

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

Sunday, July 4 is the 6th Sunday after Pentecost - The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+ will preside over 8:30 am and 10:30 am virtual Zoom services. Susan, Brenden, and Ken will celebrate with music from church. Nicole Grieve will read from her home and Sandra Lamoureux will offer The Prayers of the People from her home. Blessings.

Last week Lay Reader Janice McAlpine presided and gave a wonderful and personal sermon on the connection of God's love to all sorts of things in our lives. Lanna Iacobelli read beautifully and is pictured adjacent over Zoom.



Thanks, Janice and Lanna!



As Covid restrictions have relaxed, our ability to use our building is slowly increasing. During the week, we ask that you keep visits to the church to only essential trips. There should be 5 or fewer people in the building at any time, masks must be worn and distancing maintained except with someone in your own household. We need to continue to sign in and use hand sanitizer when we enter.

Sunday, July 18 – assuming the weather is good – everyone is invited to come together (yes, in person!!) for an outdoor service on the church lawn on Sunday, July 18th at 10:30. There are no restrictions on numbers of people gathering outdoors as long as distancing can be maintained. We will be celebrating Eucharist together (bread only) and more details will be shared as we get closer to the date. This is BYOLC&M - Bring your own lawn chair & mask – masks must be worn even outside because we're gathering in a larger group, and as exciting as it will be to be back, we really do need to keep our 2m distance. Congregational singing will not be allowed, but we will have music! Rain date will be the following Sunday (July 25th).

There is a significant possibility that Covid will be sufficiently under control by **July 25** that Bishop Todd will indicate we may operate our services at 25% capacity (maintaining social distance and with masks etcetera). This translates to 20 people in pews and 3 or 4 people in the sanctuary (presiding and providing music and song). ***Please monitor your e-mail as we will inform folks via email on the nature of***

worship services taking place. Should we worship together in church at 25% capacity we will use Evite as we have done previously to enable folks to let us know they will worship in church and ensure we maintain a safe number of folks in church.

One last thing to note: we often use the language of "reopening the church" to talk about being able to gather in the building again. The church isn't the building, it's us; it's people. Because of that, the church was never closed. Ministry has continued, maybe not in the usual ways, but there has been creativity in making things happen while we haven't been able to be in our building. So, while we use the term "reopening" to describe this process, you might think of it more as "regathering" since it's impossible to close the church.

Really Big Shoes to Fill

... Leslie Grieve



ACW
Anglican
Church
Women

I'm excited about the prospect of being able to gather together again hopefully in the fall. Our ACW has not met together for some time now, yet the women of St. John's have not been still!

We've been meeting together in person last summer outdoors and weekly through Zoom, it's good to spend time with friends.

Following Brenda as president of our group is a tall order, so I'm not even going to try; those shoes are too big to fill! I am honoured however to follow her and looking forward to a great year.

.... Leslie Grieve

P.S. from Deb

Thanks very much to Brenda and Leslie for your joyful, loving leadership of our ACW for many years in the past from Brenda and going forward from Leslie. God's grace and peace.

St. John in the Wilderness Curbside Meal Fundraiser!!

In an effort to replace some of the lost fundraising events of the past year or so that were unable to be held due to Covid, St. John in the Wilderness is trying something new.

Eve Morgan-Langille is doing a "curbside" dinner in July, with all proceeds coming to the church to allow us to continue our outreach to the community. She has done a few successful ones already in support of the Women's Interval Home and Sexual Assault Survivors Centre.

This time it's a tasty choice of meals from Sitara Indian Restaurant. We've had a few questions already about the spiciness of the food. Don't worry, these meals can easily be less hot than Uncle Bill's 3-alarm chili! The

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

**St John In The Wilderness
Parish
Curbside Fundraiser**

Each Order Includes 2 Entrees, Samosa, Naan Bread
PLUS 1 Bottle of Alton Farms Pinot Noir or Off Dry Vidal



\$60

SELECT 2
Butter Chicken,
Chicken Vindaloo
or Aloo Matar(veg)
ADD AN ADDITIONAL
ENTREE \$18

***DEADLINE TO ORDER* JULY 12**

JULY 17 Pick Up at SITARA
1308 London Road
INCLUDE PICK UP TIME IN EMAIL ORDER
4P 415P 430P 5P 515P 530P 545P 6P
EMAIL ORDER TO: dwtssarnia@gmail.com

****St John fundraisers support charitable agencies in THIS community INCLUDING The Inn, Women's Interval Home, Alzheimer Sarnia, & Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre****




Butter Chicken is very mild and the other options are not prepared overly spicy, but can be spiced up if you want. The meal comes with all the trimmings and a bottle of locally produced Alton wine. And if you aren't a wine drinker it makes a great gift.

All the instructions are on the poster, which is also available on our Facebook page. If you have any questions about how to order reach out to me and I'll walk you through the process.

And please feel free to share this with friends and family around the area. The more people who order, the more we'll be able to help in the community.

Cheers and Blessings, Warden Peter Langille

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

Wilderness Pollinator Garden



Circle September 18th 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.

The date was moved from the end of May to September 18 due to the state of Covid. We selected a Saturday with +Bishop Todd so that youth and children would be able to join the ceremony. By this time, we also hope to be able to perhaps share some cake (hoping Covid has subsided by then).

Nick Alexander, who planted the garden last year, came by and inspected it last month and planted several more native plants, including Beebalm – it will take a little more watering given they are new plants....and will look great both to the bees all summer and to Bishop Todd in September.



The Venerable Kristen Aikman, Archdeacon of Lambton Kent, and our Warden Peter Langille in our pollinator garden in June of this year.



St. John in the Orchard Church

... Brenda Clingersmith

As most of you know, I am a “cradle” Anglican, and proud of it. Though as a child, I attended churches in Windsor and Brantford (my dad worked for the government) I believe St John in the Orchard lingers in most of my fondest memories. The church was situated in Chatham in a three-street subdivision off Keil Drive called Orchard Heights.



Mom and Dad Lily and Owen, older brothers Bruce and Ron, and me (Brenda) ready to walk to church one Sunday.

I want to take you on a trip through my childhood, ages 5 to 18, with memories of growing up in a wonderful little Anglican Church. This will not be chronologically correct, nor will it be logical in its presentation, but I just want to outline some of my fond reminiscences of this time.

It reminds me of Saint John in the Wilderness. The parishioners at “The Orchard” were the kindest most devout folks you could ever meet! Sunday school took place every Sunday halfway through the regular church service. We were divided into classes by age and every week there would be some memory work for us whether it be reciting a verse from the Bible or saying the names of the Bible writers. There would be questions and quizzes for us and it was always a wonderful time because you were there with your friends learning about these amazing stories. There were often prizes, too!

At Christmas there would be a Christmas concert. This would be held in the parish hall which was under the church, and it was quite an exciting time because we knew that at the end of it Santa Claus would be visiting. My father was usually in charge of keeping track of Santa and he would tell the children when he was a half an hour away and when he was a quarter of an hour away and when he was on the front lawn at the church and by this time he had worked all of us into such a frenzy that we could hardly hold it inside! Santa would bring a gift for each child and you would be called up separately to receive your present as well as a bag of hard rock candy - imagine what that stuff did to your teeth! This would be preceded by a Christmas concert - usually the nativity and some recitations, carols, piano playing and other skills that the children could demonstrate—everyone had a chance to shine. This was all finished

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

off with coffee, juice and treats provided by the ACW, in those days known as the WA.



Women's Auxillary, The Orchard Anglican Church, Chatham, 1955

Our Church had a very active WA-women's auxiliary. They sponsored a bazaar every year with wonderful crafts and knitting and sewing and baking of course. In the tearoom there were little coloured sandwiches- yum! They also put on a strawberry social in the spring. This was one of the major social events of the season and I can still see the ladies at their tables on the front lawn, crisp white linen tablecloths (for strawberries?) and every table laid with lovely teacups and plates. You went through the line to get a piece of cake, one roll of ice cream (remember the ones that were wrapped in wax paper?) and then you would move on to get your strawberries and these would be portioned out so that not a single person got one more or less than another person. It never seemed to rain on the strawberry social and I'm sure it was because the ladies put in so much time making sure God knew we needed a nice

day. They would also be in charge of a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. I can still see Mrs. Chittam, who was probably 80 at the time, counting out the bubbles on the pancakes before she turned them over. They were always perfect!



Junior Axillary Chatham, 1957/59, on the steps of, and inside, The Orchard



Picture picnic tables at Rondeau Park all touching one another in great long lines and these tables heaped with picnic baskets and coolers with our lunches in them for the

Sunday school picnic. Not a better day in the year! There would be an outdoor Eucharist service first then lunch would be eaten. The moms would be baking and cooking for days ahead of the picnic to put out their wonderful fare- chicken, ham, roast beef, tomatoes, cucumbers, potato salad, deviled eggs, followed by all kinds of cookies, tarts, squares and pies. After all this the races would begin -- three-legged race, egg-on-the-spoon, toss-the-shoe, tie-your-husbands-tie, egg-toss etc., and my favorite -- blindfold the husbands and have their wives call out to them to see who could get to their wife fastest. And you had to kiss the wife you went to whether she was your wife or not!



The races at the Sunday school picnic but I have no idea what they're doing!

The culminating race of the day was the foot race for men and boys only. The prize

for this was a REAL trophy. At the time I thought it was made of solid gold! After this, everyone went to the beach for a swim and then headed home, tired but happy, for all the wonderful times that we shared.



Mom and Dad ready for a church Hallowe'en party

In winter we would often go skating after church on the gooseneck. This was a pond outside Chatham and most of the congregation would go there on cold sunny Sundays. The dads would shovel the ice surface while the moms set up the cookies, donuts, and things along with hot chocolate

and coffee. This would end with Rev. Dobson saying a prayer for a fun outing and a safe trip home.

Lest you think that all we did was party and eat, we did so much more. Baptisms and weddings were celebrated regularly and the Bishop came each year for confirmation. See me at 13 with Bishop Townsend.

There are many more stories I could share, and I hope the ones that I have shared bring back some fond memories for each of you.

I hope the pictures turned out- there is one of me my mom and dad Lily and Owen and my older brothers Bruce and Ron ready to walk to church one Sunday. There is also a picture of the WA and the JA group.

Another is a picture of my mom and dad going to a church Halloween party. Don't ask me what she was dressed as! There is a picture of one of the races at the Sunday school picnic but I have no idea what they're doing!

Thank you for indulging me in this trip down memory lane.

.... Brenda

P.S. What a wonderful journey you took us on Mama Clingy! Thank You and Bless You. I hope our Sunday School children and youth feel our love, care, and joy as you did. I am smiling just thinking of both you and our kids. 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

Outreach – Donation to Kettle Point & Stony Point Hillside School

As part of trying to do something constructive in response to the finding of unmarked graves at a closed Residential school in Kamloops, as a parish we came together to donate \$2,810.00 to a local First-Nation-run school, Hillside School for children in Kettle Point and Stony Point.

Reverend Amanda along with Ken and Deb Walker delivered this token along with the following handwritten note from Amanda.

"The discovery of the bodies of 215 children in Kamloops has helped open the eyes of many settlers, including us, to truths we should have known. This should not have been a shock to us, and yet it was. Indigenous communities have been telling us for generations, and we as a people did not listen. We are profoundly sorry for what was and is done, and our ignorance of it.

Dr. Ken Walker has told us a bit about Hillside School and your work to educate students in their own community with a curriculum that works to re-build and instil the teachings, traditions, and identity that colonialism tried, and continues to try, to destroy.

Please accept this gift to Hillside to support your ongoing work in nurturing current students and future generations.

Given with respect,

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

Thoughts on Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing

... The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+

My husband Steve can watch the news for hours. Somehow, he is able to sort through all the information coming his way, filing it in his head, keeping track of the ongoing things around us.

I, however, am different. When I watch the news, I find that I often feel overwhelmed by the amount of stuff going on around me, particularly the tough stuff. I find it hard to hear story after story of suffering, or struggle, or injustice. While Steve can watch for hours, I have to take breaks, so I don't feel swept up in all of it.

Right now, I'm finding the news particularly hard to watch. I'm sitting here writing this on a day when the news includes stories of an additional 182 unmarked graves located on the site of a former residential school in BC, and also several more church fires. The situation seems so big, growing by the day, and I find it's hard to know what to think or how to respond. Sometimes I find myself feeling helpless. I certainly don't have answers for everything, but I wanted to share some of the thoughts that are in my head today.

First of all, we need to acknowledge that we have all inherited this, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. None of us were even alive when this system was put in place, we are not responsible for creating it but we do all live with the consequences. This is not to excuse what has been done, it simply recognizes the situation we're in.

Secondly, we need to realize that for Indigenous communities, this "news" isn't news at all. These graves haven't been "discovered", they have simply been found. For anyone who knows what this residential school system has done, it's not a surprise. I admit that I felt shocked when the first news came out of Kamloops, but if I had really been listening better before that, I wouldn't have been.

So where do we go from here? As I said before, I have no one definitive answer that will take care of everything. I can only share what I think I need to do myself.

One thing I need to do is realize that guilt isn't going to move us forward. Being ashamed of who I am, where I've come from, or my role in the Church, none of these things add to the work that needs to happen. I need to learn, I need to listen, and I want to do better. None of us can change the past. We can only name what was and continues to be wrong, and commit ourselves to doing better.

Another thing I need to do is simply be present in the truth. The process of "Truth and Reconciliation" is in that order for a reason: there is no reconciliation without first having truth. For me, that means reading and listening even when it sounds too horrible. It means hearing the pain of people who have suffered without rushing to try to somehow fix it, which has always been a temptation of mine. While I don't think retaliation is the way forward — "An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind", often attributed to Ghandi — I recognize the anger, fueled by pain and grief, that can be behind the burning of church buildings. But trying to avoid the truth, trying to turn off the news, is not the way forward either. There will be many more graves located. There is a lot of work to be done. This is a long road that we are walking.

This is really where I am today, trying to name what is wrong and sit in the truth. It's not about feeling horrible, and it's not about pretending things are okay. Moving forward, I want things to be different. Looking back, there are things I wish had never happened. But right now, today, I

want to listen and look and learn and be present, that I might somehow do my part, whatever that can be, in the work of truth, reconciliation, and healing.

Grace and Peace,
Amanda

Lay Reader Janice Reflects on Instilling Kindness



"Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you." Jeremiah 29:12, NRSV

Harvard researchers found that parents say instilling kindness in their children is one of their top priorities. The report makes five recommendations on how to raise kind children. I read this paper out of interest, I don't have a child on the way! These could work for adults too.

Recommendation # 2 - Children need to learn two important skills. These skills will help kids build a wider "circle of concern," the researchers say. Children need to learn to "zoom in" on individuals, and truly listen to them. They also need to be able to "zoom out" to see a bigger picture - effectively, learning to put human experience in context. (This research

paper was obviously done before Covid and the blessing/affliction of Zoom meetings!) But what a brilliant suggestion! We all could benefit from learning how to listen better to one another, to be able to zoom in on the close connection with one another. But then, to take what we have heard, and be able to zoom out, and put that human contact in a bigger context.

See if you can be intentional today about really listening to another person. And then, take what you've heard, put it in the bigger picture to see how you can respond to and encourage that other person.

Let us pray:

Zooming in and zooming out. Sounds a lot better to be doing it with people rather than all these meetings, God. I do need to do a better job of listening to people, of really focusing on what they are truly saying. And I also need to be able to respond to what I've heard, in the bigger picture. Do I do something? Just hold on to what I've heard? May I have a heart to listen and a heart to respond. Amen.

"The first duty of love is to listen." - Paul Tillich, a German-born U.S. theologian and philosopher.

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.

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."*

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

St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services
(July 2, 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 (And Officiant if Other than The Reverend Amanda Longmoore)	Time	Service	Location (See Notes 1 & 2)	Colour	Readings
July 4, 2021	6th Sunday after Pentecost	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Green	2 Samuel 5: 1 - 5, 9 - 10 Psalm 48
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		2 Corinthians 12: 2 - 10 Mark 6: 1 - 13
July 11, 2021	7th Sunday after Pentecost (Lay Reader Fran Taylor)	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom	Green	2 Samuel 6: 1 - 5, 12b - 19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 Mark 6: 14 - 29
July 18, 2021	8th Sunday after Pentecost (Rain date for both services is July 25)	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	In Church (E-vite)	Green	2 Samuel 7: 1 - 14a Psalm 89: 20 - 37
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Outdoor at Church (Evite)		Ephesians 2: 11 - 22 Mark 6: 30 - 34, 53 - 56
July 25, 2021	9th Sunday after Pentecost	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Pending Covid, In Church (Evite)	Green	2 Samuel 11: 1 - 15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3: 14 - 21 John 6: 1 - 21

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.

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

>((())*>