

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

On Sunday, February 28, The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+ will preside over a virtual Zoom BCP service at 8:30 am and a virtual Zoom Morning Prayer service at 10:30 am. This will be the Second Sunday of Lent.

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. The parish list received a Zoom invitation to the 10:30 am service, the invitation is also posted on our Facebook.

Amanda is now populating our toll-free Prayer Line with her sermons. Nicole Grieve will populate the readings this week. Just

call 1-888-229-5422 and follow the prompts to listen to either.

We look forward to worshipping with you.

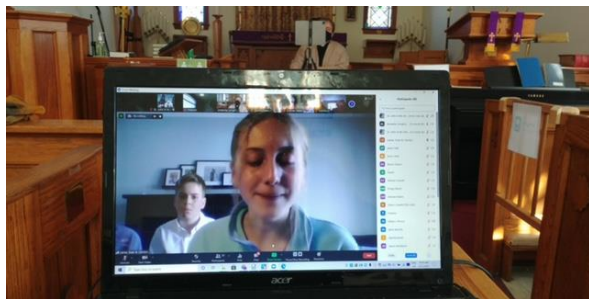
Please continue to wash your hands, Stay Home except for essential excursions, wear a mask if you are in public, socially distance, acknowledge angst (I sure do;-) and continue to be kind to yourself and others—we are in this together.

The status of church building access remains as outlined in the [January 15 edition](#) of Honey & Locust. 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 Red 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](#).



It turns out that Reverend Amanda knows her way around Zoom – WHOO WHOO! She used “Spotlight” in Zoom so that during the service for the First Sunday of Lent we saw the shared service document and Amanda only. This very much helps in getting that inner feeling of peace during the service. We switched to 14 font size for the service document shared on the screen which enabled most people to read off the screen. We will continue to send the service document out prior to the service for those people who want to view it over a second device or print it.

You can see Spotlight mode below on host Peter Langille’s computer – Lanna Iacobelli was reading (Thank you, Lanna!) so the spotlight was moved to her.



At the end of the service Amanda opened the screen to Gallery mode again so we could all have a few minutes to say hi to each other – How nice!

If you need help with Zoom on your computer – loading it on and/or making it work – please contact Nicole Grieve and if she cannot help you, she will work with you to connect you with parishioners who may

be able to...especially as more and more of our congregation get skilled in how to make different computer configurations work with Zoom.

Thanks very much to Brenden Fraser for doing the Psalm. He is pictured below from our February 14 Facebook Live service. Given we can only have 3 people in the church for virtual services – he brought in his guitar. Susan Halliday is looking forward to playing again once we can have 5 people in the church for a service.



The last page of this edition of Honey & Locust (after the warden signatures) has the service schedule until the end of March.

Happy Valentines Day S&R



The parish sent Fathers Shaun and Rishi chocolates and a card for Valentines Day. We continue to pray that Father Shaun will heal and return to work.

in community in our hyper-connected world and losing this one is poignant - particularly, as this moment came right before we begin a somber and penitential season of self-reflection with Ash Wednesday. Our Pancake Suppers are a win, win, win situation.

Our Pancake supper is a tradition in our community. The same couple is always the first to arrive and a family who lives nearby yearly has us scurrying to create a table for twelve in a full hall.

Shrove, Pancake and Fat Tuesday



I hope that you enjoyed Shrove Tuesday and perhaps a plate of pancakes. Of the many things the pandemic has changed, the necessity to cancel our traditional pancake supper that takes place before our Lenten observances is one that caused me angst.

I didn't really miss the carb-loading session or having breakfast for dinner (both very good things in my book). Rather, it was the loss of the community gathering together for joyous fellowship that saddened me some. We have few opportunities to gather



The Stone-Kidd Clan at our 2018 pancake supper 😊

Win #1: The fellowship that we, the parishioners, shared was a gift no matter if breakers were tripping and kettles needed to be heated in the pulpit. Fun times and we always got it done.

Win #2: Shirley MacKenzie shared that a couple from Wyoming said that they chose to have their pancakes with us because our ad in the paper read that all donations go to our Outreach Program.

Win #3: Community, those in need and our parishioners all benefit from our Pancake Dinners.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to confession to say sorry for the wrong things you've done. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confessions on the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday. In many deaneries in Britain the Palm Crosses from the previous year are traditionally burned at confession on Shrove Tuesday with Holy Oil being added to the ashes.

Another name for this day, Pancake Tuesday, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses in those days were eggs and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes!



The custom of making pancakes still continues today, and in many U.K. towns and villages pancake races (where people race with a frying pan while tossing a pancake in it!) and pancake tossing competitions are held on Shrove Tuesday.

In other countries Shrove Tuesday is known as 'Mardi Gras'. This means 'Fat Tuesday' in French and also comes from the idea of using up food before Lent.

Many countries round the world have Mardi Gras celebrations and carnivals. Some of the most famous are in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, New Orleans in the U.S.A., Venice in Italy and Sydney in Australia.

In Rio, the streets are filled, over several days leading up to Shrove Tuesday, with large processions of people marching, singing and dancing. People taking part in the parade dress up in very bright exotic clothes. Sometimes the costumes are made on large wire structures so the people wearing them look very big, like butterflies or birds. There are big floats, with stands for singing and dancing built into cars or lorries that take part in the parade, they are decorated as brightly as the people and help make the procession look amazing.

Let us not be too carried away by pancakes or carnival activities on Shrove Tuesday or at least doing it privately. Above all else it has a religious significance in examining our lives and going to confession to be shriven of those sins that would interfere with us making room for God in our lives.

... Janice McAlpine

P.S. From Deb: Following are Maggie Brownridge and Nancy Mann working at our 2018 pancake supper. During our ladies' parish Zoom this week Maggie shared



her experience of spilling 12 batches of Jell-O when the top shelf of the fridge fell the evening before our pancake

supper a few years ago. The Jell-O was still liquid when the shelf fell - it turns out the stuff hardens in a cold fridge pretty fast. Shalleen was on the Zoom as well and vouched for how tough the clean up was. AND...Maggie says she can hardly wait to help again. ♥♥

Hello from Maggie Brownridge!



Maggie with her skates when she was a kid – and with Hiney, her gentle, huge border collie.

Last month Deb posted a picture on Facebook of her and Haley after they had been skating on Lake Chipican. I responded that I learned to skate on the Mississippi

River to which Deb asked how far north on the Mississippi do you need to live to be able to skate on it. After answering her question, she asked me to share my story in Honey and Locust.

I grew up on a dairy farm on the very edge of a tiny village called Old Frontenac, Minnesota on the banks of the Mississippi River which at that point is called Lake Pepin. Above here the river is about as wide as the St. Clair River, and a bridge crosses over between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Then the river widens to about 2 miles across and 20 miles long. After that it again narrows, and another bridge crosses between the 2 states. This wide part of the river is called Lake Pepin – pictured below from my childhood. It has almost no current so the lake/river freezes over each winter.



Old Frontenac had only 4 other children besides me, and we were all close in age. We spent hours together skating in the winter and swimming in the summer on/in Lake Pepin/the Mississippi. One of the dads put an old wooden fish shanty on the lake

every winter. It had a little potbellied stove, and he kept firewood stocked so we could build a fire in the stove and use the shanty as our warming house. It had a little fold up table and 5 little stools, and we usually played cards while warming up.

Often, we would take our boots with us and skate the 2 miles across to Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. We'd then walk up into town to a little diner where we could buy hot chocolate and a sweet treat. It's a wonder we never drown as the ice sometimes forms pressure ridges which we had to crawl over and sometimes we could see open water through the cracks at the top of the ridges. In the winter you can drive across the lake to Wisconsin being mindful of the pressure ridges. Cars have on rare occasions fallen through. I guess God was watching out for us kids.

So, to answer Deb's question I'm estimating Lake Pepin is about 2000 miles north of the terminus of the Mississippi at New Orleans/The Gulf of Mexico. The river begins about 300 miles north of Lake Pepin at Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota in Lake Itasca Park. At the beginning the Mississippi is only about 18 feet wide and knee deep. It's a tourist attraction, and people wade across the Mighty Mississippi so they can brag about it when they get home. I did it with my family when I was very young.

Lake Pepin is about 60 miles south of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. If

you've heard of Laura Ingalls Wilder the author of the "Little House" children's books, she grew up in Wisconsin near Lake Pepin. Lake City, Minnesota about 7 miles south of where I lived is known as the Birthplace of Waterskiing and celebrates with Water Ski Days every summer. It's also where I went to school from 4th grade on. Before then I went to a one room country school house with 3 grades, one teacher, no running water, and no central heat. There was a large oil burning stove for heat and 2 outhouses for you know what. One for the boys and one for the girls. Believe me using them during a Minnesota winter is a chilling experience.



That is me (Maggie) looking at the camera as a kid with new skates

The river is a major shipping channel from Minneapolis/St. Paul to New Orleans except during the winter when the lake is frozen. Instead of the lake freighters used on the

Great Lakes, shipping on the Mississippi is done on barges. It's always exciting in the spring to see the ice breaker go "up the lake" and barge shipping begin again. As the weather warmed and the ice got thinner we packed up our skates, the old fish shanty was pulled off the lake, and we could dream of hot summer days swimming in the lake/river.

Well, hello to all my friends of St. John in the Wilderness, I hope this brought you a smile as we all stay at home and do the social distance thing. Honey & Locust is such a powerful way for us to stay connected during these challenging times. Please write up one of your memories for Honey & Locust – I love to read about you all, we have an interesting and fun parish of people.

God bless,
Maggie

P.S. Thank you Maggie!! You brought your joy to life for me and I sense many in our parish. Like you some of my fondest memories are of skating as a kid – wind in my hair! Deb

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

Lay Reader Janice Reflects



"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored." - Daniel 4:34.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream he was going to lose everything, and, well, the dream came true. He lost everything and went into a terrible despair. Scholars say he was insane for seven years. After losing it all and being driven away from his people for those seven years Nebuchadnezzar raises his eyes toward heaven, he looks up, and his sanity is restored.

Now I am NOT going to suggest that anyone with a mental illness just needs to look up and everything will be fine. Just like I will NOT suggest that anyone with cancer or arthritis or a broken wrist just needs to look up to get better. Let me say it again, I am NOT suggesting that.

Six months ago, there was an unexpected knock on my door and there was a delivery

woman on the porch holding a beautiful bouquet of flowers for me. I was shocked and it clicked in and I told her that my husband had very recently passed on. As she was walking away, she turned back to me, paused and said, "Just look up." Connected by God we were, each smiling at each other and I felt a glowing warmth.

I do wonder how much better we all would be if we were able to find the time, even for a few moments, to look up from all the stuff we're all dealing with. The hard decisions, the pandemic frustrations, the questions, the doubts. What if we could look up for a moment?

It's not that the decisions, frustrations, questions, doubts will disappear but maybe, just maybe, we'll be reminded that we're not going through this alone. You are not alone. You've got family, church family, friends, people who care about you. God is with you. Take a moment. Look up. I sure hope you can find a bit of sanity through it all!

Today, God, I pray we will be able to look up from all the things we're dealing with. Look up and feel a bit of sanity. Look up and see all the people who are there for us. Look up and be reminded that we will make it. Look up and see something new, something different, something we've never seen before. Amen.



"Look up, now look down. Up is endless, down has an ending. Always look up."
(Mod Sun, British Rapper)

...Janice McAlpine

February Blah Packages

To our kids in post-secondary school – we are proud of you and thinking of you!



Aruna Anderson, on behalf of the congregation, put 7 February Blah packages together and delivered them to our post-secondary students. Normally most of these are mailed off, but alas these students face the extra challenge of having to be home when many are at that stage in

life where they planned to be out in the world learning away from home. The packages included items intended to lift their spirits during a tough time in the school year...and from the thank you notes received we sense they brought a little joy ♥

Packages included Tim Horton cards, bubbles, Werther's candies – you get the jist.

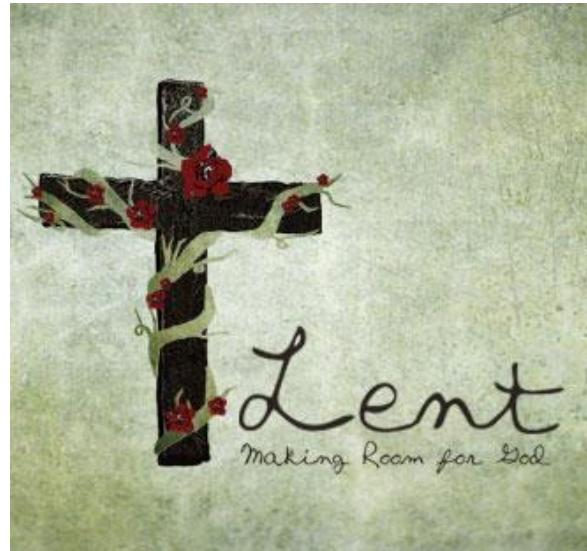


Morgan & Durham Langille, Simone Hinton Santos, Magaidh & Toby Crossland, Sarah Gilchrist and Adris Evans may you know that God holds you in the palm of his hand in your journeys.

Godspeed.

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Thoughts on Lent: "In The Beginning...."



Lent is a season of the Church year that I think has a bit of a bad reputation. When I was growing up, what sticks out to me about Lent is that all the hangings in the church turned purple, the prayers and hymns seemed to be... well... sad. And I had this vague idea, although I don't remember anyone telling me this directly, that I should feel badly about something. I knew we were preparing for Easter, but it seemed like a strange way to prepare. As I got a bit older and understood a bit more, if I'm honest, I still felt that I needed to feel badly about something. Guilty. Like I wasn't good enough. Like I didn't measure up. You'd think that those experiences would have made me hate Lent. Instead, those experiences have actually made me appreciate it, because I gradually came to a different understanding, a different way of seeing it, that helps me grow instead of

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feeling like I should shrink. And as a priest, I find myself passionate about helping others come to an experience of Lent that isn't just about feeling inadequate and miserable.

We began the season of Lent on February 17 with the observance of Ash Wednesday. There were 19 of us who gathered on Zoom. In a regular (non-pandemic) year, we would have gathered in person, and part of the service would include the imposition of ashes, an opportunity for us to come forward and receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads, marked in ashes made from the previous year's palm branches. As each of us receives our ashes we hear the words "remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

For those who aren't familiar with an Ash Wednesday service, those words might seem a little harsh. I mean, who needs to be reminded that they will die someday? Maybe it sounds morbid to you, maybe you don't want to think about it. But what Ash Wednesday tells us is something much more than that.

I love science. I might not understand it all, but I love learning about it. And one of the most amazing things to me is that our bodies are made of material that used to be in stars. No, I'm not kidding. The carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen in our bodies is found throughout the universe, and science shows that it was made a few billion years ago.

What does this have to do with Ash Wednesday? Well, that dust that we're made of, it's pretty amazing. Creation is

beautiful. We were formed from the stuff of the universe, with God's hand in all of it. So to say that we are dust isn't an insult, it's not a put-down. We're not saying that we're garbage or worthless. We are God's creation, and we are treasured and priceless beyond measure. We acknowledge that we are made of dust -- that we are not God, and yes, someday we will die -- but in the eyes of God we are loved, cherished, and irreplaceable.

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.



A Blessing

The Reverend Amanda ended our service last week with this beautiful blessing. It comes from Henri-Frédéric Amiel, a 19th century Swiss philosopher.

*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.*

Yours in Faith,

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



P.S. Grandson Fran made his first snowman this week. God's grace and blessings, I shared in the build. Nanny Deb. xo

**St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services**
(February 16, 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
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 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		
March 7, 2021	Third Sunday in Lent (Janice McAlpine)	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Facebook Live	Purple	Exodus 20: 1-17 Psalm 19 John 2: 13-22
March 14, 2021	Fourth Sunday in Lent	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Purple	Numbers 21: 4-9 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		
March 21, 2021	Fifth Sunday of Lent	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Facebook Live	Purple	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51: 1-13 John 12: 20-33 Sermon - Janice McAlpine
March 28, 2021	Palm Sunday	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Red	Isaiah: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16 Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 15: 1-47
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		

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 Reverend Amanda Longmoore's sermon and Nicole Grieves' readings on the St. John in the Wilderness line.

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

- 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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