

Why Not Me?

A Personal Reflection by Jim Fox

Some of you will know, but most will not, that my father, Charley, was a fighter pilot in World War II. He went overseas in 1943 and flew Spitfire and Hurricane aircraft until the war's end. He survived a mid-air collision and damage to his aircraft by enemy fire on 11 different occasions. Dad returned to his Guelph home in August 1945. I was almost two before he held me in his arms for the first time.

Upon his return to civilian life, he renewed his employment at a local department store. One morning while at work, a woman approached him and “Why, Charlie, why did you survive and my dad for the rest of his life. “Why not did not?” In time, the answer would his life.

It took a few years for dad to respond to was baptized and confirmed in his mid-Barnabas Anglican Church in London. values became very evident to his family he founded Torchbearers, an organization learn about, and honour, the sacrifice of great wars and those in the armed forces spoke to many groups, challenging all to be active in their communities. His survival overseas did have a purpose. Ironically, after surviving the near-misses during the war, dad was killed in a car crash on a rural road in 2008 when he was 88 years young. He had just finished sharing stories and inspiring a group of air cadets in Tillsonburg.

Is there a point to the storytelling above? When I was approached to serve as a Warden in the fall of 2017, I knew from others that the position or responsibility required a considerable amount of time, energy and effort. In my thought process I had lots of excuses and reasons to say, “Sorry, but no thank you.” But it was dad's Why Not Me Legacy that I could not dismiss as easily.

As a parish family we are fortunate that so many have said yes to serve on Parish Executive, Parish Council, the myriad of committees, the music ministry, etc., but there are still so many ways for each of us to give back to our spiritual home. Possibly, if you are approached to become involved in a parish role in this or future years, the question Why Not Me will lead to a calling as it did for Charley Fox and his son. I hope I have fulfilled the expectations you and others had of me during the 3 years I served as one of your Wardens. I found it to be a learning and rewarding experience working alongside the leadership teams in our parish. Regardless of how others feel, I believe in my heart my dad is proud that I responded to the Why Not Me Legacy he instilled within me.

Jim Fox continues to respond to the Why Not Me legacy in the role of our first Senator, established at Vestry 2021



started pounding on his chest saying, my son did not?” This incident haunted me? Why did I come home while so many reveal itself and add a special purpose to

what he would describe as a calling. He thirties and became very active at St His faith and commitment to Christian and those around him. In his later years created to challenge youth to actively the men and women who served in the who continue to protect our freedoms. He



Scouting & Guiding Celebrated



St George's Clergy – Canon Christopher, Rev MaryLynn, Fr Stephen, Rev Elizabeth

Parish Profile

Wardens' Easter Message

The period since the distribution of the last edition of *The Dragonflyer* has been busy, indeed, for St George's. A series of innovative Christmas services were planned and presented using Livestream—including our annual Vestry last January! We continue to be very gratified by the success of our Livestream services. The Sunday morning service now draws around 130 viewers and our Wednesday morning service about 50 viewers. Our very first Children's Livestream broadcast garnered an astonishing 84 viewers—more, if more than one person was watching at each station. Livestreaming seems to have resulted in an enlarged weekly congregation, not just in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge, but in other parts of Canada, Spain, and Africa!

The second lockdown has only marginally blunted our outreach activities with support for St John's Kitchen and the Angel Tree continuing with some modifications, but with encouraging generosity.

By the time you read this edition, we hope to have resumed in-person worship in mid-March and beyond that into the spring. We look forward to meeting together in an atmosphere of renewal and thanks. We intend to eventually resume our workshops on the redefinition of our parish mission and also fulfill Bishop Todd's charge to be a Learning Church by continuing with our educational seminars

on same-sex marriage in the Anglican Church with the aim of reaching a parish consensus on this issue. As well, we look forward to resuming our parish social activities and hope to have a fund-raising event—possibly an auction—in the fall.

As Wardens, we are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the church premises and a number of worrisome issues will need to be addressed this year: most particularly leaks in the foundation of the older part of the building, as well as the crumbling back steps and fragile rectory deck. The existing memorial sign which faces Fischer Hallman will be renovated as soon as labour and materials become available.

We wish to extend our deepest thanks to our parish family who continue to give monthly towards the operations of the church. Whether you drop off a cheque or mail one to the church or use an e-transfer, you help us to pay the bills. It is deeply appreciated.

Each year, early spring is a time of anticipation and hope! We rejoice in the reminder of Christ's resurrection. We rejoice in the distribution of Covid Vaccines in our wider community and the hope it brings. We rejoice in a return to in-person services. Most importantly, we rejoice in all blessings God brings us!

Greg Butler, Catherine Carlson, John Dale, Tim Goodison



Emma Jesus' Perfect Valentine



Nelson filming Rev MaryLynn Forrest reading



Lesley Burland-Prong & Marg Ryrrie recording Music for Livestream