

St. John in the Wilderness

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday October 15, 2026

Present: Rev. Sherry De Jonge, Peter Langille, Brian Bradford, Mike Moloney, Deb Walker, Haley Walker, Brent Anderson, Sandra Fraser, Gwen McBean, Susan Halliday, Sandy Dawson, Karen Wilson, Aruna Anderson, Brian Fogg, Ingrid Schmid

Regrets: Kathy Morris

Scribe: Deb Walker

Opening – Rev Sherry DeJonge opened with a reflection from Psalm 119 – focused on meditation of God’s word - a strength of this parish she indicates.

Reviewed previous Minutes, (no corrections)

MOTION to accept by Deb seconded by Mike PASSED by All.

Business arising from the minutes.

None.

Rector’s Report

- Paul Woolley’s funeral was held on 21 September at St Michaels and All Saints in Sarnia.
- Deanery Clericus resumed 22 September at St John the Evangelist, Strathroy.
- Afton Park and Vision Care services were held on Sept 15 and 25 respectively.
- Blessing of the Animals was conducted on St Francis of Assisi Sunday, 04 October.
- 18 October will be a Morning Prayer service for the Blessing of the New Doors!
- 08 November will be the usual joint service with Camlachie United Church for Remembrance Day.
- 22 November: I will be away – Nicole Grieve will lead the two Morning Prayer services.
- Advent begins 29 November!
- Rev. Sherry submitted her quarterly expense report, mileage was just over \$1000 for Q3, 2026.
- Last year’s Christmas services were as follows:
 - 24 Dec: 7.00 pm – family service with Susan playing (109 attended)
 - 24 Dec: 9.00 pm – service, with Susan playing organ (28 attended)
 - 25 Dec: 10.00 am – Brendan on guitar
 - ** Advent 4 was the Lessons and Carols Service...

- We agreed that the 2026 December 24 and 25 service times will be the same as in 2025. Rev. Sherry will mull when the Lessons and Carols service will take place.

Wardens' Report

Velma Anderson and Ed Verby donated \$25,000.00 to St. John in the Wilderness to the glory of God and in loving memory of their spouses Don Anderson and Joyce Verby. Velma is a longtime member of our parish, with Ed also joining our parish. They now live in St. Mary's.

Susan Halliday indicated the Lambton County Fiddlers will be part of our Community Hymn Sing on Friday, December 11 at 7 pm.

Lambton Deanery has a new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/lambton.deanery>.

The Diocese indicates we must complete a Stewardship report. Kathy and Peter received training on it and believe this parish complies with all requirements. Sherry, Peter, and Kathy plan to put together a report for the Diocese which reflects this.

Property Committee – Brian B.

Deep cleaned between the walls and pews

We did much of the fall/winter preparation of our pollinator gardens. They are typically left uncut through the winter so that birds may feast on seed heads and insects can lay eggs/hibernate in the stems and foliage. In the north/back yard pollinator gardens, we like to leave the plants be until the temperature in spring is over 5 deg C for a few days (sometimes we last and sometimes we just feel compelled to tidy them up a little bit early). In the front yard, as the flower heads go to seed in the summer and fall, we tend to cut the stems back about a third to half-way down. This lets insects still hibernate and lay eggs et cetera, while still allowing us to maintain an attractive front entrance. It also helps our purple asters and yellow golden rod to look glorious together by the porch in the fall. We hope you enjoy the flowers, the insects, and the birds - and we hope you understand and perhaps bless our approach.

Dish washer – we have found a vendor in Windsor who will maintain it – Diachem Inc, Glen Burger is the contact (519-495-8354). The vendor we had closed their London office and mileage from their Toronto office was expensive. Diachem out of Windsor also serves The Boys Home and Rhondo's (as did our London vendor). The dishwasher is well overdue for some routine maintenance of tubes etcetera, and we are very thankful we have a cost-effective option again.

The flush handle of the toilet in the northwest bathroom was converted to one that people push down rather than pull up. A number of parishioners requested this, after the toilet was replaced in August. The toilet was found to be running last week, Mike and Brian B. shortened the flush chain and it works well now.

The insulation and siding of the north wall will be done late October/early November.

Our Annual Come Clean, Gab, Maybe Bring Cookies: It is coming up! October 17 from 1 to 4 pm we hope parishioners will joyfully come to the church and help with a **general clean-up of the grounds and interior**. We did this last year, and it was a wonderful, heartwarming, social, and productive day! The Property Committee folk and a core group of other volunteers do maintain the facility; however, like last year, it is time for more perspectives and hands....many eyes and hands help to get many tasks identified and done in an afternoon of gathering, gabbing, and deep-cleaning/clean-up!

- **The Property Team brainstormed a list of tasks which parishioners can tackle** – with the aim of engaging people (some folk think they cannot help, but they likely will see a task they can help with if it brings them joy). This list was sent with a cover email to the parish list today.

ACW Report

ACW Will once again have a bake sale Saturday, November 28th from 9 until noon.

ACW Multi-parish Christmas Party will be held at John's Restaurant Dec. 2nd beginning at noon.

Soup and Sandwich will be held on Advent Two, Sunday, December 6th.

Also ACW will pay for mailing the Feb. Blah Packages, also we will purchase items with church outreach funds and package them.

Treasurer's Report

Brian F. indicated our Givings were decent and expenses exceptionally low due to having a fill-in priest. Our Givings, however, are almost 9% below budget, which impacts our sustainability once we have a permanent priest. The Wardens, with support from the Treasurers, will likely present our financials to the parish at a November service.

All people who are paid for services to the parish must be registered to be paid directly from the Diocese. **This now includes lay readers even and pulpit supply (alternate/fill in priests).** Typically, a warden informs the Treasurer that payment is needed and then the Treasurer informs the Diocese.

MOTION to accept by Brian seconded by Peter PASSED by all.

Haley Walker MOVED that our 2026 outreach donations be \$12,900 as follows:

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| • Inn of the Good Shepherd | \$2,500 |
| • Women's Interval Home | \$2,500 |
| • Alzheimer Society Sarnia | \$2,500 |
| • St. Clair Child & Youth | \$2,500 |
| • Pathways Health Centre for Children | \$1,500 |
| • Sponsored Child in Africa | \$ 600 |
| • February Blahs and Community Support | \$ 800 |

MOTION seconded by Karen Wilson and Brent Anderson, accepted by all.

New Business

Aruna will arrange an Alongside Hope Sunday in January, 2027 where parishioners can donate funds such that Alongside Hope will issue tax receipts. Note, Alongside Hope is the new name for the PWRDF

Correspondence

We received the Indwell quarterly newsletter and is on our community bulletin board at the south end of the hall.

Other Business

None

MOTION to adjourn by Ingrid