

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

On Sunday, February 14, our new interim priest The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+ will preside over her first services with us - a virtual Zoom BCP service at 8:30 am and a virtual Facebook Live Morning Prayer service at 10:30 am. The readings are 2 Kings 2: 1-12; the Psalm is 50: 1-6; with the Gospel being according to Mark 1: 9-15 – The Transfiguration.

Regular attendees of the 8:30 am service have received an email invitation to the 8:30 Zoom. If you wish to attend but did not receive an invitation, please contact Deb. Facebook Live folks simply join in Facebook at 10:20 am or so.

We look forward to worshipping with you.

Welcome Amanda & Happy Valentine's Day!

We continue to pray that Father Shaun will heal and return to work.

The last page of this edition of Honey & Locust (after the warden signatures) has the service schedule up until March – including an Ash Wednesday service on February 17.

Please continue to wash your hands, Stay Home except for essential excursions, wear a mask if you are in public, socially distance, acknowledge angst (I sure do;-) and continue to be kind to yourself and others—we are in this together.

The status of church building access remains as outlined in the [January 15 edition](#) of Honey & Locust – even after the provincial lockdown lifts this Tuesday. Essentially only one person/Covid-bubble pair in the church at a time, with 3 people permitted for a virtual service.



Thanks
to Lay
Reader
Sandra
Fraser
for
presiding
over her
first
Zoom

service at the 10:30 am Morning Prayer on February 7 – I missed getting Sandra's

picture at the service but got it the day before as she delivered food for The Inn of the Good Shepherd. It was fun to see and interact with everyone over Zoom – If you need help getting Zoom on your computer and working for you, please contact Nicole Grieve through the church email.

Welcome and Hello from Amanda Longmoore ♥

...Peter Langille
and Amanda Longmoore

You could call it Kismet or Serendipity or God working his mysterious ways. Over the fall as Archdeacon Kristen was working feverishly to find us weekly ministers after Father Shaun took medical leave, she mentioned that an Anglican minister was going to move to this area and might be a good fit as an interim for St. John in the Wilderness.

When she introduced us to Rev. Amanda Longmoore, we (Warden Deb and I) were very pleased with how good a fit she appeared for our congregation. Then something unexpected happened. I asked her where she was from in the Maritimes. She said Bridgewater. I was a bit stunned because of all the small communities in Canada that's the same town where I was born and grew up. As we chatted it turned out we actually know several people from that town who are still living there.

With that, Rev. Amanda is going to offer a little insight to introduce herself to you all...



As I write this, I'm sitting on the couch in my apartment with my husband Steve sitting beside me. I was having trouble trying to figure out how to start this, and I



mentioned it to him. He suggested that I start by saying "hi, my name is Amanda" and going from there. Since you already know that about me, maybe I'll skip that part.

I've been given the absolute privilege of walking with you for the next 6 months as your interim priest, as we continue to hold Shaun and Rishi in prayer. The wardens and I thought it would be a good idea for me to write a little something for Honey and Locust so you could get to know me a bit better. Settling into a new place during a pandemic is a tough thing to do, and I really wish I could meet you all in person. Hopefully soon.

Steve and I moved here from Saint John, NB at the beginning of January. Steve is a United Church minister and is working with the folks at the Watford and Wyoming United Churches. People we've met here so far have been very welcoming, which has

been wonderful and very helpful for us as we learn about our new home and find our way around.

I was born in Bridgewater, NS, and grew up just outside of town with one sister who is 10 years younger than me. I did my undergrad at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB, and my MDiv at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, NS. I was ordained in 2003 and since then have served 3 parishes in the Maritimes, one in NS and two in NB.

Steve and I have been together for 20 years, married for 18, and we don't have any children. He grew up in Charlottetown, PEI, and we met when we were both studying at AST, which is ecumenical (Anglican, United, and Roman Catholic). We love going camping in the warmer weather and enjoy travelling when we have the opportunity.

What can I say about me? Well, I'm a knitter, and whenever I'm in a waiting room or have spare time I usually have needles in my hands, often working on a sock. I love listening to music, and often find that it's through music that I feel most connected with God. I have fun playing around with photography and once in a while I get a good shot. I enjoy being outdoors (when the weather is nice, I'm pretty wimpy) and feel most at peace sitting beside water.

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you, and the parish, over the next little while. If you would like to be in touch with me, either for a specific pastoral concern or simply to say hi, my email and

phone number have been circulating in parish emails, including the email with the intro video that we did. I know you don't know me very well yet, but please know that you are welcome to contact me.

My prayer for all of us, as we step forward into our time together, is that God's presence would be clearly felt in our midst, even when we're unable to gather in person, and that the light of Christ continues to shine brightly in our hearts and in the world.

Grace and peace,

Amanda

PS's. From Deb:

I was with Peter and Amanda when they discovered they were from the same home town....I am so glad they wrote about it here because both of them immediately began speaking with an accent I simply could not understand...but they indicate everyone from Bridgewater can;-)

Just in case you missed Amanda's introduction via video...here is a link to it:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/q6e9rw8pyjhwkt9/2021_02_02_Amanda%20Longmoore%20-%20Intro%20Video.mp4?dl=0

Welcome!

Outreach 2021

Following our plan to support our major charitable organizations quarterly, our first quarter donation of \$2000 has been sent to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. With the cold weather we are experiencing the Inn is having to find shelter in hotels and motels over and above their normal space at the Lodge.

.....Dave Hains, Treasurer

Calling Cooks for Inn of the Good Shepherd, March 6

We need 4 more cooks for Saturday, March 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 February 6, you helped to feed 65 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. I promise to get your towels, coolers et cetera back to you early this coming week.

Pictured next are some of the folks from the February 6 team of cooks Sandra Fraser, Sandra Lamoureux, Maggie Brownridge, Leslie Grieve, Denise Hillary and Judith Bond

as well as servers Kate Gilchrist, Jesse Macht, Haley and Deb Walker.



With the church building closed our parish donations of goods may have declined, Leslie Grieve and Deb Walker are looking into a drop off day in the Grove for those parishioners wanting to donate much needed goods.

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

A Note from our Tenants, the Honeybees

...as related by Haley and Doug



Many people ask, "Are the bees hibernating at this time of the year?" Honeybees

actually stay active throughout the winter and how active they are depends on the temperature and the weather outside. They huddle with the queen in the hive and we refer to this as a "ball". The outer bees constantly change places with the inner bees to keep warm. The colder it gets the less active they become and they huddle closer together making the ball smaller and as it warms up the ball gets larger.

Being living organisms and having bodily functions from time to time they have to get out of the hive to defecate. If it is a warm day they will come out and take the opportunity to do this. If there is snow on the ground yellow dots become apparent as a result.

They actually can come out on very cold days if the sun is shining but if a cloud suddenly covers the sun they can quickly drop and end up on the snow. As long as they do not get too damp when the sun comes back out they can fly up and back to the hive again.

As a grade eight student, Doug once went out to his hives and picked up some of these "dead" bees and put them in his mitten. When he got to school and in the classroom he placed them along the pencil ledge on his desk. To his surprise, once they warmed up, they started to extend their legs and move their wings and soon were flying throughout the classroom and ended up at the windows. The teacher also was

surprised and became very anxious. Knowing Doug was a beekeeper she knew exactly where they had come from. A great learning experience for the whole class and especially for Doug!

Here is a link to a video of a cold bee coming back to life:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/y2412z53v0nw5is/2021_02_10_ChurchBeeComesToLife.MOV?dl=0



Our bees keep an eye on Corporal Brent Poland's memorial garden. God bless.

Honeybees won't die as a result of the cold but if there is a lack of ventilation in the hive and condensation develops they are apt to die.

Today, during the winter, honeybees are more apt to die as a result of the queen dying due to having been exposed to too much pesticide. Worker bees live a much shorter time, 4 to 6 weeks in the summer, and die through working themselves to death rather than from pesticides. Queens live much longer (in the past we would keep the same queen for years).

Like the bees we will be happy to see the warm weather and spring arrive when we will be able to get out of the "hive" again.



Doug Winch and Haley Walker – Our beekeepers back in the warmer weather

PS – Thanks Doug and Haley for sharing your story....parishioners, we all want to hear about each other, please contact Deb to share your story in Honey and Locust – could be, for example, a home project done years ago or today....Covid gives us the gift of time to listen (and write;-)

Lay Reader Janice Reflects

I'm not an athlete. Over the years I've volunteered with our Bluewater Triathlon and I've learned a few things about running and about training. To be clear: I learned these things from chatting with the athletes at our Pasta Dinner and spectators at the side of the course.

One of the things I learned about running marathons is that you have to set your pace. You have to run mile 1 at about the

pace you want to run mile 25. If you run too slowly, you'll have a lousy time. But if you run too fast, you'll flame out and might not be able to finish. Successfully running a marathon is about a lot of things, but getting the right pace is pretty important.

I've been thinking about that lately with regard to the pandemic. Unlike a marathon, which is a predictable 26.2 miles long, we don't know how long things will stretch on. At times, I have believed we were rounding the corner and the finish line was in sight. But with new variants of the virus and with ongoing issues with people not practicing safe social distancing and mask-wearing, this could drag on for quite a while.

There are some days I'm feeling pretty good, and I'm optimistic about the future. On those days, the losses and grief of the pandemic are manageable. But on other days, I become dismal about the future, and that spills over into my view of the present. In other words, I'm not keeping a steady pace.

And it's not just managing my expectations. In all sorts of ways, this pandemic is surprisingly exhausting. I've heard that from people again and again. Parents are weary from home schooling. Churches are weary from managing remote or hybrid gatherings. Workers are weary from disruption to familiar workplace patterns. Elderly people are weary from isolation. And on and on.

Hebrews 12 begins with some powerful images:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

In other words, this life of following Jesus is hard. But we need not despair. As we suffer, we know that those who have gone before have suffered before us, and they cheer us on. Jesus carries the burden of our faith, and he will intercede for us with God the Father. How do we get through challenging times?

We "run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

This pandemic, like life itself, is a marathon, not a sprint. Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.



... Yours faithfully - Janice

Farewell Jim Walker



After a life well-lived, Jim Walker was welcomed by his Creator.

Some of you know Jim as Ken Walker's father. Here is a link to Jim's obituary...my hope is you read it. Ken Walker, with siblings and spouses remembered him fondly, then crafted a draft which Ken took and poetically crafted around a well-loved father.

[James Robert Walker Obituary - Chatham, Ontario, McKinlay Funeral Homes, Ltd. | Tribute Archive](#)

During Covid, 10 of us were allowed to bury Jim. Dan Rossignol his son-in-law, and a lay reader, led the service by the graveside in Thamesville where Jim's father spent his early years of medical practice and is buried with wife Ruby and two of their children who died at/near birth. Linda, Ken's sister

led the quiet singing of The Lord's Prayer - spontaneously. Six of the 10 of us were pallbearers ...what an honour. With no notice, Dan handed Ken and Linda a sheet of paper and said, "Jim's favourite song - Danny Boy, please sing it"....and they did, here is a link to a clip Haley caught of it....the harmony at the end reflects the gift they both have from their mother of Welsh descent Gwen, who Jim was glad to join after missing her for seven years.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/sxzx3s1z5v1z98w/2021_02_10_JimWalkerBurial_LindaKen-DannyBoy.MOV?dl=0

Linda, just before we all dispersed, opened her bible and read a prayer to Ken for his journey to Germany for another cancer treatment this week.

The 15 minute ceremony by the graveside in the snow, was very moving. A silver lining of Covid perhaps even.



Back row: Heather, Haley, Brad, Susanne, Dan. Front row: Peter, Stephanie, Linda, Ken, Deb

Per the [obituary](#), the family asks if you feel the need to make a donation, please donate to your local food bank. We also ask that today, you pick up the phone and call someone and tell them you love them.

As his daughter-in-law, I recall Jim was always kind to me. Asking often with genuine interest of the kids, my side of the family, and my work. He tended to be serious but had a gleeful twinkle, especially when singing "Mr. Touchdown" while dancing around the living room with kids.

God bless Jim and Gwen.

.....Deb Walker

"You will never look into the eyes of someone God does not love."

.... wisdom quoted by The Reverend
Amanda Longmoore+

Yours in Faith,

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

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.

**St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services**

(February 12, 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-KentOption 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	Day of Church Calendar (And Officiant if Other than the Reverend Amanda Longmoore)	Time	Service	Location (See Notes 1 to 3)	Colour	Readings
Feb 14, 2021	Last Sunday after Ephphany	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Green	2 Kings 2: 1-12
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Facebook Live		Psalm 50: 1-6 Mark 9: 2-9
Feb 17, 2021	Ash Wednesday	7:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Zoom	Purple	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 Psalm 103: 8-18 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
Feb 21, 2021	First Sunday in Lent	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom	Purple	Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-9 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15
Feb 28, 2021	Second Sunday in Lent	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Purple	Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 22-30
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38

Note (1) 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 (2) 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 (3) We try to save a video on a Facebook Live or Zoom day and issue a saved and edited version of the 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 Covid.

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