

THE ANGLICAN TOGETHERNESS GROUP (ATG)

(St. Margaret's Cure, Church of the Ascension Cure and the U.W.I Anglican Community)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, 2019, has been bittersweet. We've had our Evensongs, some with last minute changes but with cooperation from all, they were achieved. Participation however has dwindled from our congregations and we need to look more closely at that. How do we encourage people to come out? For 2020, we hope to involve our Associate Evangelists more to see if they can help to revitalise.

On this note also, we need to look at mission activity in our communities. We made a start in our early beginnings with Mission Walks but these have disappeared off our calendar. Time to revive?

The Orientation exercises on UWI & UTECH campuses under the leadership of Sr Maydene went very well. Our Anglican presence is maintained welcoming students to a church home away from home during their sojourn at University. Information is distributed as to worship times and venue for all the ATG churches.



Booths manned by ATG at UWI & UTECH Orientations

At the KFC Party held at UTC, there were 19 students participating. The most, I am told, that there has ever been. Congratulations Maydene and team! These students have responded to the WhatsApp group created and are for the most part, active participants in worship services at UWI Chapel.

One caution; ahead of the exercises we need to lay out a budget, have it approved and stick to it. All parties will then be appraised of their contributions. A letter has been sent to the 3 main churches with a proposed budget for 2020 of \$120,000.00 in the agreed ratio 40:40:20 to cover both orientation and the ATG weekend.

On Friday, 6 September, Bishop Leon led us in Worship in the Anglican context and the use of our Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Unlike popular opinion that we are not a Bible based church, the BCP is based on scripture. He reminded us that if we truly believe that salvation is found in Christ then we should strive to emulate Him.



ATG member Sr Carol Roslyn Cuffley thanking Bishop Leon for his presentation.

On Saturday, 07 September a workshop was held on Music in Worship, led by Br Everton Clarke. He made the point that music helps to enhance worship and should be cross-generational to appeal to all. It helps if the entrance hymn and recessional hymn are ones which are upbeat and therefore entice people to come and see. He encouraged churches to invest in their music ministry.



Br Everton Clarke addressing members of ATG

Alas, during this year we bid farewell to one of our stalwarts from inception, Br Garth Kidoe.



LYNVAL GARTH KIDOE

July 13, 1949 – September 06,
2019

*Rest in Peace our brother
And may Light Perpetual shine
upon you.*



Br Garth was an enthusiastic supporter of the ATG precept, “doing the work of Christ better, together!” He could be depended on to be at all ATG activities while able. He was particularly passionate about assisting and supporting our smaller congregations and reaching out to persons in the communities surrounding our churches on our Mission walks and of the Greater Mona Valley Project (GMVP). He is greatly missed.

The GMVP is chaired by Br Keith Miller. This is ATG’s hands on the ground focusing on parenting and youth. To this end, they’ve facilitated training of persons as Parent Skills Trainers in the Greater Mona Valley area and have contacted the Mona Social Services (MSS), UWI who have expressed a strong willingness to work with both the parenting and youth Initiatives as well as with information sharing.

On the Youth initiative, ATG is continuing to work with the young people of St. Cyprians and from Cedar Valley in honing their musical skills on the steel pans. This move began with contributions sought by Rev Melrose from the St. Margaret’s BSA and individuals to send these children to the Diocesan Summer camp. ATG has since become involved and has showcased the children’s ability at a special Evensong followed by PAN-O-RAMA: Children and their Talents at the Church of the Ascension. A grant is being sought to continue their training in this field.

What’s next for ATG?

Looking to 2020, we need to bolster membership in all areas. If the GMVP is really to be our hands and feet on the ground, then membership needs to include more persons from the other churches and not just Ascension as is now the case.

We need to remember Jesus’ commandment: “Go and make disciples of all people” and therefore be more mission oriented. To this end, we intend to work closely with our members in the Associate Evangelists Program (AEP) to reach out to our communities.

Our commitment to Evensong will continue on first and second Sundays. We hope to journey to Brown’s Town (where our 3 Priests in Charge, Fr Franklyn, Canon Garth & Canon Michael served in consecutive terms and thus had a connection which led to the formation of ATG, for Evensong one evening.

Our involvement in the Orientation exercises on both University campuses will continue with greater participation from our members.

ATG weekend – second weekend in September – theme to be advised.

Praying for a Spirit filled 2020 as we do the work of Christ better, together!

Blessings,

SMollison

Sherry-Kay Mollison (Mrs)
Chair, ATG