



ST. JUDE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO

October 1, 2026

"The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel."

Isaiah 5:7

Dear friends in Christ,

Every autumn, we arrive at a familiar moment in the life of our parish. The leaves begin to turn. The rhythm of summer gives way to the routines of autumn. Programmes resume. Choirs return. Parish life gathers momentum once again. And as we settle into a new season together, we take time to reflect on the life we share, and the gifts God has entrusted to us. **That reflection is what stewardship is really about.**

Before it is about budgets or pledges or planning for another year, stewardship is simply an opportunity to pause and give thanks. To give thanks for God's generosity. To give thanks for one another. To give thanks for the countless ways Christ continues to meet us and shape us through this parish community.

A Vineyard Entrusted to Our Care

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a vineyard. The owner plants it, tends it, equips it, and entrusts it to others to care for. Everything needed for fruitfulness is already there. The vineyard itself is a gift.

As I have reflected on that parable this week, I have found myself thinking about St. Jude's. **Like the tenants in Jesus' story, we have been entrusted with something precious.**

We inherited a church built by the faith, generosity, sacrifice, and prayer of those who came before us. Generations of parishioners taught the faith, cared for one another, supported the mission of the Church, and left us a community that continues to be a place of worship, service, friendship, and hope. Because they were faithful, we are here. Because they gave, we have received. And now, for a brief season, the stewardship of this vineyard rests with us.

The Fruit We See Every Day

One of the privileges of parish ministry is witnessing the fruit that often goes unnoticed. The fruit is there when someone walks through our doors looking for comfort and finds a community that welcomes them. It is there when children learn the stories of scripture and begin to discover God's love for them. It is there when prayers are offered beside a hospital bed, when friendships are formed over coffee, when volunteers quietly give their time, and when neighbours in need receive practical support. It is there every Sunday when we gather around Word and Sacrament and are reminded that we belong to Christ and to one another. **This is holy work. And it happens because ordinary people faithfully support the ministry of this parish.**

Why We Ask for a Pledge

In the weeks ahead, we will invite households to make a financial pledge for the coming year. I know that conversations about money can sometimes feel uncomfortable, particularly in the Church. Yet stewardship is not ultimately about money.

It is about gratitude. It is about trust. It is about participation. A pledge is not a bill to be paid. It is not a fee for services rendered. It is simply one way of saying:

I am grateful for this parish.

I believe in the ministry we share.

I want to help sustain it for others.

Your pledge allows us to plan responsibly and faithfully for the year ahead. It supports worship, pastoral care, Christian formation, outreach, staff, programmes, and the ongoing care of our buildings.

More than that, it is one of the ways we offer ourselves back to God in thanksgiving for all that we have received.

Thank You

Before I ask you to consider your pledge, **I simply want to say thank you.** Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your service. Thank you for the many ways you contribute to the life of St. Jude's, often quietly and without recognition.

The ministry of this parish is not the work of one person or even a handful of leaders. It is the shared work of a community seeking to follow Christ together. Every act of kindness matters. Every prayer matters. Every volunteer hour matters. **Every gift matters.** The fruit we bear belongs to all of us.

Looking Ahead in Hope

St. Paul writes, *"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."* Those words remind us that the Church is never standing still. God is always calling us forward.

As we begin this stewardship season, I invite you to pray about your part in that calling. Consider what St. Jude's means to you. Consider the lives that have been touched—and continue to be touched—by this community. Consider the future God may be preparing for us.

And then, as you are able, consider how you might support that future through your pledge for the coming year. The vineyard is God's. The mission is God's. The harvest is God's. Our privilege and joy is simply to tend what has been entrusted to us.

May God deepen our gratitude, strengthen our generosity, and help us continue to bear fruit worthy of the One who calls us together in Christ.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Anderson', with a stylized cross or plus sign at the end.

The Reverend Canon Dr. David Anderson, Rector
St. Jude's Anglican Church, Oakville