

## HONEY & LOCUST



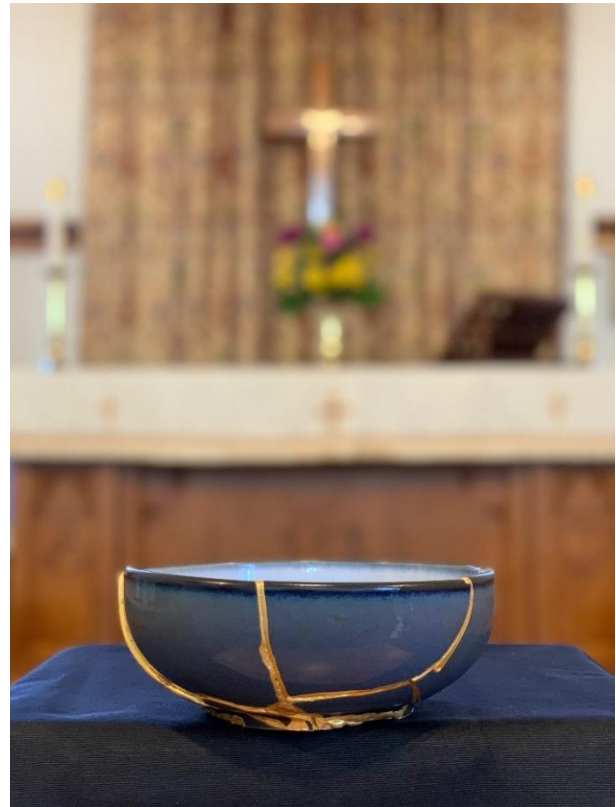
St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church,  
Bright's Grove

## Church Services

On Sunday, April 25 Lay Reader Nicole Grieve will preside over the 10:30 am virtual Zoom service as we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. This service has one of my favourite psalms "The Lord is My Shepherd"; Brenden Fraser and Ken Walker will sing this psalm from the church. Blessings.

We are having more engagement with Zoom as compared to Facebook Live with our services. After much thought and consultation with the couple of people attending Facebook Live but not Zoom, we determined how best to migrate to Zoom-only for virtual services, while getting to better means of inclusion for all. We will continue to issue a video of the service and place the readings, psalm, and sermon on

the prayer telephone line within a day or two of the service. Thanks to everyone for working with Reverend Amanda and Wardens Peter and I as we try to bring meaningful services to you.



Reverend Amanda brought this beautiful, repaired bowl to show us as part of her sermon on Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection. It is an example of Kintsugi, a Japanese art involving the repair of something broken in a visible way to show that what is broken can make something more beautiful. Amanda used it to speak of the wounds Jesus carried even after the resurrection, as well as the wounds of life we experience. Thanks to Amanda for this picture as well.

Janice McAlpine missed the Easter Sunday service and decided to wear her Easter Sunday outfit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter.



Such Joy, Janice ... Thank You!



Brenden Fraser provided great music on his guitar. He is pictured on this page at our Facebook Live service on April 11.

*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 to an Orange, Yellow or Green zone, then we will reassess options for use of the church building per the [February 11 letter from Church House](#).







Thanks, Amanda ♥

## +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. Warden Peter Langille will put out a request to join him in a yard clean up as spring progresses and the date approaches.

We acknowledge these plans may change given how Covid is going. This said, it sure is nice to plan and think of! More details on the Bishop's dedication visit will be announced closer to the date.

Below is a picture Amanda took of the bees last Sunday – I can taste the honey already!



The Anglican Foundation of Canada asked for a short video of the garden. Thanks to Bruce and Leslie Grieve for going out and sending in video. Bruce can do video of a garden as well as video his songs and kids it turns out ♥

Haley Walker, Fran Macht and I recorded some video as well. At one point Fran was surrounded by bees about 3 feet from the hives, blissfully saying "bzzz, bzzz, bzzz". Honeybees truly are docile if you treat them

kindly and don't approach the hive opening directly from the front.



Adjacent...Doug Winch and Haley are joyfully conversing about how good honey from our blossoming Linden tree will be – “Linden makes very good honey!” says Doug.

.....Deb



## 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.



## Marvelous Margery Anderson



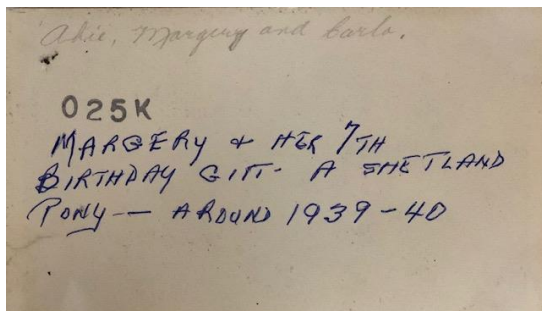
Why do I describe Margery as marvelous? Read about her life and marvel. She was born in town of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan which is roughly 110 kms from Moose Jaw, Swift Current, and the United States border. Margery is an only child, born in 1932. Her father, George Oke, homesteaded on that land in 1910, he was the second oldest of 17 children. He went out there on the train from Alvinston, got off and walked 28 miles straight south. Just over a hill he found the farm of a younger brother who had gone on ahead, eventually there were four brothers

who farmed there, two on each side of the road.

Her mother, Ethel, was five years old when she emigrated from St. John's, Nfld. with her family to Toronto on an old wooden steamer, The Bruce. Many were moving from Newfoundland at the time for work.

Margery attended a one room school, both for elementary children and for high school. The family then moved to Sarnia as her dad found employment at various automotive plants in Michigan. However, just prior to the Depression the family chose to return to the farm. They took over one of the brothers' farms so had 12,080 acres. They had over 100 head of cattle and farmed mixed grain. In 1942 they had the first bumper crop, but workers were hard to find because of WWII. Marjory's dad would be on the combine, Marjory would have two wagons and a team of horses and hitched them up to the wagon. Her dad would make a round of the field, empty the grain into Marjory's wagon and she would take it to the grainery and shovel her load into the grainery. She then returned to the field, unhitched the horses, hitched them to the other wagon which was full by this time and returned to the grainery to empty again by shovel. This went on all day! Marjory has also fought prairie fires. Clearly, as a child I was pampered but times were very different then. They didn't live with electricity or water; water came from a well at the bottom of the hill where the family lived so was carried uphill.

Marjory completed high school at SCI&TS and that was an adjustment to attend a school with 1,200 students as opposed to 12. Marjory's first job here upon graduation was with the Health Unit. Her supervisor was stepping out for a few minutes and asked her to look after his nephew who would be arriving shortly. She was expecting a child to arrive but it was a tall, blonde-haired, blue-eyed man smoking a pipe, Gord. Gord was completing his training as a Health Inspector. Zing went the strings of their hearts! They came to be married in the manse of Central United Church while watching the wife of the minister scrub the floors of the stairwell.



Margery went on to work for CHOK and the YMCA prior pregnancy pauses for the births of her sons, Paul and Brent, followed by employment by The Sarnia Gazette for

several years. Margery and Gord went on to build their own home in Sarnia with advice from Marjory's dad George.

Marjory and Gord chose to attend St. George's Anglican Church, Sarnia and following its closure joined Christ Church Anglican, Camlachie. You know where this story is going ... Margery and her family are now members of St. John in the Wilderness. Marjory feels as much at home at St. John in the Wilderness as she has at any of the other churches. Margery, we are Blessed to have you as a member of our church family.

... Janice McAlpine

P.S. From Deb

I knew Margery through her son Brent Anderson, who is a Deputy Warden at our church and does much of the maintenance at the church. During Covid I have been delivering Honey & Locust to Margery as she does not use a computer...and this is how I was blessed to get to know Margery a little better. Margery, during the warm months will sit on her step sometimes on the south end of Hardick Drive. Early on she patiently described the shortcut to me through the cedars and grass from Hardick Drive to Wilaurie Court...a much more pleasant way to make my way to Hazel Millholland's from Margery's when riding my bicycle. Thanks, Margery!

Janice.... Thanks for writing down part of Margery's remarkable story!

## Jim and Marie - Thanks for Sharing Your 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Celebration!



Jim and Marie, thanks for sharing cookies on your front lawn on April 14 to celebrate 65 glorious years of marriage. I LOVE both pictures ...thanks Karen Wilson. It was a really nice gift Jim and Marie gave to the parish...a celebration of love, well earned by them and shared with joy.

God bless.



## 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](mailto:debwalker@cogeco.ca)



## Lay Reader Janice Reflects



"He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone".

Luke 4:15 NRSV

Everybody loves Jesus as long as they think he is praising them. But things sure turn ugly when they realize he is telling them they get no special favors. Their status does not matter. Instead, God sometimes even favors a—gasp— Syrian! For the Galileans, this is an outrage.

We're not so different from those Galileans in the synagogue. When we understand someone to be saying kind things about us, what's not to like? But if someone speaks the unvarnished truth and tells us we need to change, especially those things that are dear to us, we usually don't like it.

The fact is, I hardly ever learn things the easy way. Someone usually has to speak the truth to me, and while it can be unpleasant, the bitter medicine is useful for the cure. If we read the gospels with an eye toward our own growth and transformation, we will find places that will make us uncomfortable. Instead of driving Jesus away, maybe we will have the grace to hear him and to change.

What truth has been hard for you to hear?

In Faith yet Flawed ... Janice McAlpine

## Farewell to Viola Gow



Viola Gow had many beautiful roles, one was the great-aunt (and surrogate grandmother) to our Interim Priest

The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+. It is particularly difficult to say a meaningful goodbye during the restrictions of Covid; Amanda, we all hope you manage to. Here is a link to Viola's obituary [Viola Gow | Obituaries | SaltWire](#). Viola's home was Bridgewater, NS.

I hope you take the time to read Viola's obituary story linked to above, she was a remarkable woman...the love and inspiration in this extract was very moving: "she was genuinely interested in every person she met and if she felt they needed love, compassion, or kindness she would deliver without hesitation. Viola did not seek acknowledgement or attention for the unconditional love and kindness she offered, nor for it to be reciprocated. She was happy to make someone's day better or have them pass it along to another person in need. .... she did indeed, make the world a better place."

Amanda ... you had a wonderful surrogate-grandmother role model. Thanks for



bringing her spirit to Sarnia/Bright's Grove.  
God bless. ♥

## Farewell to Archie Walker



Jesus took Archie Walker gently by the paw on Wednesday, April 21. Archie was the beloved cat of Ken, Deb, Haley, Kenzie, Jesse and Fran. Archie was bright and kind. He was very affectionate, Ken would brush and pet him for hours while watching a Leaf game, bike race or other such event.

Archie was a year old when we got him from the Humane Society in 2013. He died of heart failure and will be laid to rest in our little forest in front of our home.

Occasionally Archie would eat a rabbit from our little wooded area, but what stands out is his kindness to cats, dogs, and people.

God bless. ♥

## St. John in the Wilderness Red T-Shirts – Order if You Want One

After multiple requests from parishioners, I visited Dave at Team Outfitters to determine options for St. John in the Wilderness T-Shirts for parishioners who want to buy one.

Many parishioners, a few years ago, purchased a beautiful cherry-red T-Shirt with our name, a cross and a dove stitched onto it. Sandra Fraser lovingly arranged for these and they have seen great use. They are made of thicker material (thick enough to enable stitching of the name and symbols); some folks loved the thicker fabric, some found them a little warm in summer months. So, in the spirit of addressing varying parishioner's needs we are going to introduce a slightly different design.

Dave and I agreed on using the same fabric as the Bluewater Triathlon T-shirts in red. This is cool, technical-grade fabric. The red is redder than cherry-red...I love both. "St. John in the Wilderness" and a fish symbol will be silk-screened on in the same area we had the with the cherry-red shirts. Cost will be \$25/T-shirt for sizes up to XL. For XXL and above cost will be \$30/T-shirt.

If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, please contact me in the next week or two.

....Deb Walker

## 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.  
And the blessing of God,  
who made us,  
who loves us,  
and who travels with us  
be with you now and forever,  
Amen*

.... adapted from Henri-Frédéric  
Amiel and The Reverend Alexander  
MacPhail and introduced to St. John  
in the Wilderness by The Reverend  
Amanda Longmoore

Yours in Faith,

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

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

Postscript:



*Denise Hillary says "Hello! I see her walking  
regularly, a lot! Denise, you may just inspire  
me to ride my bike to deliver Honey &  
Locust. Hope to hear you singing four-part-  
harmony with the choir in church soon.  
Take care, stay healthy!"*

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

**St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove**  
**Church Services**  
(April 19, 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

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 😊

| Date                     | Day of Church Calendar<br>(And Officiant if Other than<br>The Reverend Amanda Longmoore) | Time     | Service   | Location<br>(See Notes 1 & 2) | Colour | Readings   |
|--------------------------|--|----------|---|-------------------------------|--------|--|
| April 25, 2021           | Fourth Sunday of Easter<br>(Nicole Grieve)   | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          | White  | Acts 4: 5-12<br>Psalm 23<br>1 John 3: 16 - 24<br>John 10: 11 - 18                                |
| 02-May-21                | Fifth Sunday of Easter   | 8:30 am  | BCP Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          | White  | Act 8: 26 - 40<br>Psalm 22: 24 - 30<br>1 John 4: 7 - 21<br>John 15: 1 - 8                        |
|                          |  | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          |        |  |
| May 9, 2021              | Sixth Sunday of Easter   | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          | White  | Acts 10: 44 - 48<br>Psalm 98<br>1 John 5: 1 - 6<br>John 15: 9 - 17                               |
| May 16, 2021             | Seventh Sunday of Easter   | 8:30 am  | BCP Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          | White  | Acts 1: 15 - 17, 21 - 26<br>Psalm 1<br>1 John 5: 9 - 13<br>John 17: 6 - 19                       |
|                          |  | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          |        |  |
| May 23, 2021             | The Day of Pentecost<br>(Lay Reader Fran Taylor)   | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          | Red    | Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14<br>Psalm 104: 25 - 35, 37b<br>Acts 2: 1 - 21<br>John 15: 26 - 27, 16: 4b - 15 |
| Saturday<br>May 29, 2021 | +Bishop Todd   | 2:00 PM  | Wilderness Garden Dedication<br>In-person with on-line component<br>(depending upon Covid restrictions) |                               |        |  |
| May 30, 2021             | Trinity Sunday   | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer  | Zoom                          | White  | Isaiah 6: 1 - 8<br>Psalm 29<br>Romans 8: 12 - 17<br>John 3: 1- 17                                |

Note (1) 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 (2) We try to save a video 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.

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

>(((!!))\*>

[www.stjohninthewilderness.com](http://www.stjohninthewilderness.com)