

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

On Sunday, March 28 The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+ begins our Holy Week with virtual Zoom 8:30 am (BCP) and 10:30 am **Palm Sunday** Morning Prayer services. We Anglicans also call this **Passion Sunday** because in addition to reading about Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a humble donkey we also read about his crucifixion. (Red is the colour for Palm Sunday – thus, the red font). **To celebrate Palm Sunday, Reverend Amanda invites everyone to find a branch to bring with you to worship. Normally we would have palm branches, but just as the crowd that day gathered branches from the trees they had around them, we can do the same. If you're out and about this weekend and notice a**

branch on the ground (evergreens work great for this!) gather it up for Sunday.

We will have a 6:00 pm Zoom Maundy Thursday dinner service (yes, cook yourself a simple meal and join us over Zoom; check you email and Facebook for a little more context here as the date draws nearer). We will have a 10:00 am Good Friday Zoom service. We will have about 10 people reading on Good Friday - 3 of the readers are youth members of our parish. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to read. We look forward to journeying through Holy Week with you.

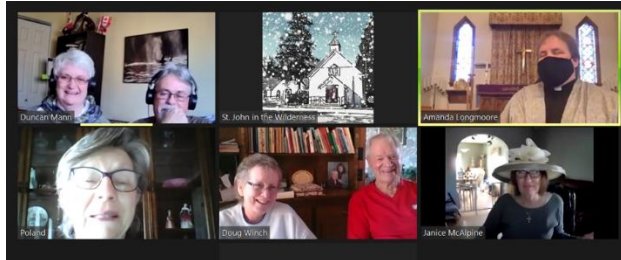
Sometime Monday, our toll-free Prayer Line will have the sermon and readings as recorded during Sunday's service. Just call 1-888-229-5422 and follow the prompts to listen to either



Reverend Amanda at the March 14 10:30 am service blessed prayer shawls put together/made by Sandra Fraser over Covid.

Bright's Grove had a power outage just prior to the March 21 service. As different parts of The Grove got power more folks

got their WiFi back and joined. It was a lively group of about 30 by the end. Below is a picture of a few folks who had power from the start. We all loved Janice's hat!



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. Vaccines are rolling out, but our infection rate remains high in Lambton as people struggle with the need to take precautions for a few more months. Be strong – comply – and remember “You will never look into the eyes of someone God does not love.”

The status of church building access remains as outlined in the [January 15 edition](#) of Honey & Locust. Essentially only one person/Covid-bubble pair in the church at a time, with 3 people permitted for a virtual service. Should Lambton move from a Grey zone to an Orange, Yellow or Green zone, then we will reassess options for use of the church building per [this February 11 letter from Church House](#).

+Bishop Todd To Dedicate our Wilderness Pollinator Garden

Circle May 29th on your calendar.

That's the day +The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Bishop of Huron is tentatively coming to St. John in the Wilderness to lead the dedication and blessing of the Pollinator Garden behind the church. As you know the garden was installed last summer with financial support from the Anglican Foundation of Canada and the hard work, inspiration and love of a team led by Bob Halliday. By the time of the ceremony, we expect the plants and trees in the garden will be 'springing' to life.

More details will be announced closer to the date.



ANGLICAN
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

.....Peter Langille

2896 Old Lakeshore Road
Bright's Grove, ON
Telephone: 519-869-2403
E-Mail: stjohninthewildernesschurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/524453119787144/
www.stjohninthewilderness.com

Lanna Iacobelli Joined Bishop Todd's Discussion with Youth

....a note from Lanna

Hi Deb, this is Lanna with the information about the discussion with youth that Bishop Todd had over Zoom with about 30 of us from Anglican parishes in Southern Ontario. We discussed how the church can appreciate youth voices and grow as a community. It was a unique experience that gave the Diocese of Huron an opportunity to hear what youth have to say about how the church can evolve and improve in years to come.

25 to 30 kids attended. The Bishop is a good speaker and a good listener. He said the church is open to new voices. One thing that came up from kids was how great Huron Camp is at getting kids together with similar values in a fun setting.



Thank you, Lanna for both attending and for sharing a little bit of your March 7, 2021 experience in Honey & Locust here. Your mum gave me this picture of you and said it

was "you glowing after you were picked up from Huron Camp in 2019". Blessings, Deb.

Calling for 1 More Cook for the Inn of the Good Shepherd, Saturday, April 3

We need 1 more cook for Saturday, April 3 for the Inn of the Good Shepherd. The 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.

Appreciating Aruna Anderson



Aruna was born in Regina in 1967, the "chosen child" of Dr. Aaron and Razeena Fernando who emigrated from Sri Lanka in 1958.

Her father practiced as an OBGYN in England and Wales and he and Razeena finally immigrated to Canada in 1965, gaining Canadian citizenship in 1969.

As a child, Aruna aspired to being a teacher or veterinarian but not surprisingly, was strongly encouraged to study medicine. She began her post-secondary education studying psychology at the University of Regina where she met her husband Dale via Bitnet. Bitnet was a wide-area cooperative

computer network made up of networks from different universities. Dale was studying at the University of Waterloo and the wedding bells chimed two years later. Apparently, Internet dating does have some success stories!

Aruna moved to Brockville where Dale had relocated to and studied nursing while pregnant with their children, David and April. She stayed at home with the children for a period of time before entering the work force. Aruna began with a nursing agency caring for medically complex children and then community nursing for thirteen years.

Dale worked with an engineering consulting firm and was transferred to Waterloo which left Aruna to work, care for the kids and pack up the home. She got it done of course, being Aruna. After a short stay in Waterloo work called them to move to Bright's Grove in 1997.

Aruna was employed by CCAC which is now LHIN but as of April 1st will be rebranded as Home and Community Care Support Services.

Aruna has always had a heart for cats and she's currently owned by six of them. She enjoys sewing, baking and cooking. I can personally attest to her prowess in the later two as I've often been a recipient of her tasty treats.

Aruna and family joined St. John in The Wilderness when they moved to The Grove

in '97 for the simple reason of proximity to home. She has served on Council in the past and is currently a Reader of Lessons and Prayers of the People as well as coordinating, purchasing and distributing our February Blah packages. Aruna puts great thought into the cards that accompany the packages. This year's read: "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow in His hope by the power of The Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5 NIV), with God there is always hope. Hope is what helps us to cope when we face challenges in our daily lives and for our futures. May you also find hope through your daily prayers. Hope is for today, tomorrow and many years to come. May God give you many blessings, The Congregation of St. John in The Wilderness."

Yours with Hope ... Janice McAlpine

Pauline – A Good Neighbour!



Pauline's yard

Neighbour's yard

I was dropping off a copy of Honey & Locust to Pauline Walsh last week and

found myself taking a picture of her Snow Drop flowers, just coming up from her lawn. I love the first flowers of Spring! She put on her mask and came out excitedly and said, "if you like these you should see my neighbours". I looked, and their home was surrounded by a garden FULL of Snow Drops. Each one a gift from a squirrel from Pauline's yard. She was immensely proud of the gardens and the squirrels I sense.

Blessings,

Deb

Lay Reader Janice Reflects

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ...tell of his salvation from day to day." Psalm 96:1-2



It doesn't matter where I am living during winter, be it Canada or Mexico where the temperature doesn't drop below 16 C at night, I always anticipate spring! I try to be

upbeat all winter keeping any "Bah Humbug" to myself because truly, snowflakes are beautiful. Adapting to no cycling unless you're Ken Walker and no more downhill skiing for my crumbly bones. Staying positive during dreary days can be difficult.

On the other hand, when sunshine peaks through the clouds and I feel a touch of solar heat, my mood changes immediately. I persevere through winter because each season holds its own beauty.

Why do I like spring? I like new life. I can't help but open my eyes with a smile when birds' songs sing to me. The smell of fresh wet dirt causes me to breathe life back into my sagging soul. Maybe it's the call of the wild or a basic instinct to start anew, I am not sure. I just know that I thrive on all things in the spring.

When I first notice the flowers pushing through the grass and dirt, I get excited with HOPE. I become a fan cheering for the team of flowers that has fought the miraculous fight – popping out of a hard seed in a deep and dark place, forcing their way up through cold soil, eventually feeling the bright rays of sunshine, and finally blooming in all their various colours. Excitedly I relay to my neighbour, "Spring is here. The flowers are blooming again. Come see. They're better than ever!"

Winter's time has drawn to a close for now. It will return again. Yet it doesn't matter IF you are prepared to celebrate new life

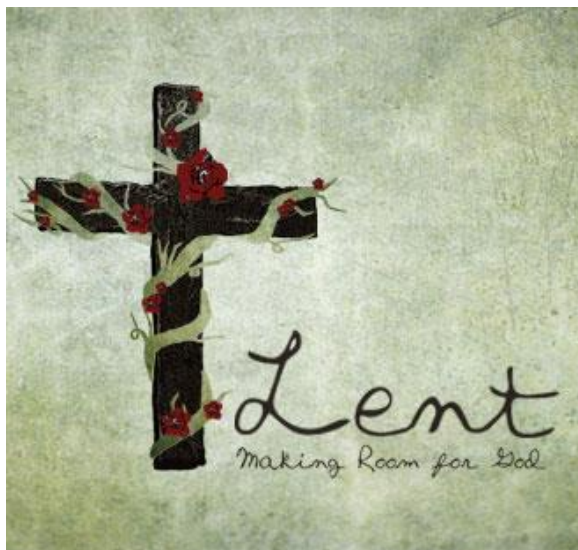
every day of the year. Maybe you don't feel like spring right now, I get it. Seriously, pray to allow your heart to be tilled by God's Word. Then go and cast the seeds that are able to come to life even in the darkest of times. Spring has returned!

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven!

Rejoice!

Janice

Thoughts on Lent: "Into the Valley"



This coming Sunday we will celebrate Palm Sunday. It's the day when we remember when Jesus came into Jerusalem for the final time. He has his disciples borrow a donkey for him to ride on (and we had a good laugh about it during Bible study this

week!). A crowd gathers to welcome him, using their cloaks and branches to make a road for him. They shout "Hosanna!", excited and relieved that a king has finally come to save them.

The following Sunday is Easter Sunday. It's the day we celebrate Jesus's resurrection, the triumph of life over death. We declare that pain and suffering do not have the final word. We will gather to pray, hear, and sing words that speak of hope and new life, both for us and for our world. The tomb will be found empty, and the news will begin to spread.

Sounds amazing, right? If we could just move directly from this Sunday to next Sunday and skip the days in between, it would be pretty great. But we can't, and you probably knew I was going to say that. If we skip the tough stuff between the two it might feel more joyful or comfortable for us, but we'd miss a big part of the message. To make sense of Palm Sunday and Easter, we really need to walk through the valley between the two.

After Jesus arrives in Jerusalem to the shouts of an excited crowd, it doesn't take long for the tone to change. The very next day Jesus challenges those who misuse their power and calls for changes that would disrupt their way of life. He makes (or, at least, doesn't deny) claims of authority that threaten those in power. He's been teaching these things all along and making the political and religious leaders nervous, and now he's come into Jerusalem with his

group of followers and turns up the temperature a bit, and those leaders decide it's just too dangerous to let him continue.

We know the story. Jesus shares a meal with the disciples, is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, goes through a trial process that really wasn't much of a trial at all, and he's convicted and sentenced to be crucified. Crucifixion was a particularly cruel method of capital punishment used to maximize suffering, and because crucifixions were done in public places, they also served to warn others not to step out of line.

Allowing ourselves to walk through the valley of Holy Week allows us in a way to walk with Jesus through that suffering. The purpose isn't simply for us to suffer, but it allows us to witness what happened, to hear the story, to imagine what it would have been like to have been there, to try to take in what Jesus went through.

In the end, we will arrive at Easter. We will find the tomb empty. New life and hope will be waiting for us. I believe, when we arrive at Easter and declare that Christ is risen, there will be even more to celebrate after having walked through Holy Week. I would encourage you not to skip the tough parts. I believe there's a gift for us in that valley.

Grace and peace,

Amanda

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.

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

Sunday School Kids of St. John in the Wilderness Bright's Grove

Colouring Eggs – Part of the Celebration of Easter

Last edition of Honey & Locust we described the simple Easter Egg dying kits sent home to Sunday School kids. The aim was to make it easy for kids and parents to colour eggs on a whim...if it brought them fun. The egg representing new life and the resurrection. Well Miss Leslie and I were blessed with a few pictures we thought we would share.



From Shirley MacKenzie, daughter Stephanie vanMarrewyk and triplets Erik, Paige and Andy...done via Zoom as all but Shirley live in British Columbia



Lexi and Haley Clingersmith...love the purple and dark blue!!



Pa Jesse and son Fran coloured eggs over breakfast and then enjoyed the colourful feast!



Addie Grieve with some favourite colours!



Thanks very much from Miss Leslie and Miss Deb for the Easter cards and lilies Haley and Lexi. The card has a great spot on my fridge and the lily at my entrance.

Blessings in Lent and Happy Easter!

Ann & Pat – Walking Buddies

A familiar sight in Erroll Village, parishioners Ann Hitchins & Pat Poland take their morning walk.



Says Pat: "We are convinced that by doing this we are contributing to our good health and well being.

We walk seven days a week for just under an hour. I have been walking for 23+ years while Ann has walked even longer".

Many of you know Ann Hitchins as the leader of our Altar Guild. She has been with the Guild since about 1984 and has led it since sometime in the 1990's when Hazel Millholland retired from leading it. I admit when I think of Ann, visions of her fabulous desserts at coffee hour come to mind – biscotti, for some reason that biscotti is still in my head even after a year of no-coffee-hour-Covid!

Pat Poland some of you may know as a marvelous gardener – both at her home and in caring for Brent Poland's memorial garden in the church yard and other parts of the yard. Pat is a member of our ACW. Pat tends to take the physically hard jobs when she volunteers, like dishes at The Inn (back prior to Covid when dishes were used...now it is disposable take-out boxes). Pat, like Ann and many of us, volunteers with joy in her heart; what a great parish of folk.

As I was driving from getting another caregiver covid swab... from Forest to home, I passed Ann and Pat...and then a little further down the road Sandra Fraser and walking buddy Bev – who have been walking for about 13 years. Then while on my walk with Fran later that day I came across Carol Ryan at Mike Weir Park. When we are not volunteering, we are a parish of walkers♥ Here are hello's from Bev, Sandra and Carol. Joy!



Peter Langille saw Jean O'Neal and Carol Ryan out walking as well...no pic but "hello" from Jean as well!

Church Maintenance Update

Three items of note come to mind regarding church maintenance.

Thanks to Karl and Mavis Schmid for hanging our **Honey & Locust art** created by Jim Mayer last June for this newsletter. We decided to hang it just outside our Secretary's office – you can see it from a distance as you enter the church hall from the front.



Thanks to Bob and Susan Halliday for delicately yet firmly **sanding and revarnishing the pew backs** in the church which had been significantly stained over large sections with hand sanitizer during cleaning of the church. I could not bring

myself to take “before pictures” but here is a joyous “after” picture...Thanks Bob and Susan – no hand sanitizer stains to be seen!



The **Sacristy sink** continues to pose challenges. Brent Anderson fixed the sewer smell awhile back by putting in an air admittance valve. This led to the sink eventually not draining (a pump is used to move the drain water). Brent has removed the air admittance valve, so the sink drains again – Warden Peter tested it and found it drains well. However, if the sewer smell returns, we need to understand impact so please engage Peter or Deb if you are in the Sacristy and sense a sewer odour – it helps to know circumstances around when the odour occurs. Mavis indicates it did not occur prior to 2019 she believes.



A Blessing

*Life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts
of those who walk this way with us.
So be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.*

.... from Henri-Frédéric Amiel
via Rev. Amanda

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Janice McAlpine,
and The Reverend Amanda Longmoore
Wardens, Lay Reader, and Interim Priest

Postscript:

Ken, Haley, and I were surprised last post-church-service-chat with folk over Zoom that many folks in the parish did not know that MacKenzie and Jesse Macht are expecting their second child – a boy due April 27...so 5 short weeks away. This will be a second grandchild for Ken and me – Life is Marvelous! Kenzie was doing some yoga as I watched Fran yesterday and I thought these pictures might help folks remember...she is pregnant.



They plan on naming the babe Ariel which means “Lion of God”.

*“You will never look into the eyes of
someone God does not love.”*

St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services
(March 21, 2021 Update)

| Date | Day of Church Calendar (And Officiant if Other than The Reverend Amanda Longmoore) | Time | Service | Location (See Notes 1 to 3) | Colour | Readings |
|----------------|--|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| March 28, 2021 | Palm Sunday | 8:30 am | BCP Morning Prayer | Zoom | Red | Isaiah: 4-9a |
| | | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | Zoom | | Psalm 31: 9-16 Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 15: 1-47 |
| April 1, 2021 | Maundy Thursday | 6:00 pm | Shared Meal with Prayers | Zoom | White | Matthew 26: 17-29 Matthew 26: 30-46 |
| April 2, 2021 | Good Friday | 10:00 am | Reflection on the Seven Last Words | Zoom | Black, No Hangings | John 18: 1 - 19: 42 |
| April 4, 2021 | Easter Sunday | 8:30 am | BCP Morning Prayer | Zoom | White | Acts 10: 34-43 |
| | | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | Zoom | | Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20:1-18 |
| April 11, 2021 | Second Sunday of Easter | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | Facebook Live | White | Acts 4: 32 -35 Psalm 133 John 20: 19 - 31 |
| April 18, 2021 | Third Sunday in Easter | 8:30 am | BCP Morning Prayer | Zoom | White | Acts 3: 12 - 19 Psalm 4 |
| | | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | Zoom | | 1 John 3: 1-7 Luke 24: 36b - 48 |
| April 25, 2021 | Fourth Sunday in Easter (Nicole Grieve) | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer | Zoom | White | Acts 4: 5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3: 16 - 24 John 10: 11 - 18 |

- 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.
-For 8:30 am services these go to traditional attendees pre-covid as well as to people who request invitations (just ask Peter or Deb)
-For 10:30 am/main services these go to everyone on the parish list with an email, the invitation is also posted on our Facebook
- Note (3) We try to save a video on a Facebook Live or Zoom Sunday 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.
Audio recordings of the readings, psalm and sermon will be placed on the prayer telephone line on Monday or Tuesday

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;-)

>(((!!))*>

www.facebook.com/groups/524453119787144/
www.stjohninthewilderness.com

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

Listen to the prompts to hear the sermon and readings from our services on the St. John in the Wilderness line.

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

2896 Old Lakeshore Road
Bright's Grove, ON
Telephone: 519-869-2403
E-Mail: stjohninthewildernesschurch@gmail.com