

HONEY & LOCUST



St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church,
Bright's Grove

Church Services

Reverend Paul Woolley+ will preside over a virtual video [Ante-Communion service](#) this Sunday, January 17 that will include parish members. The video will be posted to our Facebook page and sent to parishioners via an email link to Dropbox/YouTube on Sunday morning.

The last page of this edition of Honey & Locust (after the warden signatures) has the service schedule up until January 31; this also contains details on how you are invited/reserve a spot depending upon the type of service involved.

Hopefully, all feel comfort with one or more of the forms of worship we have in January – and we all stay healthy! Currently Lambton is very much struggling with Covid-

19 compared to most of the rest of Ontario. Please stay home as much as feasible, wash your hands, wear a mask if you are in public, socially distance and continue to be kind – we are in this together.

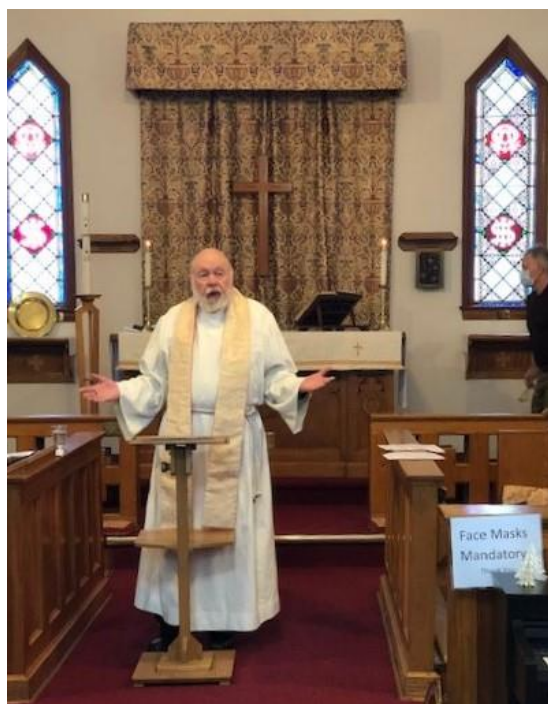
+Bishop Todd has suspended in-person worship services in the Diocese until further notice. The Diocese, this week, has further restricted [Stage Red Loving Your Neighbours](#) Guidelines to limit the number of people in the church to 3 for Live streaming/recording services. In addition, restrictions include to close the church building except for recording/live streaming of services, counting offerings, essential and minimal administrative staff work, security/maintenance checks done by a single individual/covid bubble. There should be no overlap of people/groups in the church. Ontario Premier Doug Ford has declared a State of Emergency with Stay-at-Home orders, so for now, wardens Peter and Deb have assumed all January services will be virtual and reflected this in the schedule.



On January 10 Lay Reader Fran Taylor presided over our first 10:30 am Zoom church service – The Baptism of our Lord. Fran, Deb and Al were in church, Ken Walker sang, the

psalm from his home, Sandra Lamoureux read from her home and about 28 folk attended from 23 computers in their homes. The service went well, the sermon, like Paul Woolley's the week before was relevant, well delivered and overall fabulous. We learned a little about Zoom for next time as well.

On January 3 Reverend Paul Woolley+ presided over a Facebook Live Ante-Communion – Epiphany (Transferred).



Paul spoke about us all seeing a light at the end of this Covid tunnel...but still being careful now. I learned Paul is a Sarnia fellow born and raised...he used to play by the railroad tunnel under the river as a kid (and did not want to see a light coming from that tunnel!). Thanks to Bob Halliday for reading and saying the Prayers of the

People, Susan Halliday for playing the piano and organ, and Brenden and Ken for singing



Hymn 160 "As with Gladness Men of Old" and the psalm. I am not sure where those little paper Christmas trees on the piano came from – I love them, I hope you enjoy them.

Vestry Meeting – January 17

Our Vestry meeting is Sunday, January 17 at 11:15 am; it will be conducted virtually via Zoom; no one will be in the church building... but we will be safely together virtually. Each member of the parish with an email address was sent an invitation today as well as a vestry report and the 4 motions

we anticipate having. Archdeacon Kristen Aikman+ will chair our Vestry meeting this Sunday.

I encourage you to read the Vestry report as many folks who wrote reports, reflected well both our angst, our joy and our journey in this very different year of Covid.

The 4 anticipated motions include:

1. Election of vestry clerk,
2. Approval of the January 2020 Vestry minutes,
3. Adoption of the draft budget, and
4. Extension of the current slate of officers of the Congregational Council of our church for 2021 given Covid and the medical leave of our priest Shaun.

Choir Vestry Report – Whimsical and Real

Several reports touched me as I read them...Brenden Fraser struck a whimsical yet candid balance that I thought I would share here:

To the congregation,

As I always say, singing is good for the soul and, ideally, is a lot of fun. Undoubtedly, one of the most difficult parts of 2020 has been not being able to sing with my choir.

Furthermore, 2020 was saddened with the passing of my fellow bass, Mike McAlpine. He will be forever missed.

Alas, here we find ourselves, staring down a new year and giddy with hope for what the future may bring.

Vaccinations are on the horizon, and that means: so is four part harmony!!

I am full of hope and looking forward to moving beyond COVID and getting back to CHOIR!!

My fingers are crossed some new faces will join me, when we can!

It should be noted that we are forever grateful to our organist Susan Halliday. She is an immense talent, and we could not do what we do without her.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenden Fraser

BMus, CPT
Music Director,
St. John in the Wilderness



A picture from my phone of Susan, Brenden, Shirley, Ken, Mike and Ingrid...perhaps Christmas Eve 2019. Missing a number of choir members in this picture ...looking forward to hearing you in 2021, miss you Mike. Deb



St. John in the Wilderness Folk Come
join us at Vestry this Sunday....Deb

It's Karen Kelly!

If you haven't met the joyful Karen Kelly who sits near the back of the church during our 10:30 service, I urge you to introduce yourself to her when we are able to worship in church again. Karen was born in St John, New Brunswick and has two brothers and one sister. She was educated there and worked as a pediatric nurse until fate intervened on a blind date when Karen met her husband Bob. Cling, clang went the bells! Bob worked in the Sarnia area so Karen relocated to Sarnia. She was a community nurse in the Sarnia area following her move here, working mostly with children with disabilities.



One of Bob's many hobbies was photography and he chose to take photos of the lake and that's when Karen first saw St. John in the Wilderness. The building reminded her of churches back home in New Brunswick. Very inviting. The first service that they attended with us was on

Christmas Eve, seventeen years ago. Sadly, Bob passed eight years ago and Karen's housemate is now a beloved cat.

Two years ago, Karen made the decision to make more friends and what better way to do it than to join our ACW? The women were thrilled to have her join us (and still are.) She really enjoys wrapping gifts and had much fun this year helping her friend wrap a sleigh-full for Marsha's grandchildren.

I can testify to the fact that Karen is loving, caring, much fun and gives great hugs. I pray that the time will come when we can share hugs again. Karen, you are a Blessing to our parish, thank you for being you.

....Janice McAlpine

P.S. Shirley MacKenzie says Karen Kelly is one of the best turkey pie crust crimpers around. Fast, chats, and great quality job! Thanks and Hello, Karen.

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps a hello/profile of a parish member, an update for a church/community group you are part of, a favourite project or memory or prayer you would like to share, a family update ...whatever is on your mind that might be meaningful/ joyous for your congregation to hear...please craft the words and send them to debwalker@cogeco.ca

Eve Morgan-Langille on Mayor's Honour List

The St. John in the Wilderness family has another name on the [Sarnia's Mayor's Honour List](#).



Eve Morgan-Langille is among the honourees this year. She is cited for her role as President and long-time board member of the Sexual Assault Survivor's Centre (SASC) and as a former board member of the local Alzheimer's Society.

But that's only a part of her ongoing charitable work in the community. For many years she has been the organizer of the local Dancing with the Stars event, which has benefitted the Community Concerns for the Medically Fragile which operates a home for children who need exceptional care, the Alzheimer's Society and the SASC. She has organized an annual Christmas sale for SASC and participated in various events at St. John in the Wilderness.

Eve joins an august group at St. John in the Wilderness of former mayor's list honourees – former city councillor Jim

Foubister and Bluewater Triathlon organizer Dr. Ken Walker. This reflects the commitment our parish as a whole exhibits towards community and outreach. We build on each other's contributions and support and very much find joy and meaning in doing this.

.... Peter Langille

Calling Cooks for Inn of the Good Shepherd, February 6

We need 3 cooks for Saturday, February 6 for the Inn of the Good Shepherd...each cook would make 5 lbs of meat loaf and 25 baked potatoes and drop it off hot at the Walker's for 2:30 pm. Just contact Deb Walker if you want to cook.

On January 2, you helped to feed 51 people at The Inn – Thank you! You are an integral part in The Inn's mission to provide services with dignity to local people who need food, shelter, and other essentials. Thanks for helping folks in need.

Pictured below are some of the folks from the January 2 team of cooks Pat Poland, Peter Langille, Eve Morgan and kids Morgan, Durham and Perrin, Denise and Ray Hillary, Sandra Fraser, Brenda and Bob Clingersmith, Dianne Funnell, Aruna Anderson and servers Ken, Deb and Haley Walker and Lori Kolano.



Nicole Grieve – Coffee Empress!



Nicole Grieve, with joy, has assumed the reigns of Coffee Empress from Maggie Brownridge – she even has our mug! Per the [October 9, 2020 edition of Honey & Locust](#), Maggie stepped down peacefully from her 11-year reign. Once we get back into having coffee hour Maggie and Nicole will transition coordination of this sacred tradition of our parish – one of the threads that binds us – coffee time after service – coordinated by Nicole, prepared and served by many of you...Thank You!



Till we meet again,

... Leslie Grieve

Like so many of the women of St. John in the Wilderness, I enjoyed many of the get-togethers Nancy Mann organized this past summer and fall.

Now like a good Anglican I must say confession. Ladies meetings, groups, gatherings etc. was not something I have always enjoyed.

When I was a much younger woman my Mother would often invite me to church ladies' groups (can you feel the inward groan and excuse deflection coming?). Inevitably once or twice a year for several years I would attend. Some of my memories include suggesting to my Mom on the way home that really one pair of pants and one blouse could still be detected as one outfit not 87 even if you could tie a scarf 87 different ways. Could you really call something a spring fling? just my making "crazy daisy chains?"

However, thanks to my Mom's endless ability to just laugh and continue with the invites I did begin to see a connection between peace and connecting with other women of faith.

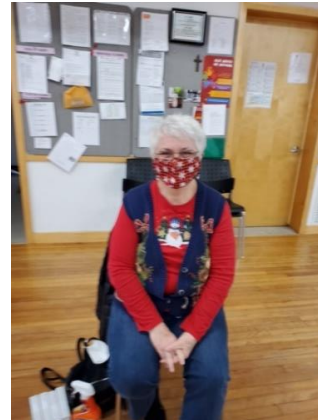
Never before than this past year have those connections been more important! Lots of great laughs and just good connecting. At the end of every visit most everyone would

say thanks Nancy or that was just what I needed.

So, thank you Nancy Mann and thanks Mom.

Till we meet again,

Love Leslie



*Nancy
gathering our
flock – all are
welcome!
xo*

What is Pastoral Care?

.... Janice McAlpine

Officially, Pastoral Care is the care of members of the church body performed in difficult times, to help remind parishioners of God's presence and the many vehicles of God's love by offering our time and ourselves through support for each other.

It is not limited to the work of ordained clergy, but is also performed by Licensed Lay



Administrators dedicated to working toward supporting the needs of our growing community. Our Team consists of Ann Toth, Nancy Mann, Sandra Fraser and myself. Fran Taylor lends her talented fingers on keyboard when we held services at Afton Park Place. In normal times members of The Pastoral Care Team performed home visits



to individuals in private homes or the hospital (acute or long-term care). We

also led monthly Eucharist services at Afton and Vision nursing homes. We normally arrived half an hour before the services so that we could chat with or in some cases only hold the hands of residents when they were brought in and remained with them until the final resident was returned to their room. While home visits are foremost about providing some company and support in difficult times, the visits also include assisted prayers, the administering of Home Communion, and the distribution of Prayer Shawls. Home visits are a vital link between parishioners and the parish when parishioners are unable to attend services.

We've been called to adapt because of Covid and Nancy Mann and I telephone those on our Parish List. I admit that my calls weren't as frequent following Mike's passing but I'm back in full action now. Once Covid came,



Nancy initiated our "Ladies mini-pastoral-care-gatherings"

once or twice a week which will return when we are allowed to meet again.

Deb Walker initiated Honey & Locust, our biweekly newsletter, back in the spring as well, highlighting a little church business, and a lot of the blessings we experience as a parish together, even during Covid; and, just chatting about ourselves, together. We deliver hardcopy to our parishioners without computers.

Both are ways in which we've adapted and if you think of or see a way in which our ministry is needed please share with us.

Aside from the formal perception of what Pastoral Care is, I see and experience pastoral care done by each of you in how you love, encourage and help one another. Praise God! May the Peace of Christ be with each of us at this time and always.



Lay Reader Janice Reflects

On Sunday January 10th we celebrated The Baptism of Jesus however in the Church of England and some Canadian



Anglican churches Plough Sunday was also celebrated. In English tradition, taking into account the warmer climate and Northern Hemisphere location, Plough (Plow) Sunday is held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7-13 January. Farmers arrive in farm carts and tractors, carrying a ploughshare (a section of the plough's blade) which is brought into the church. The service includes prayers for a blessing of the land. I admit that this is the first year that I've heard of it and find the message interesting.



In the bleak midwinter Plough Sunday signals the beginning of work for the year which is mostly symbolic now. It's based on Luke 9:62 which reads, "Jesus replied, No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks

back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." He is talking about a farmer using a plow on a field. The man put his hand to the plow to start plowing. The goal of the farmer is to make straight rows in the earth. He does this by looking at a distant object. Jesus creates a picture of a farmer who rather than looking straight ahead at a distant object is constantly looking back at things. The Greek words for "looking behind" have the picture of constantly, continually looking back at things. The result is crooked and curved rows in the earth – a mess!

I'm not suggesting that beautiful memories aren't to be treasured however, we need to ask ourselves, "Am I looking back?" "Am I really committed to Jesus?" Jesus wants both our hearts and our action. It is easy to conclude that Jesus just wants our activity. Most say Jesus wants us to spend time in prayer, study of the Word and attending church. We forget that He wants our confession of sins and He wants us to be filled with His Spirit. He wants us to love our neighbour in all circumstances of life as we are fortunate enough to be able to do via our Outreach as a parish. But the major point we miss is that Jesus wants both – your heart and a commitment that results in action and service to Him!

.... Janice McAlpine

St. John in the Wilderness Mission and Vision

Our Mission

To Love God and to share His love with others.

Our Vision

To show a welcoming, visible sign of Christ in a growing community, and to strive to meet the spiritual needs of everyone in a facility which is accessible, safe, environmentally friendly, and addresses the space requirements of all.

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille , Janice McAlpine
Wardens and Lay Reader



Hello from Nancy & Duncan Mann

Postscript:

1-The church service schedule is on the next page.

St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove

Church Services

(January 11, 2021 Update)

A free phone line for prayer,
reflections, worship and a
reminder you're not alone.



1-888-229-5422

With love, from the Anglican
Churches of Lambton-Kent

Option 2 for Reverend
Gord Simmons' silly joke
of the week 😊

Listen to the prompts for
Archdeacon Kristen's
sermon on the St. John
in the Wilderness line.

Date			Church Service		Time	Location				Leader Presiding
Month	Day	Year	Name	Type		In-Church (1)	Facebook Live (2)	Zoom (3)	Video (4, 5)	
1	17	2021	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Ante-Communion or Morning Prayer	Sunday Morning				x	Reverend Paul Woolley
1	24	2021	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Morning Prayer	8:30 am			x		Reverend Dave Hewett
					10:30 am		x		x	
1	31	2021	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Ante-Communion or Morning Prayer	Sunday Morning				x	Reverend Paul Woolley

Note (1) In-Church Services - please reserve via the evite you receive 2 to 5 days prior to the service.
The evite will come either from the email of St. John in the Wilderness or Peter Langille.

Note (2) Facebook Live services...just join the Facebook Live service at 10:20 am (a little before 10:30 am) as folks like to chat together via the text commentary in Facebook Live.

Note (3) Zoom Services - Deb Walker or Peter Langille will issue, via email, an invitation to the Zoom service a few days before the service. These go to traditional attendees pre-covid as well as to people who request invitations (just ask Peter or Deb)

Note (4) A video on a Facebook Live day is a saved and edited version of the Facebook Live service recording. It will issue within 1 to 3 days of the service with a link going out via the church's email.

Note (5) A video for which the time is "Sunday Morning": a link to a video will be sent early Sunday morning so you can view it any time.

Please check your e-mail regularly to see if there are changes – this is a fluid time given both Covid and our interim priest needs.

Keep wearing those masks, washing your hands, maintain social distance, be kind, acknowledge Angst, and.....recognize Blessings;-)

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