



## Music News

### A Message from our Organist and Choirmaster Syd Birrell

I have been at St Peter's for all of five months, your warm welcome makes me feel I have been with you for years, it's great to be a part of the St Peter's church family.

I have been working both within the church and in the wider Cobourg and Port Hope community to expand our music program. If you can help with any of the following initiatives, or can suggest people who might be interested, please contact me. [sbirrell@sympatico.ca](mailto:sbirrell@sympatico.ca) You will have seen that we regularly invite outside musicians to join us, helping us get the word out that St Peter's is an exciting place to be on Sunday morning.



ST PETER'S CHURCH

# Choral Scholarships

2022-23

You will have noticed some new faces in the choir. I am very grateful for the anonymous donor who has added to our choral scholarship fund, enabling us, to quote our donor, "to grow the choir, bring new excitement, energy and voices" to our worship. We are looking for four more choral scholars, high school or university age. And if you have been thinking about singing in the choir, please come out to a Thursday night choir practice at 7pm and check us out. We are also open to conversations with interested donors who may be exploring thoughts on ways to help support the growth of our music programs or help empower young people in their musical formation. Please speak to myself or Fr. Matt if you have any interest or questions in this area.

One of our recent initiatives is a collaboration with the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO). I took a proposal to the local chapter, which was approved, that we offer an Organ Scholarship at St Peter's, funded equally by both parties. There is a great shortage of trained organists, and this is our contribution towards solving this problem. The award has gone to Ben Keith, who has been endearing himself to the choir and congregation with this enthusiastic choir conducting. We will work with Ben this year to prepare him for the RCCO Service Playing Certificate Exam next spring. Ben, who lives in Mount Pleasant, is finishing up his degree in Computer Science at Trent U. Already you have seen Ben on the organ bench, and over the coming year he will be perfecting the art of playing for a church service.



The handbell choir is back in business, meeting on Tuesday mornings to rehearse under the direction of Trinity United organist Debbie Fingas. Newcomers are asked to call Kay MacLeod at the office, (905) 372-3442. New ringers are always welcome. We look forward to hearing the handbells in church at Thanksgiving and at Christmas.

Speaking of bells, it is our hope to hear the tower bells ringing as soon as the tower repairs are complete. I'm looking to connect with any who would like to ring the tower bells when the time comes. Please reach out to me as we look to relaunch this exciting

ministry.

We have started a Junior Choir, we meet Thursdays at 4pm for 45 minutes. Ages 7 to 12 welcome, children outside the church are most welcome. In addition to having fun singing, the choristers will learn basic music theory, as we follow the guidelines of the Royal School of Church Music for training choristers.



I will end this message with an invitation for you to pass on your thoughts and comments to me. I welcome suggestions and requests for hymns, organ music and whatever else you might think of.

*Syd*