

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

Reverend Paul Woolley will preside over an in-church Holy Eucharist service this Sunday at 10:30 am. If you wish to attend, please reserve via the evite Peter Langille emailed on December 3. The last page of this edition of Honey & Locust (after the warden signatures) has the service schedule up until December 24; this also contains details on how you are invited/reserve a spot depending upon the type of service involved. Hopefully, all feel comfort with one or more of the forms of worship.



*Thanks very much
to Lay Reader
Janice McAlpine for
graciously presiding
over Morning
Prayer on Advent 1
– November 29.*



*Lauren and Ally
Fraser lit the
Advent Candle and
read the prayer of
Hope marveously.
Brenden and Ken
sang in celebration.*



Hello from the 8:30 am November 22 Sunday Zoom Service below. Thanks to Reverend Dave Hewett for presiding over this service as well as the Facebook Live service at 10:30 am on the same Sunday. December 13 is the date of our next virtual service Sunday.



The remaining item, which we have no control of, is the weather. Prayers are appreciated on that matter!

Cheers and Blessings, Peter Langille

Hello from Marlene Dally, Betty Stephenson and Bev Crawley

I was out making deliveries a couple of weeks ago and was blessed to meet up with a few of our parishioners



Christmas Eve Service

Plans are moving forward well at this stage for the Christmas Eve outdoor service . Our little committee has a temporary stage ready to go, lighting and a sound system.

If you haven't heard yet, the hope is to hold a service in the space behind the church at 7pm. It will be 15 minutes and will include reading the version of the Christmas story from Luke and the safely-distanced singing of one or two carols.

The diocese has requested we submit a plan to them for approval, which we will do soon.

Marlene Dally was chatting with Betty Stephenson. Marlene had just returned from a visit to Chatham and was in good spirits. She plays bridge three times a week – “it is good for my head during Covid” she

says. Marlene's head was pretty sharp! I have always marvelled and loved Marlene's ability to make the person she is talking with feel completely focused on...because they are.

Betty Stephenson says playing bridge once per week is good for her. Many of you may recall Betty from Turkey Pie Days (oh I look forward to those days in 2021!)



Bev Crawley has grown her hair long for Covid! She was getting back from a day of helping to care for her grandchildren in Strathroy when I dropped by around dusk to Sandy Lane. Bev, in my head, as is typical of her had her sleeves rolled up to help....ok

her joyful yellow sleeves were down to stay warm I realize now looking at this picture...but rolled in spirit!

.....Deb

Mark 1:6 – Our Namesake

The gospel this week is about St. John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus – Mark 1:1-8.

During Covid, we started Honey & Locust as part of keeping in touch during the wilderness of Covid.

Jim Mayer, thank you for the artwork.

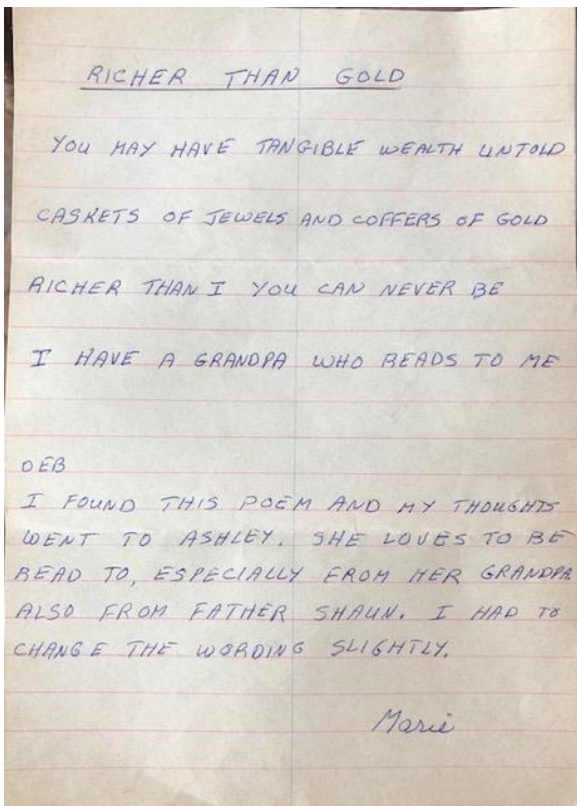


Father Shaun took the name from two bible verses, one being Mark 1 verse 6 "John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a

leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey."

Thanks to Reverend Shaun for this name...we continue to pray for his recovery and return to work.

Hello, From the Foubisters!



Marie Foubister dropped the above note off and called to catch up and pass on a couple of church roles. God bless.

Ashley is 31 and lives at Bluewater Health. She is one of Jim and Marie's much-loved grandchildren whom many of us know. They have not been able to see her since March due to Covid...but they speak of her every time I speak with them. Marie figures Jim has read over 250 books to Ashley since he began reading them to her in 2013. She likes books that have horses. Prior to Covid, Jim and Marie could be seen everyday in the main floor table area of BWH with Ashley...I would visit when I went to see my mum there. Jim has read books 1-41 and 49-80 of the book series "Thoroughbred" to her. Also over 100 "Little House on the Prairie books". Ashley does not like "Black Beauty" though...too sad. Auntie Karen and Uncle Dave Wilson have horses and she would ride a sleigh at their place. Jim says "Marie and I have learned a lot about horses reading to Ashley". Father Shaun got to a variation....reading a book on unicorns to Ashley, prior to Covid.

Jim and Marie have gotten pretty good at communicating with Ashley, knowing what an eye gesture or nod is getting to. Marie says Father Shaun read to her as well and was getting pretty good at this.

Some of us get our hair cut at Maestro's by Hetty Badger (it surprised me how many). It turns out that Ashley went to Maestro's when it was at a ground level location. Once Hetty moved several years ago to a walk-up location, Hetty started going to Bluewater Health to cut Ashley's hair. Like Jim and

Marie, Hetty is looking forward to seeing Ashley again post-covid! It is amazing what wonderful things you learn from your hairdresser!



Jim & Marie Retiring from Church Gardening and Outdoor Sign Updates

Jim and Marie have done much of the gardening (geraniums beds and watering for example) for 24 years and have decided that it is time to slow down on the physical work they do given aches and pains.

They have also updated the outdoor sign with messages since we got it during Reverend Rob Lemon's time with us. And it is time to pass this on as well.

Sincere Thanks to both Jim and Marie for caring for the church in this way for years. Truly!

We will ponder addressing replacing the garden aspect of their loving labour in the spring.

We are looking for people who will update the sign...please give Peter Langille or Deb Walker a call to discuss...perhaps leading a

team, rotating quarterly or other ideas. My experience, as I have done it a couple of times over the last year, is you can have fun with the words...it take about half an hour overall to open the sign, take down and wipe the letters and put them away and put up a new message.

Puzzle Exchange

Marie is wondering if anyone is interested in having a puzzle exchange at church. We would have to quarantine the puzzles for 14 days – which we have space for. If you are interested, please contact Deb Walker.

Sunday School Advent Calendars

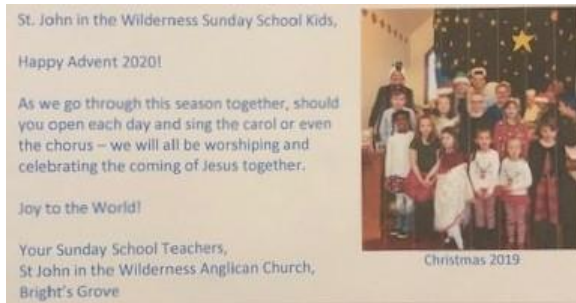
One way we are celebrating with the Sunday School kids this year is with an Advent Calendar.



Each Sunday School family received a calendar. Each day has a carol title or line,

enabling us all to sing, worship and celebrate together.

Here is the message sent to children on the back of the calendars.



WHAT ADVENT JOY!

Thanks very much to Archdeacon Kristen Ward for designing (with creative artistry and IT), Nicole Grieve for cheerfully helping with logistics and printing, and Shirley Mackenzie for skillful cutting and assembly. Feedback has been heartwarming.

The occasional postings on Facebook and e-mail by a few folks singing the carol of the day has been such fun!

Thanks to parents for posting the joy they and their kids are having and letting us share in it.

Anglican Church Calendars

I have received the church calendars which folks ordered. I will bring them to church Sunday to distribute to some folks. I will likely distribute the rest in early January when out of quarantine.

....Deb



Christmas 2019. We sure miss you folk!

Hello from Nancy Mann and Ladies!



Nancy Mann continues to organize her magical church ladies' conversations/get together in small groups with social distancing. Should you want to join one please just send an email or call the church. [Great mask, Fran!]



Lay Reader Nicole Grieve's Reflection

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

I always get goosebumps when I read this. This was written several hundred years before the arrival of Jesus, but it must have



been difficult for Isaiah to imagine what this was going to look like. And, what an incredible thing to have happen! The season of Advent is the anticipation of Jesus' arrival. After a year of what can only be described as extremely unusual, I have been looking forward to this more and more.

We lit the first candle on our advent wreath last week. That first candle represents hope. As we move through the next few weeks

preparing for the arrival of Jesus, please remember that even though this year looks different-even though it might not be exactly the same, that God gave us an indescribable gift. God gave us his Son. Jesus walked on earth. He saw our world himself. He saw us in every way-every aspect of our human nature.

And, if that wasn't enough, all of us together are part of the Body of Christ. This means that we have each other. You know what I see? I see a church that supports one another. I see a church that calls each other. I see a church that comes together during Facebook Live services and celebrates together. I see a church that works together to prepare meals for the Inn of the Good Shepherd. I see a church that has a deep love and care for their extended church family. This is what the Body of Christ looks like.

St. John's, you are in my prayers today, and will continue to be throughout this season.

Vestry Meeting Preparation

We are in the early stages of preparing for our January 17, 2021 Vestry Meeting, which will be conducted via Zoom. Please get Zoom up and running to participate in Vestry. Please send any proposed motions to Peter Langille or Deb Walker by December 18, 2020

All committees who submitted reports in 2019 should have their reports for 2020 submitted to Heather Holbrook, our church secretary, by December 18. So, despite Covid...let us all report on our year...it sure has been an interesting year. It is preferable to submit via email, but if you are submitting in beautiful cursive script...just contact Peter Langille so he may arrange to obtain your report (Deb Walker will be away for a bit in December)

[Here is a link to the 2019 Vestry Report](#) on our church's website.

Prayer Shawl Group

....Jane Gallie

Because of just a mention recently, of the Prayer Shawl Ladies, I thought I would let the parishioners know all about us. Reverend Jenny Sharp brought the idea to us, so we got together once a week in the parish hall and started knitting 8" squares. A candle was lit and a special prayer was said by all. We knit or crocheted squares there as well as making them at home. Some squares are donated to us by outsiders as well. The squares are kept in the storage room in several bins. Every few weeks we would get the bins out, sort through the squares to plan the layout for each shawl. We would get feedback from those around the table until we were satisfied. Then we would pin numbers on each and pile in the right order for Sandra Fraser to crochet squares together, then

crochet a fancy edge around the outside. Many topics were discussed and problems solved over a cup of tea and cookies.

Several hundred shawls have been made, but never kept track of until recently. Some of the ladies who crochet are making shawls all in one piece and we also have some fleece ones now, so there is a real variety. Completed shawls would then be displayed on the rods in the ceiling of the hall.

A card is pinned on each shawl with an appropriate verse to anyone needing comfort because of illness, bereavement, medical concerns, birth of a baby and many other reasons. We have also donated to the St. Joseph's Hospice and The Sexual Assault Survivors.

When things get back to normal, all are welcome and we will even give lessons on how to knit or crochet.

From Deb:

My mother received a prayer shawl about 4 years ago when she came to Landmark Village in Sarnia after her heart attack in her Mississauga apartment; she has it to this day by her side in her favourite chair. I noticed this when I got into visit her again after months of Covid lockdown. Thank you Prayer Shawl Folk.

I would also formally like to thank Jane for patiently weaning me off of paper towels.

For several summers of VBS, with Jane in the kitchen and me doing science or games, Jean would use rags instead of paper towels to clean up. She would quietly mention that paper towels are kind-of-new in the last 50 years or so, and rags and washing really are more efficient. Just before Covid, back in March, I looked at my paper towel consumption ...went to Home Depot to top off the rags I would need in addition to really the old raggy towels I had...and made the leap. **Thank you, Jane.** I have used less than a package of paper towels since. My millennial kids and Jane leading edge environmentalists!

Thanks Very Much!

The end of the spring/fall/summer ground care came and we sent a note to thank the team of parishioners who mow/plant/trim/water/rake and generally care for our ground.

We are lucky to have such a participative parish in our church operations...and this is much needed. Many of our teams operate all year and we would like to take this time to thank you all.

Thanks to the pastoral team; prayer chain; ACW; Lay Readers; Altar guild; crafters and prayer shawl and quilter teams; Sunday school folk; our informal/yet formal cleaning, maintenance, supply and yard-work teams; executive and council.

If we have missed anyone, please tell us, we are grateful for and need your support.

Usually we have folks stand and thank them in church....we look forward to this in 2021...but in the meantime...Thank You!

>(((*>

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps an update for a church group you are part of, a favourite project or memory, or a favourite prayer you would like to share...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

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.

Financial Update

The church continues to be in a healthy financial position. Our year to date offerings from parishioners is just over budget and we expect to end the year above our planned envelope donations. Expenses are below plan due to the change in our ministerial situation. Overall we now expect our year end deficit to be less than \$5000.

Our fundraiser this month through FundScrip was a huge success as we ordered a record \$11,950 in gift cards. This came from 24 participants and generated \$439 for the church. Thanks to everyone for their participation and particularly to Sandra Fraser for coordinating this effort.

In December we will donate \$2000 to the **Alzheimer Society of Sarnia Lambton** as part of our **outreach program**. Melanie Bouck, CEO commented: "Our social recreational programs are not funded at all, and we rely on donations and fundraising efforts to keep going. These activities support people living with dementia and their care partners to come together with their peers to socialize and find support with those on a similar journey. The activities include exercise, art groups, movie nights, shared meals, and general social gatherings. The donation from St. John in the Wilderness will go a long way to supporting these types of gatherings for our clients. Thank you so much for your

generosity in support of the Alzheimer Society".

....Dave Hains, Treasurer

The True Meaning of Christmas

At this time of year and especially this year, I find myself pondering the true meaning of Christmas. According to Christianity.com the true meaning is Love and even quotes John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" a verse very familiar to Christians around the world.

Many celebrate Christmas by decorating, baking delicious treats, meeting with our families, giving Christmas gifts, and having a feast fit for a king. We show our love for one another by gathering and celebrating together. Although things are going to be different this year, (even our church service) no doubt once we tackle this virus, we will continue in the coming years, to carry out our usual traditions.

One of St John in the Wilderness Anglican Church's traditions is to support an anonymous Christmas family. A local school is contacted and a family chosen. We purchase gift cards from donations made by the parishioners and the school delivers the family with this Christmas gift of love from our Church. There is no agenda ... no income tax receipts and no publicity. These are gifts given out of kindness and love,

God's love at Christmas, for a family less fortunate. I am honoured to coordinate this endeavour for an awesomely generous congregation that annually displays the true meaning of Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Fraser



Hello from Reverend Bruce Genge, our pastor from the 80's and 90's. He was up from Florida and finished his 14-day quarantine (he took his mask off for less than 3 seconds for the picture). Good to see Karen, Aruna and Bob in the picture too!

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille , Janice McAlpine
Wardens and Lay Reader

Postscripts:

1-The church service schedule is on the next page.

St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services
(December 4, 2020 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

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

Listen to the prompts for Archdeacon Kristen's sermon on the St. John in the Wilderness line.

Date			Church Service		Time	Location				Leader Presiding
Month	Day	Year	Name	Type		In-Church (1)	Facebook Live (2)	Zoom (3)	Video (4)	
11	29	2020	First Sunday of Advent	Morning Prayer	10:30 am	x				Lay Reader Janice McAlpine
12	6	2020	Second Sunday of Advent	Holy Eucharist	10:30 am	x				The Rev'd Paul Woolley
12	13	2020	Third Sunday of Advent	Morning Prayer BCP	8:30 am			x		The Rev'd Dave Hewett
				Morning Prayer	10:30 am		x		x	The Rev'd Dave Hewett
12	20	2020	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Holy Eucharist	10:30 am	x				The Rev'd Paul Woolley
12	24	2020	Chirstmas Eve - Outside behind the church - 15 minute reading of the Christmas Story from Gospel of Luke with about 2 songs (with masks)....further details coming as Peter Langille organizes this - Thank you Peter and Team.							

- Note (1) In-Church Services - please reserve via the evite you receive 2 to 5 days prior to the service. The evite will come either from the email of St. John in the Wilderness or Peter Langille.
- Note (2) 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 (3) 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 (4) A video on a Facebook Live day is a saved and edited version of the Facebook Live service recording. It will issue within 1 to 3 days of the service with a link going out via the church's email.