



“For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.” (Isaiah 56:7)

St. Dunstan of Canterbury

Parish Profile December 2021

Land Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory

We acknowledge that this church is situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha, and Alderville First Nations and the Metis Nation. The treaty that was signed for this particular parcel of land is collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923 and applies to lands east of Woodbine Avenue. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous people on this land.

Mission Statement

We are a church that affirms life over death as much as life after death, unafraid of change, able to recognize God's hand in the revolutions, affirming the beauty of diversity, and abhorring the imprisonment of uniformity. We are a church without answers but asking the right questions; holding law and grace, freedom and authority, faith and works, together in unison, by the Holy Spirit, pointing to the glorious mystery who is God; a church so deeply rooted in Gospel and tradition that, like a living tree, it can swing in the wind and continually surprise us with new blossoms.

The Creation of St. Dunstan of Canterbury Anglican Church

In the early 1980s, the decision was made to amalgamate two Scarborough churches – St. Simon's Church, located in Highland Creek, and St. Edward the Confessor Church, located in West Rouge. The name of the new church would be St. Dunstan of Canterbury Anglican Church. It was chosen by members of both parishes and endorsed by the College of Bishops.

By the end of 1984, land was purchased, designs were agreed upon with input from both parishes, and St. Dunstan of Canterbury Church was completed. The first combined service was on the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 2nd 1984.

Hebrews 3:4

*For every house is built by someone
but the Builder of all things is God.*



Naturally there were some differences between the two groups for a time, but through the wisdom of the first parish priest, Fr. Michael Pollesel, togetherness prevailed.

Fr. Michael and parish members were instrumental in the development of the first Church Photo Directory in 1985. This was the beginning of really seeing ourselves as one. It is now updated every five to seven years, as need dictates.

The huge success of our parish is evident through our worship, along with the willingness of so many to contribute to the enjoyment of a tremendous social life. Our church, with its comfortable and detachable chairs and beautiful church hall, is strategically built to accommodate any function required by the community.

Worship, Liturgy, Music

Worship Style

Our 10:30 am Choral Eucharist service incorporating traditional liturgy along with contemporary worship styles provides a comfortable ambience for individual and group worship. Occasionally, an intergenerational liturgy is followed.

2 Chronicles 7: 15-16

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place...

Our 8:30 am Said Eucharist service provides an opportunity for quiet reflective worship.

The Book of Alternative Service is used for weekly Eucharist. On occasion, the Book of Common Prayer is used for Morning Prayer. A Wednesday morning service runs prior to the weekly Bible Study. A blend of traditional and contemporary music is offered by incorporating choral anthems and hymns. Our mass settings include, Proulx, Picardy, Rutter, Schubert and Haas.



Worship Service Assistants

We are an active parish with a long tradition of lay ministry in our worship services. Our volunteers consist of adults and children, eight years and older from our congregation, plus our two Deacons. We have four servers (chief, crucifer, and two acolytes), four chalice bearers, two readers for the lessons, one intercessor, and one Gospeller at our 10:30 service. In addition, we have two appointed positions (an MC and a Head Server). There is a coordinator responsible for those who serve as sidespeople. Our Deacons do not act as servers but do take their turns in the other positions. All laypeople are valued and appreciated for their sincere desire to share their faith and, as a result, our parish is greatly enriched by the participation of our volunteers. They are a living example of what we are taught in 1 Peter 4: 10-11, that God calls all of us to *“use whatever gift [we] have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace...”*. This participation also fuels a strong sense of belonging and ownership; this is **our** church. Our volunteers also feel a deep bond for the parish – they care about it and want to support it.

Our 8:30 am service is blessed with a full roster of volunteers organised by a separate coordinator. The devotion of the laity at St. Dunstan enriches all of our worship services.

Music at St. Dunstan

Music is an integral part of worship at St. Dunstan and is designed to inspire, uplift and enhance the liturgy. A talented



team, under the leadership of our Music Director and Organist/Pianist provides choral and instrumental music for our Sunday services and special events. Their gifts allow us to *"make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation"* (Psalm 95:1). We also enjoy hosting local musical ensembles in concert for outreach and enrichment of the cultural fabric of our community.

Psalm 101:14

*I will sing of steadfast love and justice;
to you, O Lord, I will make music.*



Our choir rehearses on Thursday evenings to prepare a repertoire of diverse styles and genres in order to offer worshippers a blend of traditional and contemporary music.

Congregational singing of hymns and mass settings is a valued part of our worship services and our Choir Director and Organist/Pianist support our worship in this way through the varied and rich selection of hymns and anthems chosen. Our worship is enriched by the addition of visiting vocalists and instrumentalists, including flute, clarinet, percussion, trumpet, harp, and steel pans from the parish, our community, and beyond.

Wednesday Bible Study

Our Bible study group meets Wednesdays after the morning Eucharist. Discussion often begins with a question before getting to the Bible study. There is a comfort level with tangents as long as they are relevant. Generally the study is based around the Scripture but at times has diverted to explore other writings. We value learning how culture and context shapes the interpretation of Scripture and want to apply what we've learned and how it is relevant to today. We come with open minds and treat everyone with respect, promoting a liberal and inclusive space. Relationships and community are valued and we expect that most folks seek a relationship with God that is loving, non-judgemental, generous, and joyful. Our desire is to reflect this relationship as we *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). These values are nurtured in the context of our time together.

*"The teaching culture - our Bible study, book studies, groups -
meet us where we are and help us grow." - Parishioner*



Diaconal Ministry

Our parish has been very supportive of the Diaconal Ministry whose servanthood work is a ministry to blend liturgy and social justice. Deacons assist and encourage others to live their Baptismal covenant of servanthood; their calling is to shine light on the ministry of service in the church and the response to those in our community who are marginalized, disadvantaged, and who have personal needs.

Each of the two Deacons works with the Incumbent to support ministries that currently include: Church School, Stewardship, Volunteers, Outreach, Ministry to Seniors, Parish Workshops on specific topics, and Parish Special Activities organisation. In addition, each Deacon has service commitments in their professional life in order to take the church to the community. The Deacons are scheduled for liturgical roles for worship services along with the involvement of the laity in Sunday services.

The responsibilities of the Deacons in our parish include:

- Assigned liturgical duties including reading, presiding, preaching, duties at the Table, dismissal
- Providing assistance to the Incumbent during funeral services
- Attending Wardens' and Parish Council Meetings
- Attending meetings with the Area Bishop and Clericus meetings
- Acting as a delegate to Diocesan Synod
- Participating in Diocesan Clergy Conferences, Area Clergy Retreats, Annual Deacon Retreats and Clergy training programs.

"The church feeds me and the relationship for me is like a bee to a flower, flitting back and forth and receiving blessing." - Parishioner



The Christian Meditation Group

Meditation is a contemplative prayer discipline that centres us in our relationship with God, while allowing God's Spirit to work within our inner silence and stillness. A Meditation group has been meeting at St. Dunstan since 1995. The group is open and inclusive; many participants are experienced meditators but the group also welcomes newcomers and teaches them the simple technique of Christian Meditation. The time together consists of fellowship, prayer, quiet music, listening to a brief taped talk, silent meditation, and a brief period for discussion or questions. The meditation group is part of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM), Toronto, part of WCCM Canada, under the umbrella of WCCM, based in France.

St. Dunstan Church School program

We have a desire to foster a sense of ownership in the church in the youth by including them in church responsibilities and functions. We believe children should see a direct path to how they can become future leaders in the church and have an opportunity to share their gifts.

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.



Children gather with the congregation and are called to the front of the church to sit on the steps for the children's message. After the story a child is chosen to carry the wooden cross out of the sanctuary and all children follow into the church hall. In the hall, the children participate in a service that echoes the format of the adult service before engaging in age-appropriate activities that enhance their understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus.

We also highlight the importance of Jesus' message of sharing with others by raising money for children in other countries. We encourage older children to help younger children which builds a sense of community and provides opportunities for youth leadership.



The children enjoy attending baptisms. We explain how special this event is for the baptismal candidates and their families and indeed our own St. Dunstan family, and use this experience to deepen and strengthen the children's own baptismal covenant. Our leaders devote themselves to the children and have attended various conferences on Children and Youth Ministries as a way to fulfill our commitment to the youth of the parish.

"We believe children are a priority and want a minister enthusiastic about youth involvement." - Parishioner

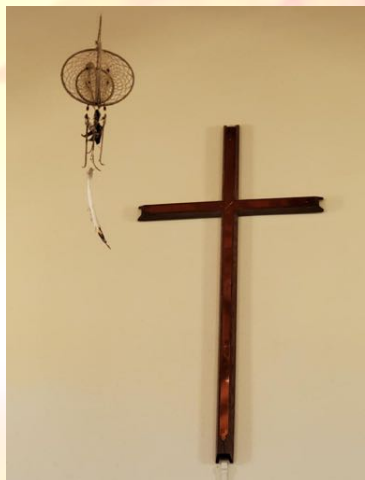


OUR CHURCH PARTNERS

York Landing and St. John's Anglican Church

In 1995, St. Dunstan of Canterbury Church was twinned with St. John's Anglican Church in York Landing, a Cree nation in Northern Manitoba. The purpose of this twinning was that we might learn from the ministry of each other. The bi-annual journey to York Landing allows us to learn from our friends.

The community and St. John's church receive intermittent clergy visits. The services are led by lay people raised up from the congregation. When ordained clergy visit, the community responds enthusiastically by presenting their children for baptism.



On our last visit, we joined our hosts in a circle as the people shared their innermost feelings. They expressed no anger or blame but told us of the pathway they were following on their journey to freedom from the past. We learned of the healing process and how much their Christian faith meant to them. We found the people to be very gentle and also naturally spiritual, but they are hurting. The wounds are deep and the scars are many.

We hope to continue this relationship with York Landing. The cultural gifts of the importance of community, the emphasis on healing, new forms of religious experience and the understanding of God as love are the lessons that we need.

*Dreamcatcher hanging
proudly in our sanctuary,
brought home to
St. Dunstan after a visit
with the residents of
York Landing*



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

1st Highland Creek Scout Group

The 1st Highland Creek Scout Group has been connected with this church since 1948, when the 1st Scarborough moved to St. Simon Anglican Church and was registered under its sponsorship with its current name. The 1st Highland Creek Scout group moved to St. Dunstan after St. Simon and St. Edward amalgamated. St. Dunstan of Canterbury's Scout Group currently has 41 youth and 15 adult volunteers, with Cubs meeting on Tuesday evening and Beavers, Scouts, and Venturers meeting Wednesday evenings.



St. Dunstan has been an involved and generous sponsor. Each year, in February, a church service celebrates Thinking Day and Scout-Guide week. The Scouters are invited to attend in uniform, present their flags, recite their vows and act as readers. Throughout the years, various clergy have helped with Religion in Life awards. A major "good turn" of the 1st Highland Creek Scouts has been delivering Toronto Star Santa Parcels to underprivileged children before Christmas; St. Dunstan has been the one-day depot for this endeavour since 2003. The church also holds group funds in trust in an arrangement that goes back many years and also supports some aspects of camping for the group. The various sections of the group have done good turns for the church in many ways such as planting flowers, moving furniture for the bazaar, and acting as ushers for events put on by the church.

"This is a church that works not just for the people in the parish but also for those outside the church ...we are a community hub ...we reach out beyond our congregation...we look outward and invite the community in." - Parishioners



OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY CARE

Outreach Mission Statement:

To be a leader in reaching out to the global community with Understanding, Support and Solutions, sharing the Message of Jesus' love.

The Outreach Committee endeavours to accomplish two goals: to raise funds for local, wider Toronto, and global organisations working with disadvantaged communities, and to promote and strengthen the sense of community within the St. Dunstan congregation and the surrounding community. The three main fundraising events of the committee are the Shrove Tuesday dinner, the Spring Fling dinner/dance, and a pub night. Members of St. Dunstan and the community meet over food and drink, have a fun evening, and get to know each other in the spirit of the Scriptures: *"breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart"* (Acts 2:46).



With funds raised we have supported many organisations including: the Scarborough East Boys and Girls Club, All Saints Community Centre and Loft Community Services, and the PWRDF. Through Compassion Canada, we sponsor a child in Honduras. Within St. Dunstan, we help support the Pastoral Care Craft Group and Crafties. The committee has also helped with requests from organisations for direct support such as clothing, food and household goods.

Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

Pastoral care

Pastoral care is an essential ministry at St. Dunstan. With an aging and diverse congregation there are many people in need of God's love, healing and assistance.

This ministry is provided by clergy when a family member or parishioner in need requests a personal visit, assistance, or spiritual guidance. It is focused on home and hospital visits, funerals, bereavement, counselling and prayer. As parishioners we assist as well and live out our baptismal vows by connecting with those in need, providing meals, assisting the aged, supporting those who are suffering, offering prayers, and sharing our love for Jesus and for each other.



"We are an active church. We pray together, play together, travel together and care for each other in a crisis - we are together - for whatever needs there are - we are together to help each other for whatever comes." - Parishioner

Pastoral Care Craft Group

For the past 30 years this group has been donating hand made gifts to Centenary Hospital and more recently Scarborough Grace Hospital. These items include emergency teddies, lap and bed blankets, fidget blankets, and chemo shawls. For the neonatal bereavement programme, special items include pouches, blankets, teddies, hats, and booties. Items are made by the members at home and given to the Director of Volunteer Services at a monthly meeting. When the pandemic began, we were asked to shift our focus to hospital front line workers by making hats, scrub bags, and ear savers. To achieve this, we amalgamated with the Crafties. The items donated included 2728 hats, 1079 scrub bags, along with 4022 ear savers and 185 headbands for Scarborough Health Network and four long term care facilities.

FUN - RAISING AND FUNDRAISING

Holly Berry Bazaar

The Holly Berry Bazaar, held in November, is a significantly important event and one of the biggest fundraisers for the church. It consists of a variety of parish and community vendors, a spirited rivalry between the men's and women's bake tables, a lunch room, raffles, and a visit from Santa. The Bazaar provides an opportunity for St. Dunstan craft and maker groups to showcase and sell their creations. Community crafters and vendors are invited to participate



as well, providing a wide and varied selection for our visitors.

Response from the community and the vendors alike illustrates the importance of this fun event. The event builds a strong sense of community and belonging and is eagerly anticipated by everyone involved.

The success of the bazaar depends on contributions from the entire congregation and everyone helps willingly in whatever way they can. Participation builds meaningful relationships and allows the church and the community to come together.

In 2019, the bazaar raised in excess of \$12,000 for the church.



The Crafties

The Crafties is a dynamic group focused on the needs of many. We are a major fundraiser for the church and the Holly Berry Bazaar. We also contribute by organising a spring sale, several after-service sales throughout the year, and selling items on the church website. People from the community are very actively involved in this group as crafters. Recently the Crafties joined forces with the Pastoral Care Crafties and expanded our ministry. When we could no longer meet in person to make crafts for St. Dunstan, we swiftly shifted our attention to do everything we could for the front-line workers and others in need. As both a fundraising group and a source of donations to those in need, we are a vital ministry in this parish.



Diva Night – Girls' Night Out

Our first Diva Night was held in 2005. We've held nine Diva Night events throughout the years. In 2016 we changed the name to Girls' Night Out.

The event is an opportunity for the ladies of the parish to commit to God's work through raising funds for charity. It is also an opportunity for the parish to engage in fellowship with the community and build relationships. The event is always a fun night showcasing our parish's personality through a catered, fancy dress dinner, a guest DJ, entertainment, and live and silent auctions. The men of the parish add to the entertainment and the fun of the evening, making the event a full parish effort.



Our dedicated committee chooses a charity relating to women's health and supports it for three years. Profits are shared equally between the charity and St. Dunstan's. Over the years, we have raised money for breast cancer, brain cancer, pancreatic cancer and research into cardiovascular disease in women. A spring luncheon is held to help raise funds to offset the expenses of Girls Night Out. The entire community is invited to share in the fun and fellowship.

Canterbury Knights Men's Club

In 2004, a group of men of the parish decided to create a social group to meet on a monthly basis. We schedule a social event each month to support men's Christian fellowship. In December, 2007, we added an annual tasting contest. In 2008, in honour of the late Hugh Strange, a founding member of the group, we initiated an annual mini putt contest.



"We have so many activities that you will find something in which to participate." -Parishioner



FINANCIAL and OVERALL OPERATIONS INFORMATION

We have an open door policy for all. Our office is open and staffed from 8:30 – 12:30 Monday to Friday. The Parish employs the following support staff: Parish Administrator, Sexton, Music Director, Organist/Pianist, and two Deacons. We frequently have guest musicians, both volunteering parishioners and semi-professionals, who are paid a modest honorarium and we maintain contracts for building upkeep and maintenance.

We firmly believe it is imperative to maintain our building and grounds, which include the church itself, the church hall, the car park, and the lawns and gardens surrounding our building; we no longer have a rectory. We are faithful with respect to performing repairs to keep our facility in top form. In the past ten years, we completed a major update to the heating, installed a new metal roof, and improved the audio-visual system. On top of receiving a substantial Our Faith Our Hope grant we also took out a loan from our rectory fund which was to be paid back over a seven year period. So far, we have not only made each required loan payment, but have exceeded our payments by \$50,000, thus shortening the loan repayment period to five years. Even with the financial burden created by Covid-19 we were able to make our full loan payment in 2020 and expect to do the same in 2021.

We were blessed to have installed an AV system prior to the closures and had already started live-stream services to YouTube in 2019. It allowed us to meet the challenges presented by the pandemic.

We, as all parishes, struggled financially during Covid-19. In early 2020 we were concerned about the impact it would have on our income, especially as a large part of our annual income is derived from hall rentals and multiple fundraising events through the year that were not possible due to the lock downs. Between the increased support from our parishioners and the Jubilee we received from the Diocese, we were able to balance our books at the end of 2020. Our parishioners are faithful stewards in all ways, including in their financial support. This year, they continue to illustrate their love for St. Dunstan and their faith in our ministry by participating in a very successful car park bazaar in August and by devoting themselves to organise more fundraising events. We are also encouraged by the fact that a few hall rentals have returned. All things considered, we are very blessed. [2021 Annual Vestry Meeting](#)

"We are healthy financially and can spend what is necessary to keep all things well - the building and the grounds and more." -Parishioner



Property Maintenance



Our Prayer Garden

We are committed to our stewardship of the church and the church grounds to foster positive relationships with our community. The property maintenance ministry was created to consolidate the information concerning various aspects of the church's physical plant. The members work closely with the Churchwardens. Contracts keep the church running smoothly and create an attractive appearance. Currently, we have contracts in place that cover landscaping, snow removal, heating and air conditioning, pest control, waste removal, security systems, and the maintenance and inspection of our fire equipment and alarm system.

Wardens' Response to Covid

In compliance with directions received from the Bishop, the Toronto Diocese, and the Ontario Government, we closed our Parish to in-person services, to all group gatherings, and to rentals in March of 2020. We immediately sent our employees home until we were able to safely manage the day-to-day running of the Parish.

We were very blessed as we had already started streaming Sunday services to YouTube, so switching to an on-line only service was easy. Clergy and parishioners rose to the challenges we faced.

To help lift the spirits of the clergy, a plan was hatched to fill the empty seats with photos of parishioners. This not only helped the clergy, but also the parishioners, giving back a sense of community that was taken away by the lock downs.



Our focus always remained on safety as we navigated the seas of change during the past year and a half, always following the policies as they were implemented by both the Diocese and the government. We are now enjoying a resumption of services and programs, carefully following Covid-19 protocols and vaccine passport requirements. To support our community, we have recently held a vaccine clinic in our hall, in partnership with the City of Toronto.

Jesus' ministry is a ministry of acceptance. During this pandemic we have learned to accept and understand the true meaning of the word. The Serenity Prayer best describes our journey so far: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference".

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD INFORMATION

Scarborough Rouge Park

We are a neighbourhood of diverse families and singles representing many cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. While many of our neighbours have called Canada home for generations, the vast majority of newer Canadians who have chosen Scarborough Rouge Park as their home did so in the years leading up to 2010. It is this diversity that gives us strength. The majority of residents live in one-family households and more than 50% of our neighbours have completed post-secondary studies. In



fact, the majority of employed neighbours work in health care, retail, manufacturing and the financial services. As a community we enjoy the benefits of living close to nature and enjoy having the **Rouge National Urban Park** on our doorstep. More information about our diverse and vibrant community can be found at

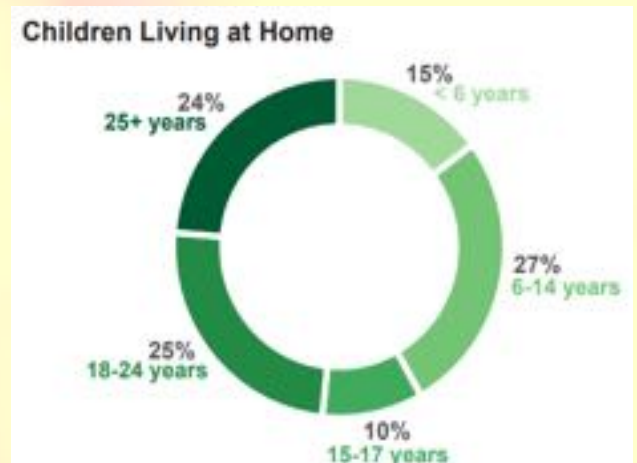
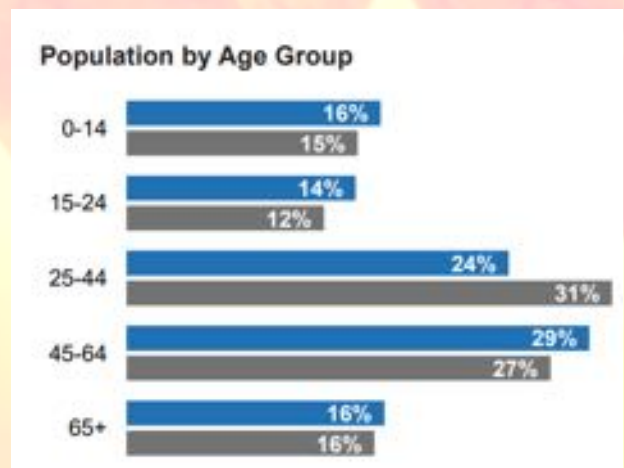
Realosophy and **Statistics Canada**.



Orange and blue bars represent Ward 25, Scarborough Rouge-River.

Grey bars represent Toronto.

Ward 25, Scarborough-Rouge River information represented in these charts is taken from Toronto.ca



PARISH VOICES

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you (Jeremiah 29:12).

"This is a special place because Stewardship is our guiding principle — we care about the building, the finances, the gardens with the milkweed for the monarchs, and for people. We care about these things."

"You are fed here - supported and challenged on a Sunday morning and you reflect that teaching, reflect God all through the week. You bring the God of Love into your week - God who is she, he, or they."



"The music is great - it's part of our teaching and an important part of our ministry." "The music makes us feel close to God, joyful and we leave with a smile in our hearts."

"Our Christmas sing-a-long is a fun time for the community. People appreciate our church and do not hesitate to come in for refreshments or for other events."



"This is a place where you can contribute. Talent is God-given and you can grow that talent here."

OUR HOPE - OUR PRAYER FOR OUR NEW PRIEST

We pray for a priest who is a forward-thinking relationship builder: a well-rounded, energetic, and optimistic leader who values diversity and who brings a vision for parish growth. We ask God for a priest who is keyed into society, who connects with parish members and who knows the importance of having fun. With

God's help, we seek someone who knows the value of building a vital youth program and valuing the contributions of seniors. Our new priest is someone who is self-assured and secure in their own ministry and is willing to walk with us and fully support the on-going ministries of parish groups and members. Approachable, non-judgmental, and open to change, our new priest will have a strong ability

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.

Matthew 7:7

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you.

to preach using relevant and moving homilies that challenge us. Musical and singing abilities are key skills for our new priest as we are a parish that uses music to connect with God. Along with musicality, strong communication skills will be at the core of our new

priest's skill set; a compassionate and understanding listener is prayed for. Finally, as we are a future-focused parish seeking to grow in our role as disciples of Jesus, we know that a priest who is open to the benefits that technology can bring to a parish and one who has a thorough knowledge of the business aspects required to effectively shepherd a congregation is fundamental to our success. Our goal is to find this rare and valuable priest and welcome them to St. Dunstan of Canterbury with open arms.

"Like a garden we need to prepare the soil for the newly transplanted clergy — like a new plant we take from place to place. They have to know our expectations, but we need to be receptive to their qualities.

We need to adapt to new conditions too." - Parishioner



We are a Christian family and we represent humanity in all its fullness. Young and old, strangers and friends, male and female. We are called together in the name of Jesus Christ.

This image expresses the heart of St. Dunstan in the words of our congregation.



....so we, though many, are one body in Christ...having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...Romans 12: 4-8