

HONEY & LOCUST



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

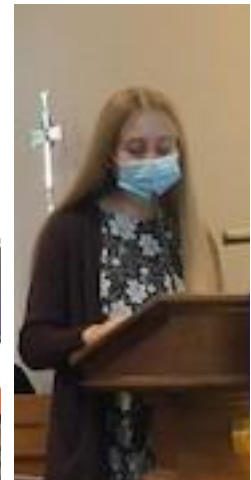
Church Services

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 16. The last page of this edition of Honey & Locust (after the warden signatures) has the service schedule up until December 25; 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.

Reverend Paul presided over our December 6 in-church Holy Eucharist service – he had us clapping to a song he sang quite delightfully at the end of his sermon.



Lanna and Evan Iacobelli lit the second candle of Advent - Love - and, read the prayer.



Harrison lit the third candle of Advent – Joy – with Dave Hewett giving a wonderful discussion on joy and dad Harry reading the prayer. We missed getting Harrison's picture so I have included one of my favourites ...



Shepherds Edna and Harrison from our 2017 Christmas pageant.

Here are Edna and Dr. Anne who joined our December 6 service. Edna is selecting an ornament for the tree. Thanks very much to the Stone family for sharing the ornaments they made with their Sunday School crafts at home during the summer...your ornaments have brightened our tree!



Hello from the 8:30 am December 13, Sunday Zoom Service. Thanks to Reverend Dave Hewett for presiding over this

this service as well as the Facebook Live service at 10:30 am on the same Sunday. Dave is getting to be a master at these virtual services!



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 Christmas story from Luke and the safely-distanced singing of one or two carols.

A plan has been submitted to the diocese for approval.

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

Cheers and Blessings, Peter Langille

Christmas Day service

Holy Trinity will have a Christmas Day service at 10:00 am. Please call their office to reserve a spot if you wish to join.

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. Archdeacon Kristen Aikmen will chair our Vestry meeting.

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.

Hello from Marg and Jack

Marg and Jack Woodall have sat in the pew behind the one Ken and I tend to sit in for about 8 years. Since neither Marg nor I are talkers, I just did not know that much about Marg and Jack, so one day when I was dropping off a copy of Honey & Locust to Marg, I asked if I could take her picture and then we got to speaking ...at least by our standards.



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Marg and Jack were married in Sarnia on August 15, 1959. They were blessed with four children: Richard Wayne m. Debra (Winnipeg, MB), Cynthia Anne m. Dave King (Wanstead, ON), Michael John (Sarnia), Carolyn Lynn m. Richard DeBoer (Wyoming).

They were further blessed with 10 grandchildren – 2 girls and 8 boys. Their second grandson was born with spina bifida and only survived one hour, God bless him.

The family is spread across Canada so get-togethers are rare. Their oldest grandson is an engineer for C.N. out of Saskatoon, another is a camp director for Dallas Valley Ranch Camp near Regina. One is near Ottawa. One is in St. Catharines and the rest are local...2 nurses, 1 vet tech and a pastor.



Marg, Jack, Richard, Cynthia, Michael, and Carolyn

To date they have been blessed with 13 great-grandchildren, most are local, 4 boys and 9 girls.



Jack, Marg and children moved to Camlachie in April of 1968. They joined Christ Church. Marg recalled: "Everyone was kind of old at Christ Church and we were wondering how it would go with our kids. But pretty soon the chocolate bars came around the corner of the pew to kids and folks said, 'we have not had many young ones for a while, it is so fun having them'. Then Sylvia Greenaway started up Sunday School. Jack was a warden at one point, and I did Altar Guild and cleaning. When Christ Church closed in 2012, we moved to St. John in the Wilderness...it is good to be part of the parish."

Early on when we reopened during Covid, Marg and Jack came to church and Jack



handed me these soup labels and said... 'get them to Jim Foubister, he knows what to do with them'. We are still looking for what to do with

them. Betty Greening used to turn them into the Girl Guides we think but have not yet been able to find someone who can convert them to support for an organization from Campbell's. If anyone knows, please give me a call.

Marg and Jack still live in the home they purchased in 1968 in Camlachie. They stopped using a computer when Jack lost his eyesight a couple of years ago. Marg says she has led a pretty simple life during covid. She plays solitaire with real cards, watches a little TV, grocery shops and may go out for a drive with Jack ...just so they can both get out. They both gave the parish a big "Hello" when I spoke with them.

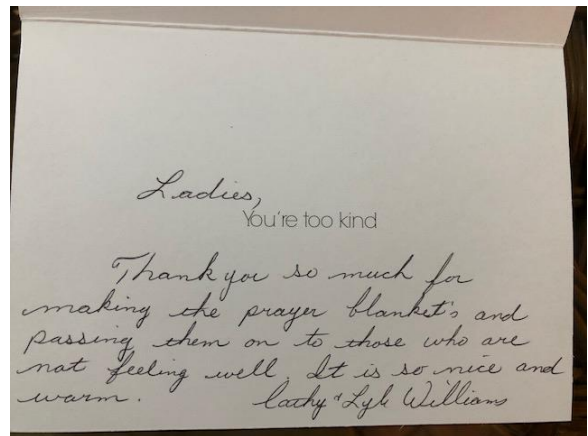
.....Deb

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

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

Thanks to the Prayer Shawl Group from Cathy and Lyle



Blessings to you Lyle and Cathy.

Brent Anderson – Maintenance



“I have looked at the sink pump in the Sacristy and have added an air admittance valve (one-way valve) to vent the stack,” says Brent, “this should take care

of the intermittent sewer gas odour. There is no need to run water until the pump starts”. Thanks, Brent!

Brent also looked at the broken handle on our music mixer, and per Brenden’s suggestion fixed with a washer. Being Brent, he really fixed it well with a washer...Thanks, Brent and Brenden.

Hello from Lee & Jean Day



Lee sent me a note regarding virtual church services last week, so I called him. He and Jean were in Day 7 or so of quarantine in

their apartment in Fairwinds. He was in Blue Water Health for several days with angina prior to quarantine. He was going a little stir crazy in quarantine, he said, but he conversed like a man in great spirits. He said Jean was offered a separate apartment so that she would not need to quarantine... her response... “I have been married to Lee for 60 years, I can do 2 weeks in quarantine with him” ... Joy and Love.

The picture above is from Day 9 or so earlier in the week.... beautiful boat Lee and Jean.

Lee and Jean say “Hello, St. John in the Wilderness, Merry Christmas”

Outreach Update – LARC

At our December congregational council meeting it was decided to fulfill our vestry approved commitment to "outreach". It was therefore decided to donate \$1000 to the Lambton Anglican Refugee Committee (LARC) in support of their efforts in bringing an Iraqi family of 12 to Sarnia. Our total outreach donations for the year sum to \$10,500.

The Nessian family are currently refugees in Jordan; they speak Syriac.



Our [September 25, 2020](#) edition of Honey & Locust highlights this family, including [this link](#) to some words from a delightful young family member.



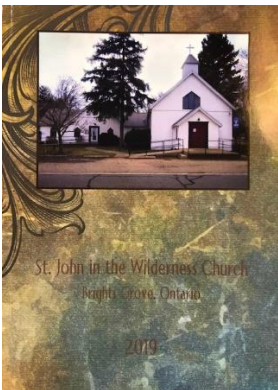
IPC Photo Directories

After a long delay due to Covid, the St John in the Wilderness Church directories have arrived.

There is one directory per family, for those who had pictures taken last December by IPC Photo Services. We will be distributing these directories to those who are attending church services and will be making arrangements for pick-up/delivery of the remaining ones in the new year. Thank you to everyone that participated in this project and we hope you are enjoying your pictures and find your directory useful.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Fraser



*P.S.
Sandra,
Thank you for
leading this!*

Lay Reader Janice Reflects

Divine Love

Sometime in 2019 I decided that in 2020 I would read the entire Bible through again. So, I downloaded a Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan and began.



Reading the Bible through in great tranches has reminded me of the overall story of Scripture – a story which can sometimes get lost in the granularity of the daily lectionary readings.

That story is God's love for God's creation and God's yearning towards relationship with us. Over and over again God reaches out to God's created ones, sometimes directly as with Abraham and Sarah, and sometimes through prophets such as Elijah and John the Baptist. The expression of God's love culminates in the coming of Jesus. God becomes incarnate in order to show God's love for us.

The liturgical year encourages us to focus on specific events in the overall story at specific times during the year. During this season of Advent, we look back to the Incarnation and also look ahead to a second coming of Christ. We look ahead and look back while living only in the present. Many readings do the same thing: they look back

and ahead while existing in the present and all point to God's love for us.

As human beings we are often consumed with both the past and the future to the detriment of the now. We only ever have this moment in time, this breath. The past is gone, and we don't know what tomorrow will bring, but we can trust that we are held in God's unfailing love and that underneath are the everlasting arms.

Yours in Faith – Janice



Calling Cooks for Inn of the Good Shepherd, January 2

We need 4 or 5 cooks for Saturday, January 2 for the Inn of the Good Shepherd...each cook would make 5 lbs of meat loaf and 25 baked potatoes and drop it off hot at the Walker's for 2:30 pm. Just contact Deb Walker if you want to cook.

On December 5, you helped to feed 68 people at The Inn – Thank you! You are an integral part in The Inn's mission to provide services with dignity to local people who need food, shelter, and other essentials. Thanks for helping folks in need.

Here are folks from the December 5 team. Cooks Mavis, Aruna, Bob, Brenda, Denise, Sandra L, Sandra F and covid bubble kitchen team Haley Jesse, Ken and Deb.



Thanks, Janice Greenaway and All Delivery Folk!



Janice Greenaway was delivering a mail package to our home on Sunday and Haley got a quick picture and thanked her.

When I spoke with Janice to say she is working pretty hard these days and could I thank her in Honey & Locust...she graciously said, "we all are – lots of packages to deliver before Christmas, thank all delivery people." Bless you and Thank You Janice and all delivery folk. These are front line workers who are subject to exposure every day, particularly now. Be safe, God bless.



Puzzle Exchange



Turns out a number of us are doing puzzles during Covid. If you are interested in a puzzle exchange through our church contact Deb Walker. Puzzles will be quarantined in our shed for 14 days prior to putting them up for exchange.

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.

Christmas

Author Fred Buechner says of Christmas:

“Although I’ve since forgotten almost every present I ever got, I remember the dazzling light of it and the presence of all those people I one way or another loved and who one way or another loved me, and the feeling that life simply could never get any better than this, and the almost unbearable excitement of it.”

Advent prayer, adapted by Buechner:

God grant that we may cast away the works of darkness, whatever they are, however we can, and put upon ourselves the armor of something at least a little like light as we wait for the truth of Christ to come finally and fully true at last. Amen.

(this has been extracted from The Anglican Foundation of Canada Christmas message – Thank you, Sandra Fraser)

Yours in Faith,

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



Christmas Pageant Extravaganza 2017 ♥

Postscript:

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

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St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services
(December 14, 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)	
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.							
12	25	2020	Chirstmas Day Service at Holy Trinity Church, Sarnia	Chirstmas Day Service		x				If you wish to attend, please call their church office to researve a seat: 519-344-5167

- 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.

Please check your e-mail regularly to see if there are changes – this is a fluid time given both Covid and our interim priest needs.

>((()))*> **Keep wearing those masks, washing your hands, maintain social distance, and.....Blessings;-)**