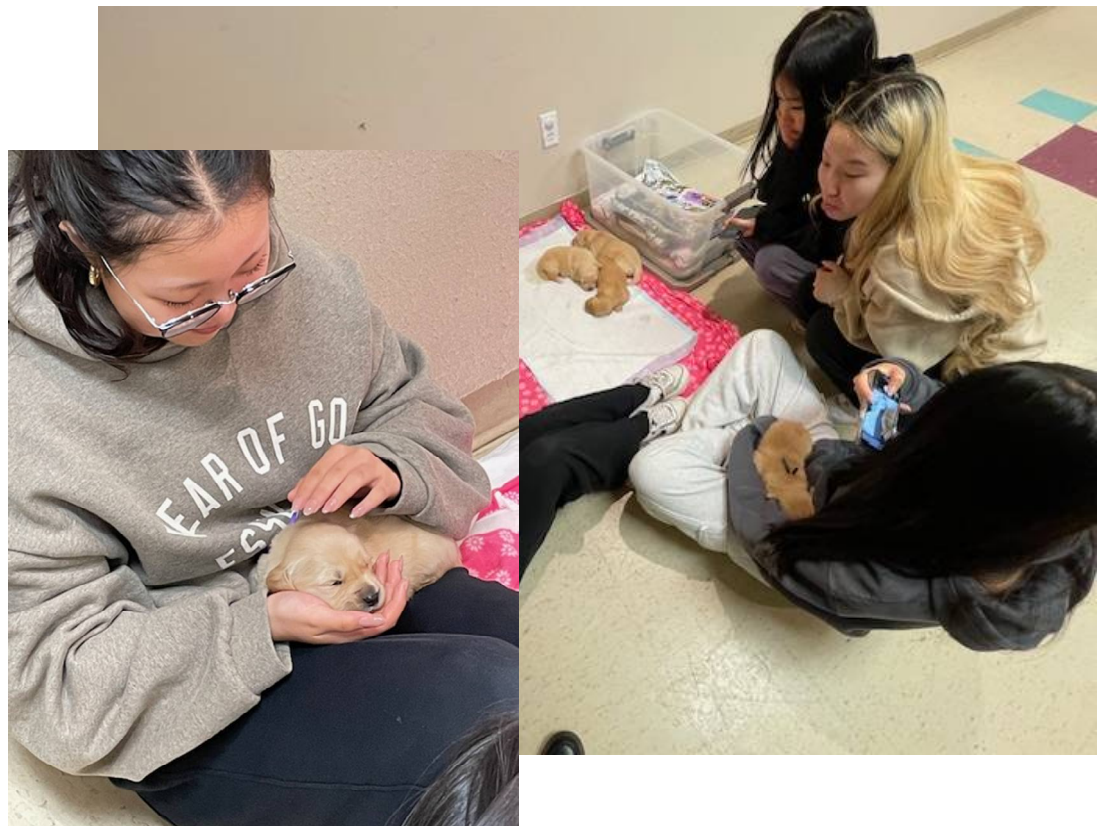
Our youth team distributed food bags to residents in the area of the church and collected them on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. They gathered the equivalent of three full grocery carts of food which were taken to Fare Share Food bank.

We partnered again with Shaarei-Beth El synagogue which collected in the area around the synagogue. Thank you to the drivers, both adult and youth, who helped with the collection.



## LOVE

On May 4th the newest members of St. Cuthbert's were brought to church by their owner, Tristan, and were adored by the Sunday morning youth members and also the adults. Who could not love these little puppies !



## St Cuthbert's Choir Outreach



On May 3rd the St Cuthbert's Choir performed at the Post Inn Retirement Home in Oakville. Kurt Rudolph introduced the choir and told the audience about the links that some choir members had with the home, having had relatives living there in the past. Our Choir Director Vincent introduced each of the pieces giving background to the music with some humorous anecdotes. Ron Clements was the soloist for the performance of "The Holy City". The whole performance was well received and one of the audience said afterwards that the music made her heart leap ! The choir has a program of future outreach performances at Retirement Homes in Oakville.



## The Men's and Women's Lunch

The April Lunch was held at the Machu Picchu restaurant on Speers Road, Oakville and was well attended. Some enjoyed dishes from the Peruvian menu while others savoured dishes from the "50s Diner Menu".

The food is all freshly prepared so it is not fast food, but who minds the wait when the end result is worth it and the company is good?

The May Lunch will be the last before the summer break and as the tradition holds, it will be at the Mandarin Restaurant on Dundas.



## Spring News from the Community Garden

The Community Garden has been an initiative of St Cuthbert's Church for the past four years. The three churches of St. Cuthbert's, Maple Grove United and Clearview Reform all grow organic vegetables for use by our local food banks. Clearview Reform Church has the largest area, which makes it the most productive. Each church provides volunteers to work in the gardens of all three churches.

This year the car park garden at St. Cuthbert's, which was the first garden to be developed, will be left fallow after four years of cultivation. Instead, clover will be planted. This will allow the soil to regenerate. A natural bacterium, known as Rhizobium, forms nodules on the clovers' roots to convert atmospheric nitrogen gas into usable forms of nitrogen that plants can absorb. In this way we keep the soil healthy without putting chemicals into it, thereby producing organic vegetables.



*Malcolm and Samira from St Cuthbert's and Heather and Frederick from Clearview preparing the ground at Clearview Church*



The large garlic crop at Clearview Church is well advanced. Volunteers from St Cuthbert's and Clearview joined together to prepare beds for planting seed for tomatoes, hot peppers, sweet peppers, egg plant and zucchini. Ali and Kurt from StCuthbert's used the gas-powered tiller to prepare the beds for weeding.

The raised beds at St Cuthbert's Church had garlic planted in them last fall and this spring the garlic plants are doing extremely well. The first crops produced by garlic are the scapes that come in the spring and can be used in salads or anywhere spring onions are use. The second crop is the garlic bulbs that swell up underground when the scapes are harvested. We also have a good crop of rhubarb growing in one of the planters.



## Oakville Earth Day Clean-Up

David Aylward

Well, Earth Day 2025 (April 22) has come and gone as has the Oakville Earth Day Clean-Up held on April 26, 2025.

St Cuthbert's efforts were coordinated by Paul Meyer and yours truly. But the real work was done by a team of 12 eager volunteers cleaning up 2 parks in our Ward 3 - Dunvegan and Ardleigh parks.

The 2025 version of the event involved approximately 1,200 volunteers cleaning up 72 parks and green spaces around Oakville. And 900 bags of garbage were reported to be collected this year by Miller Waste, one of the event sponsors. In addition to Miller Waste, other sponsors included the Town of Oakville, Halton Waste Management, Panago Pizza, Film.ca Cinemas and Starbucks.

Look for the event next April and we would welcome your participation. A great way to spend a couple of hours with friends and family, out of doors and for a good cause.



## St Cuthbert's Community Peace Garden

David Aylward



Peace Garden Bench and Little Library

With such a long winter and slow start to Spring the Peace Garden team of Nancy Blackie, Jean Podolsky and Dawn Seto is now starting to complete the final steps on the community peace garden to the west of the church.

Repairs have been made to the little free library, recently damaged in a windstorm, and traffic is again building in sharing the books.

We have a small sum left in our TD Friends of the Environment Foundation grant which will be used to complete the planned work and ready the space including a bit of furniture and some plants.

Once the physical space is complete StCuthbert's will face the fun task of hosting and encouraging events to hold in the space.

Stay tuned for news of the opening of the space coming soon.



# Looking Around Our Beautiful Church

by Malcolm Little

## The Cross

Many people have commented on the simple beauty of the cross over the Altar at St. Cuthbert's Church. As we found in the carving of Christ the King (see March Messenger) the cross is full of symbolism that might not be seen at first glance. We do not know who designed or made the cross back in 1960, but I suspect Fr. Rye, the Rector, had a hand in the design of the internal church decorations and would have placed these symbols as a statement of his faith.

*"When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols--it awakens us to heaven's joy on earth".*

Brother Roger - Taize Community

### SUFFERING



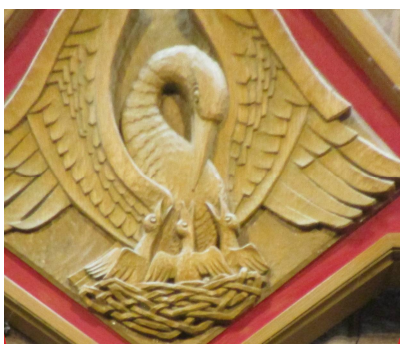
The crown of thorns and the three nails at the head of the cross cannot easily be seen from the ground. They signify the suffering of Christ on the cross. The nails may represent the themes seen in other parts of the cross, love, truth, and justice. They can also represent the Holy Trinity. The presence of three nails also relates to the traditional belief that three nails were used in the crucifixion of Jesus, a belief known as Triclavianism.

### TRUTH AND BETRAYAL



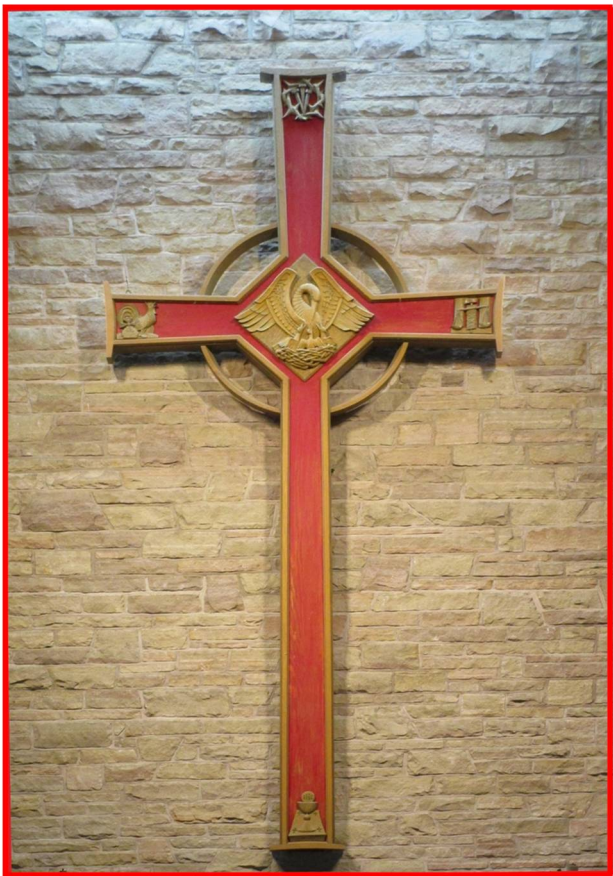
Here we see the cockerel crowing with the disc of the sun rising on the horizon. It reminds us that in our human weakness, Peter had denied the truth of Jesus three times. We also see the purse containing the 30 pieces of silver for which Jesus was betrayed. It is tied with a knot forming a cross.

### LOVE



The centre piece of the cross illustrates love and shows a pelican that is a symbol representing Christ's love and sacrifice for all humanity. The Pelican wraps her wings in love and protection around her young. This symbolism is rooted in an ancient legend that predates Christianity. The legend states that in time of famine the mother pelican would pierce her own breast to feed her young with her own blood. This symbol was adopted by the early Christians to illustrate the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ, shedding his own blood for the love and redemption of us all.

St Cuthbert's e-Messenger May 2025



### JUSTICE



Here we see the Roman symbol of judicial authority, *the fasces*, which is a bundle of birch rods around an axe bound with a leather strap. These were carried by judicial officials in the Roman Empire as a symbol of their authority. This reminds us of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. The scales also demonstrate the supposed impartiality of justice, but note they are not balanced in our carving, indicating perhaps the partial nature of the justice Jesus received! There appear to be two pillars or scrolls at the rear which may symbolize the foundation of the law.



### UNITY IN THE EUCHARIST

There is no crucified Christ on our Cross because Jesus is not there, he is risen and with us today. At the foot of the cross we see the symbolic elements that represent Jesus, the bread and wine of the Eucharist. Jesus is here, the letters IHC on the wafer are the first three letters of the name "Jesus" in Greek. These symbols appear to rest on the rock of a Bible or perhaps an Altar. This is the foundation of our faith. It reminds us that in the Eucharist we celebrate a memorial to Jesus, God the Son.



## CLERGY RECOMMENDED SELECTIONS

by Booksy

Rather than random selections from our library, this series will focus on books and films emphasized by clergy during their homilies.



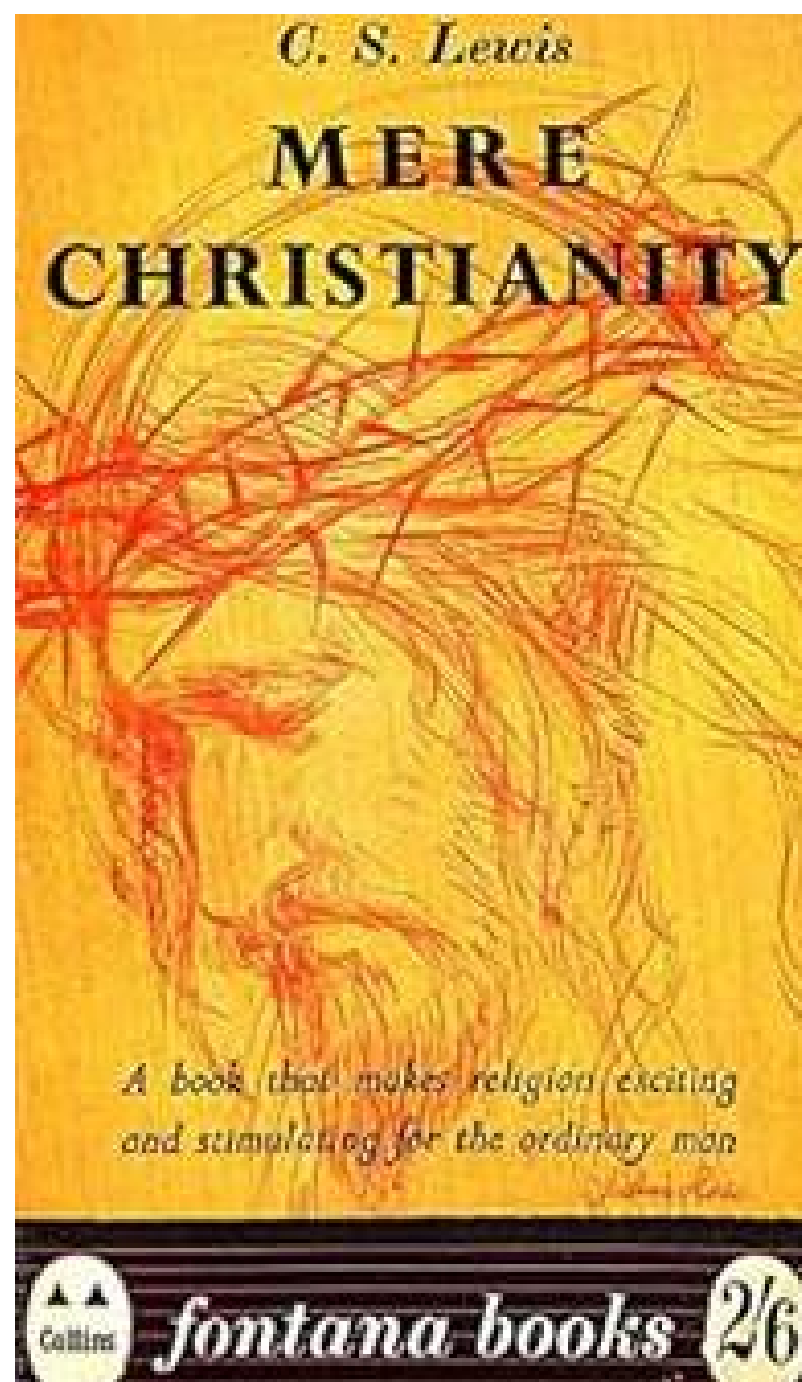
**Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald:**

### **Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis** (September 22, 2024 Homily)

During World War II when the war's outcome was still very uncertain, the BBC recognised that people needed hope, so asked C.S. Lewis to deliver a series of radio broadcasts to explain what Christians believe. Eventually these speeches were gathered into the book *Mere Christianity*, which went on to become one of the most famous and influential apologetics for the Christian faith ever written. Writing as a layman and former atheist, Lewis did not break down Christianity into specific denominations, but rather, spoke generally of “mere” Christianity to show that it was a holistic faith that reconciled head and heart; body and soul; those estranged from God, from each other, and even from loving oneself. It explores what Christian life involves and why Lewis thought we were all better off as Christians.

### **The Shortest Way Home: C.S. Lewis & Mere Christianity, DVD**

This title has been taken from a quote in the book *Mere Christianity*: “We are driven on to something more inward...for the longest way round is the shortest way home.” This DVD provides a general overview of Lewis’s issues on faith and reason and offers insights into the tough questions of how to live out faith in an imperfect and difficult world. The longest way round, ie, the challenges of discipleship, of learning to truly love God and man – is the shortest, and only way home.



### **Mere Christianity Study Guide; a study course for a thinking faith** by Steven Urban

This is a comprehensive study workbook with easy-to-read appendix and commentary to provide deeper insights into each chapter, as well as Scripture references to reinforce biblical concepts.

## Kerr Street Mission Dinners



St Cuthbert's has been providing meals at Kerr Street Mission for many years. In recent years we have prepared a meal on just one day, but this year St Cuthbert's is providing two meals. The first will be on Wednesday June 18 and the second on Wednesday September 17.

The volunteers find it rewarding, but, more importantly fun, both in the kitchen and also engaging with the clients. The photo left shows some of last year's team.

We prepare about 70 meals at a cost of about \$350. In previous years we have used our own Community Garden organic vegetables and money from the sale of our vegetables to finance the meal.

This year the St Cuthbert's garden will not be producing as much ([See Community Garden News page 3](#)) and although we will be able to use produce from Clearview and Maple Grove United Churches, we are looking for financial contributions to cover the costs.

If you would like to join the volunteers to help those less fortunate than ourselves please contact Kurt, Malcolm, or Samira. If you would like to contribute financially please contact Lori in the office.

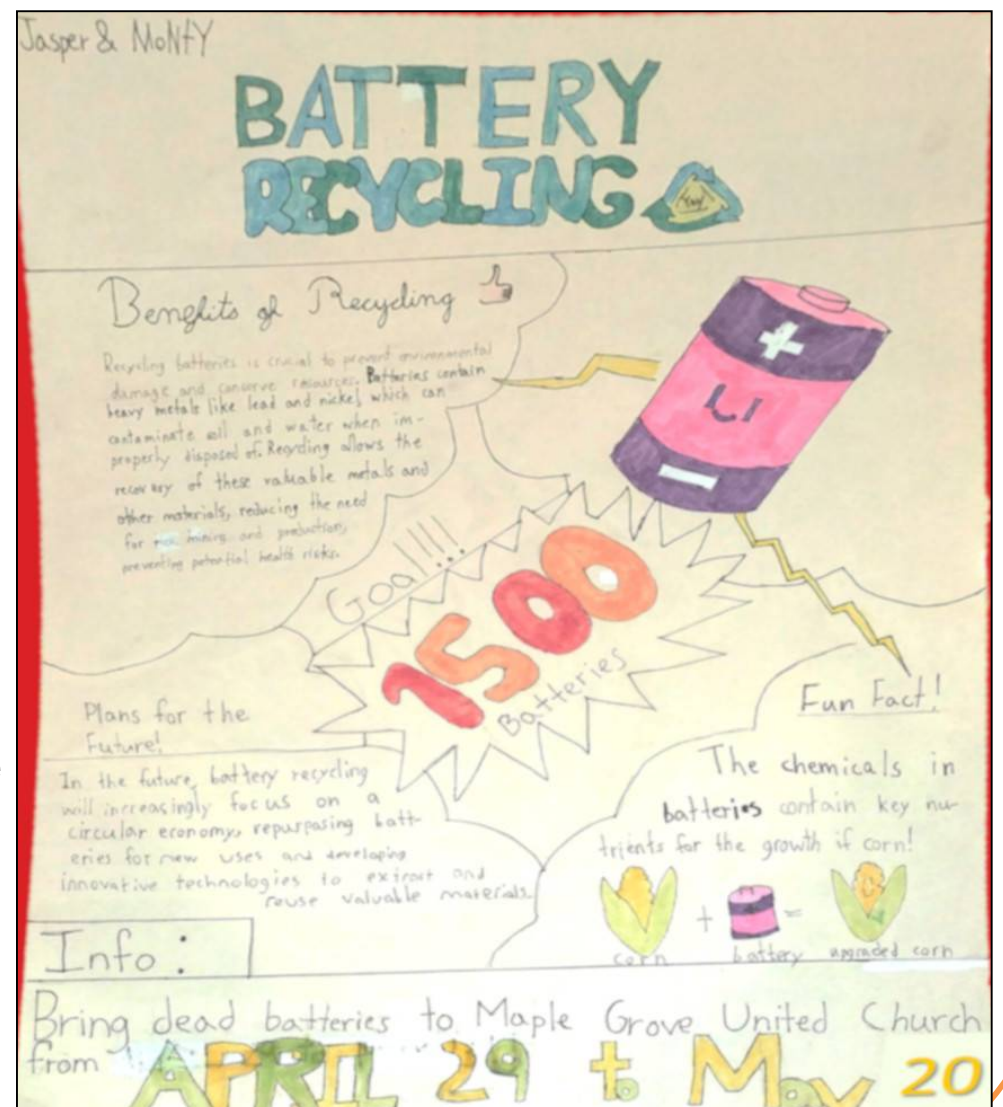
## Battery Recycling Project - 4<sup>th</sup> Trafalgar Cub Scouts

The Cubs are undertaking this project as part of the Seeonee Award. The requirements for this award include 10 outdoor adventure skills, 15 community service hours and as with other awards, a community oriented service project.

The third-year Cub Scouts (10-11 years old) of the 4th Trafalgar Cubs are very interested in helping the environment. They researched how battery recycling protects our water supply while recovered minerals can be used in fertilizer for corn. Their goal is to collect 1,500 batteries. Jasper and Monty produced this poster to help advertise the project.

Between May 1 and May 15, bring any home use batteries (A, AA, AAA, C, D; NiCAD or Li), which can be left in the foyer of Maple Grove United Church.

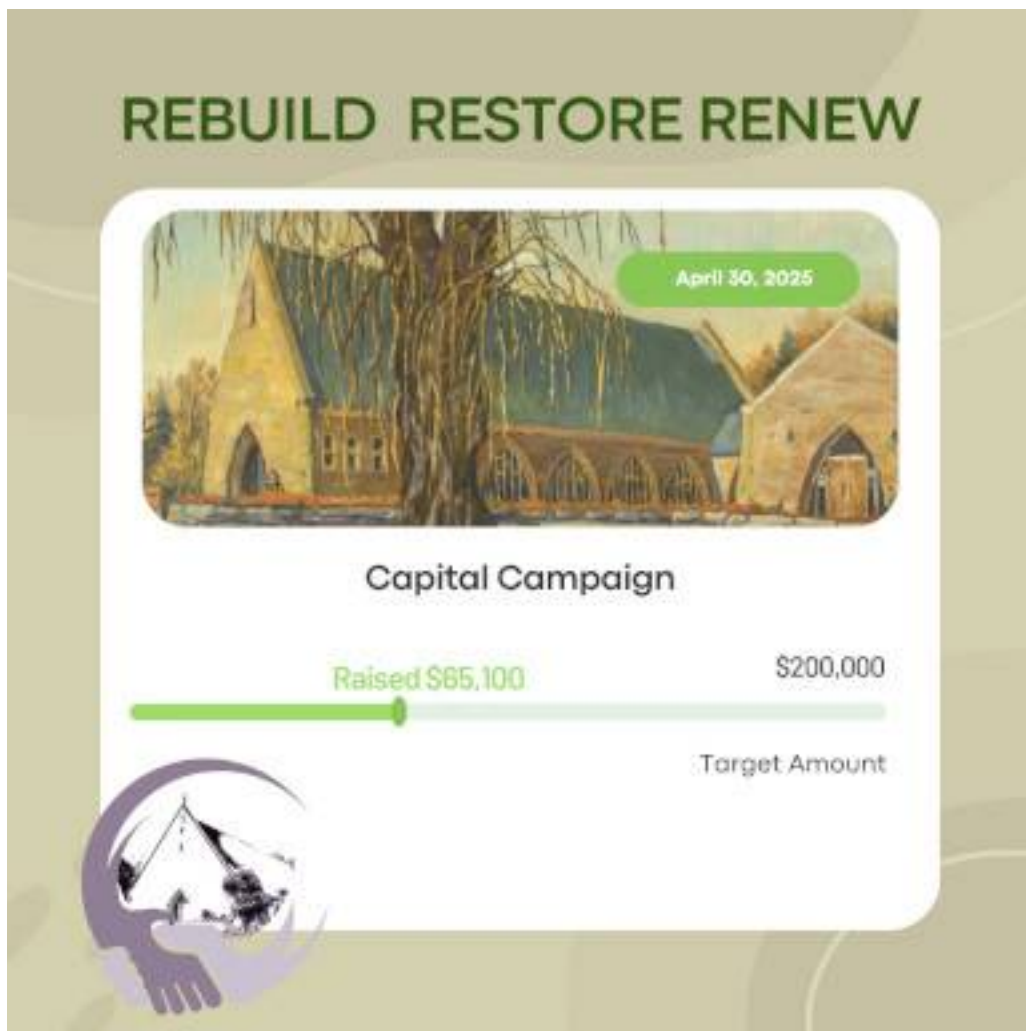
St Cuthbert's wishes these local environmentally aware kids success in their project.




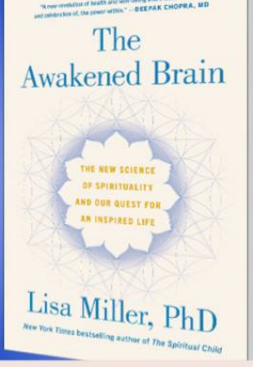
For more information contact : Brenda Sweeney, Group Commissioner, Pack Scouter – Akela 4th Trafalgar Scout Group




## St Cuthbert's Announcements



**THE AWAKENED  
BRAIN BOOK STUDY**



Wednesday Evenings  
May 7 to June 4, 7- 8:30PM  
St Cuthbert's Church  
and Community Centre  
1541 Oakhill Drive



**St Cuthberts  
Everyone Welcome  
Parish  
PICNIC**

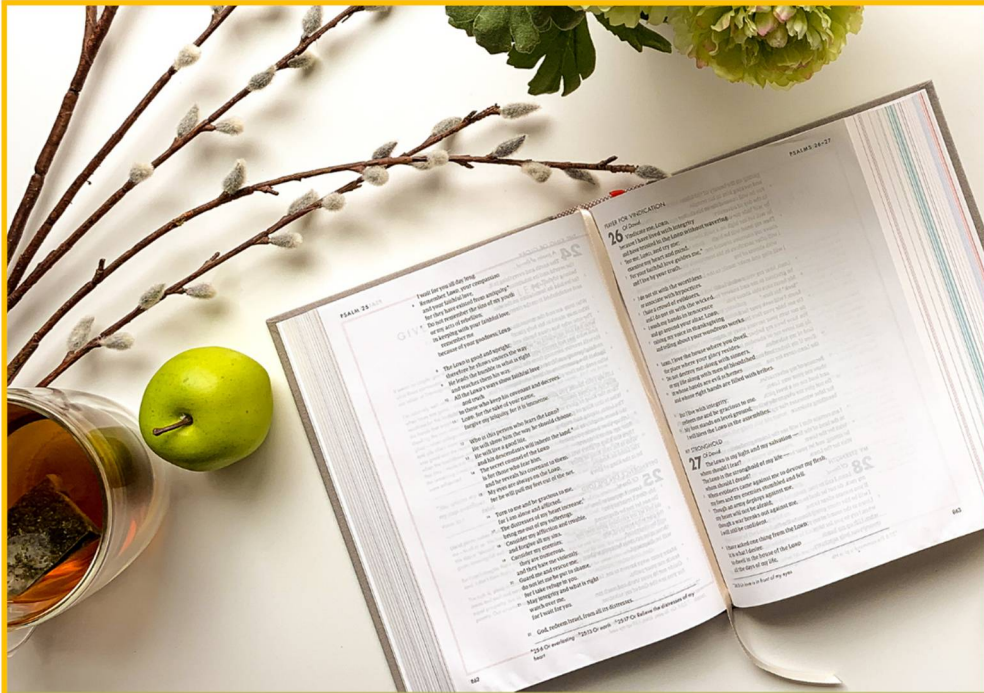


**LIONS VALLEY PARK  
Saturday, MAY 24, 11.00 AM**

**We will take a 30-minute walk along the river, then head back to the picnic spot for lunch and some fun group activities.  
Lunch will be around 1:00 PM.  
Lunch is provided but please bring a water bottle (or other drink) and a lawn chair.**



## Events and Information



### MORNING PRAYER

Every Friday at 9am via Zoom

Contact the church office  
if you are interested in participating.

### St Cuthbert's Labyrinth Walk

Come and walk the  
labyrinth and learn  
more about this  
meaningful spiritual  
practice.

**FIRST FRIDAY  
OF EACH  
MONTH at  
7pm.**



A labyrinth is not a  
maze, but a time  
for relaxation and  
reflection in a world  
that wants us to  
hurry. Our  
Labyrinth Walks are  
on the first Friday  
of each month.

People of all  
abilities are  
welcome!

**St. Cuthbert's Church**

1541 Oakhill Drive, Oakville  
905 844 6200

stcuthbertoakville@gmail.com  
www.stcuthbertoakville.ca

*May you find joy, peace and healing on the path!*

### Candlelight & Prayer with Songs of Taizé

Friday, May 16, 2025  
at 7:30 p. m.

*In the stillness  
of a candlelit hour,  
come and pray with us  
and sing the songs and  
chants of Taizé.*

**All Are Welcome!**

St. Aidan's Church  
318 Queen Mary Drive  
Oakville, ON L6K3L6  
Phone: 905 845-6111

### ZOOM BIBLE STUDY



**LIFE IS BETTER IN THE WORD  
LET'S DIG IN TOGETHER**



**TUESDAYS  
7:30PM**





HOSTED BY  
**ARTISAN COMMUNITY MARKET HUB**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
**OAKVILLE**  
**SPRING BLOSSOM**  
**MARKET**

AT MAPLE GROVE UNITED CHURCH  
346 MAPLE GROVE DR, OAKVILLE, L6J 4V5

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2025  
10.00 AM TO 3.00 PM

**FREE Entrance / FREE Parking / FREE Swag bags for first 20 visitors / FREE Goodie bags for kids (Limited quantities)**  
30 vendors ~ Handmade by local artisans

Non-perishable food donations will be accepted  
on behalf of Kerr Street Mission

*@artisancommunitymarkethub*



**OAKVILLE'S**  
**FARMER'S MARKET**  
**OPENING** **May 3rd!**

Join Us!

Your Farmer's Market - For Almost 40 Years!

Every Saturday  
08:00 - 1:30PM  
MAY-NOV

Dorval Commons  
200-240 North Service Rd. W  
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!

**WE ARE CIVITAN**

Over 40 Vendors!  
Over 50K Donated in '24!  
Ontario's Only Market Community Hub!

[oakvillecivitanfarmersmarket](#) [oakvillecivitanfarmersmarket.ca](#)

Fresh! Local! Community!

**BUY LOCAL**