

Ode to Beth Bretzlaff and parishioners at St. John the Evangelist

To the tune: It's a long way to Tipperary

(Underlined syllables/words indicate rhythm (stress) markers for singing)

1. At the corner of Elgin-Somerset
Stands a church with open doors.
It's our own, St. John's community
That welcomes people more.
From worship to Tuesday suppers,
It fills the needs of all;
So come and join us for fulfillment
Any days of the week.
2. Bells are ringing, voices singing
Day and night at our St Johns.
Brass and organ, flutes and drumming,
And bows on strings abound.
But the sweetest notes we're hearing
Amidst the flats and sharps
Is the heavenly sound, the gentle plucking
Of Gordon on his harps
3. It's been a long way for Beth to come here;
she's got a long way to go.
With her charming ways to help her,
she may lead us all to heav'n.
Fat chance that that will happen
With this crew of saintly Johns;
It was a long, long way for Beth to come here;
She's got a long way still to go.
4. Are you used to leaky toilets?
Can you jimmy a lock?
Can you preach a perfect sermon,
With one eye on the clock?
Can you steward our precious dollars,
And still buy all we need?
If you're up for fun and crazy challenge,
You're welcome indeed!!

5. It's a long time that we have waited,
For the one who seems the best;
Beth has come to lead us onward,
In God's work, not to rest.
We're not perfect, often picky;
We've been on quite a quest,
So we welcome Beth as our new rector
We're sure you're the best.

6. Our St John's has many groupings
Of folks doing their best;
Helping refugees, sheltering women,
Fixing feet and selling clothes.
There are many different interests,
For each a chance to sow
In the service of our God's creation;
A community we grow.

7. It's a hard place to find some parking
On a race day it's too much;
Only thirty spots for Sunday
And on week days 5's a crush!
You can try at St Theresa's,
But it's a cold, wet, slippery hike.
If you really want to find a close spot,
Then you'd better just ride a bike

8. Our building is a beacon,
For all who may come by.
Always changing, and renewing,
We welcome all who try.
New roofs and new arrangements,
We're finding space for all
Our community must be beacon,
Responding to God's call.