

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

Reverend Paul Woolley+ will preside over a virtual Facebook Live [Ante-Communion service](#) this Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am. If you wish to join, just log onto our Facebook at about 10:20 am or so.

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.

Note we will have our first 10:30 am Morning Prayer Zoom service ... it will be led by Lay Reader Fran Taylor on Sunday, January 10. Hopefully, all feel comfort with one or more of the forms of worship we have in January – and we all stay healthy!

+Bishop Todd has suspended in-person worship services until further notice. The Southern Ontario Covid lockdown from Premier Doug Ford lasts until January 23 at this point, so for now, wardens Peter and Deb have assumed all January services will be virtual and reflected this in the schedule.

The December 20 service is the first in-church service where we had to limit attendance due to room in the church. Thank you to those who could not attend – you were very gracious in taking turns.

61 years ago Ron and Joan Jackson were married at Canon Davis; we celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary at the Sunday, December 20th service.



Above...hello's from Morrie Sinkins, Bob and Brenda Clingersmith and Betty Johnson behind them.

Below Perrin, Durham and Morgan Langille light the Advent Candles and read the prayer for the fourth Sunday in Advent.



Reverend Dave Hewett+ celebrated with us at an 8:30 am Zoom service and a 10:30 am Facebook Live Morning Prayer service on December 27. His sermon was even better than his joyous smile!

Our December 24th outdoor service did not occur due to the impending Covid lockdown – +Bishop Todd made the right call to not allow in-person worship given the Covid data. Sincere thanks to the team involved – you put in a lot of work: Bruce and Chris Grieve; Sandra, Brenden and Norm Fraser; Ingrid Schmid; Peter Langille; and Lanna Iacobelli. You gave us the hope of a service...Thank you for that joy.



Vestry Meeting Preparation

We continue to prepare for our January 17, 2021 Vestry meeting, which will be conducted via Zoom after the 10:30 am



church service. Please get Zoom up and running to participate in Vestry.
Archdeacon Kristen Aikman+ will chair our Vestry meeting.

Per previous editions of Honey & Locust all motions were to be into Peter Langille or Deb Walker by December 18, 2020 – no motions were received, which was expected given the need to keep things simple during Covid.

We are asking all Council and Executive members to extend their positions with us for 2021. This is in-line with many parishes this year.

An important component of the Vestry is to present and pass the budget for 2021.

All committees who submitted reports in 2019 should have submitted their reports for 2020 to Heather Holbrook, our church secretary, by December 18 – if you have not, please do. Despite Covid...let us all report on our year...it sure has been an interesting year. It is preferable to submit via email, but if you are submitting in beautiful cursive script...just contact Peter Langille or Deb Walker we may arrange to obtain your report.

[Here is a link to the 2019 Vestry Report](#) on our church's website.

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps an update for a church/community group you are part of, a favourite project or memory, or a favourite 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

12 Days of Christmas

....Deb


I was driving by Pauline Walsh's home before Christmas and was excited to see her hand-crafted and painted celebration of the 12 Days of Christmas – A Partridge in a Pear Tree and more!



Pauline painted these several years ago and this is the first time I have seen them on display.... although they are out each year! Our 2013 Sunday School Christmas Extravaganza Pageant featured the symbolism behind each day in the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" based on an article Bob Halliday read in "Today's Farmer". The kids did a marvelous job. It was only a few years before this that I learned there are actually 12 days in Christmas in our liturgical calendar.

Here are Pauline's pictures for each of the days from the song the 12 Days of Christmas as well as some of the symbolism thought to be involved... (and the name of the children who spoke to them in our 2013 pageant).

	<p>Baby Jesus is the partridge in that pear tree. (McKenna and Evan)</p>
<p>The Old and New Testaments are represented by those 2 turtle doves. (Nathanial)</p>	

	<p>Those 3 French Hens.... Faith, Hope and Love [Corinthians 13:13 – 3 virtues] or the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Shelby, Lauren, Ally)</p>
<p>The 4 gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are those 4 calling birds. (Carter)</p>	
	<p>5 Golden rings – the first 5 books of the bible: Torah (Hebrew) or Pentateuch (Greek). Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. (Perrin and Cody)</p>
<p>Those 6 geese a-laying ... the 6 Days of Creation. (Cody)</p>	

	<p>7 Swans a Swimming – The Gifts of the Holy Spirit [Romans 12:6-8; Corinthians 12:8-11]. Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading, and Compassion. (Renee, Erik, Paige, Andy, Bryar, Rory, James, Emma-Li, and Charlotte).</p>
<p>The Beatitudes are represented by those 8 maids a milking. [Matthew 5:3-10] (Lanna)</p>	
	<p>The Fruits of the Spirit are represented by those 9 ladies dancing. [Galatians 5:22]. (Whole Sunday School sang Fruit of the Spirit – with loud joy)</p>
<p>10 Lords a Leaping represent the 10 Commandments. [Exodus 10:1-17] (Sarah and Durham)</p>	

	<p>Those 11 drummers drumming – the 11 Faithful Apostles. (Simone and Nathaniel)</p>
<p>12 Pipers piping represent the 12 Points of the Apostles Creed. (Boldly proclaimed by Morgan, Claire, Simone, Durham, Travis, Carter, Jace, Perrin, Lanna, Charlotte and Cody)</p>	

Thanks very much to Pauline for brightening our community each Christmas with these. Seems like yesterday we all sang in church about them.

Thanks for the 2020 Christmas Pageant Extravaganza!

I received many joyous notes of gratitude and fun for the great job parents and kids did this year for our Christmas Pageant Extravaganza video. A link was e-mailed to parishioners and posted on Facebook on Christmas Eve. Thanks very much to children, parents, grandparents, the Sunday School team and music support for bringing us this joy.

Here is Maggie Brownridge's thank you: "I watched this first thing this morning and it was such a wonderful way to start my Christmas Day. Thank you to all the organizers, the children and their families to bring me so much joy. Merry Christmas to you all. Blessings, Maggie ♥

Thanks Betty Johnson!

Silver Linings

A few years ago, Betty Johnson gave me a smock apron. It is cherished in our home. Because (1) it came from Betty (2) it is pretty and oriented to children, and (3) it is very functional (protects us well) ...of course (2) and (3) stem from Betty as well.

This Covid year, in October I decided that I really wanted to shop locally for Christmas - these aprons would bring joy and let me shop at Fabricland and a local seamstress. So, I called Betty and asked her for a pattern ...she delivered it that day with simple instructions. I had 12 aprons made...having a lot of fun with Fabricland folks picking fabric and border tape (I explained I was great with duct tape and a stapler). Jessica from Sew-It-Fits on Maxwell did a great job estimating size for folks like big son-in-law Jesse based on handwaving from me.



When Kenzie opened her apron on Christmas morning, Haley looked and together they exclaimed "A Betty Johnson Apron!". Kenzie swooned and Haley was pleased for her. Then Ken opened his...and Haley realized there might a Betty Johnson Apron under that tree for her.... she dove, looked, and retrieved. Then, to my surprise, son-in-law Jesse said, "Wow...I was thinking I could use a more functional apron, one that covered my chest...oh well, wish I had thought earlier". I looked at the ceiling. Then about 15 minutes later Jesse came across a small gift, opened it ... "Betty Johnson, Thank You!"

This Covid year of 2020 is one we want to put behind us, but as with many dark times, we discover some bright lights Thank you Betty for bringing us this joy, particularly in such a year.

....Deb

(P.S. there are pictures of Betty on pages 1 and 2 of this edition)

Lay Reader Janice Reflects

I reflect, that's what I do. So often at year's end, there are many reflections on the year past but I'm not particularly moved to do that this year. We know what happened, no reflection is needed from me. What does stand out to me is God's Grace and Comfort provided to me AND it was highlighted by the videos of the children, Brenden, Ken and Bruce singing and playing instruments each day of The Advent Calendar. That was brilliant and a Blessing for all parishioners. Well Done! Thank You to all participants including those who conceived the idea and the production crew!

I think that the old year has passed and the New Year will have been celebrated by the time that this is read. I hear of fear or trepidation about 2021 with the increase number of caseloads in our county and a variant strain in our country. We know what to do to protect others and ourselves and I'm certain that all who read this are practicing them. We will also get through this with God's help and He likes to hear from us so keep your prayers rising!

Throughout the Bible we are told to "Be Not Afraid" and I quote from Philippians 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Yours in Faith – Janice

P.S. How do you think Mike's voice fit in with the Heavenly Choir of Angels? He had wonderful training here and never missed an Alleluia. 😊

Christmas Magic

...Deb

Some of you know my brother-in-law Dan Rossignol. He lives in Chatham and comes to Sarnia regularly for things like Sarnia Sting games, the Bluewater Triathlon, family gatherings, he has been attending some of our Facebook Live church services. He was the fellow at Fran's baptism in our church who read in a New Brunswick French accent.

Back in September, Dan kept asking me questions about folks like "what is Ken's favourite hockey team". On Christmas morning I opened a pair of slippers (Toronto Maple Leaf blue and white) with this note.

In Loving Memory of
Edwina (Desrosiers) Rossignol
September 10, 1932-October 21, 1990

December 25, 2020,

Dear Family & Friends,

Merry Christmas and Good Morning to you all.

What a year it has been. Covid-19 pandemic has changed our lives this year. Our wonderful country closed down, except for the essentials.

Your grocery stores were open to provide us food, restaurants change to takeout only, Doctors are doing phone call appointments and seeing patients in the office, etc. I'm not writing to you all to remind you what we did go through and are still going through.

The reason why I'm writing to you on this Christmas morning is I've done something in memory of my mother. On my 27th birthday on October 21, 1990, my mother (Edwina) died of a massive heart attack, complication of diabetes. In memory of her 30th year of her death, I knitted 30 pairs of slippers before October 21, 2020 and continued to knit more. I'm up to 40 pairs and counting.

My mom was a woman of many talents, great cook and baker, she knew how to sew and knit, crochet and have delivered babies that the doctor could not be present for the birth, etc. She showed me how to knit these slippers of all different patterns about 40 years ago. I practiced to knit a couple of years ago. But during covid shutdown I picked up my knitting again. Starting in mid April, one pair at a time in October, I managed to do 30 pairs in Mom's memory. A pair of slippers for every year that she had passed. I have reached my goal and happy to do so.

Some of you I went with your favourite NHL teams, some with your tractor colours (Evan) and some of you I asked for your favourite colour. Hoping that you're all happy with your slippers and I hope you enjoy wearing them as much as I have enjoyed knitting them. They might not be perfect, but they were made with love.

In closing, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all and God Blessing through 2021. This too shall pass...

Yours truly with Love,

Dan Rossignol
Chatham, ON.



I hope each of you had your Uncle Dan treasured moments this Christmas....Deb



Thank you, Dan, for helping to make Christmas so magical.

Nancy & Duncan Mann Our New Church Sign Folk



Nancy and Duncan Mann have graciously and generously accepted the role of posting messages on our church sign. Marie and Jim Foubister, per our December 4, 2020 edition of Honey & Locust, have retired from this role after doing it for all the years we have had the sign. Thank you, Nancy, Duncan, Marie and Jim!

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.

New Year's Prayer

We will soon ring in the New Year 2021. There is no denying that 2020 was not the year many of us expected and yet I am sure we can find many examples of love, joy, hope, and peace woven throughout. Eg. We celebrated the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Immanuel (which means God with us) on Christmas, perhaps in a non-traditional way, however we joyfully celebrated this wondrous gift.

My prayer for 2021 is that we can all resolve to find strength in the message from Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." If we embrace this in our hearts, we will be prepared to approach 2021 full of love, joy, hope and peace. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Fraser

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

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

Happy Christmas this 2020.
Thank you, kids!
Thinking of you Shaun, Rishi and
John Bennett.



2019

Postscript:

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

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St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove

Church Services

(December 29, 2020 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)	
1	3	2021	Epiphany (Transferred)	Ante-Communion	10:30 am		x		x	Reverend Paul Woolley
1	10	2021	Baptism of the Lord	Morning Prayer	10:30 am			x		Lay Reader Fran Taylor
1	17	2021	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Ante-Communion or Morning Prayer	10:30 am				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	10:30 am				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.

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, and.....Blessings;-)**