



### JOY AT VESTRY?

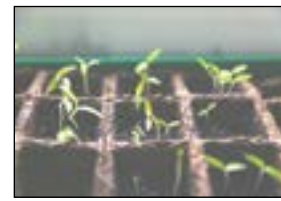
Congregational coaches: JOY as in "J" for "Jesus first", "O" for "Others second", "Y" – "Yourself last".

Page 4

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Huron Social & Ecological Justice initiative and Lenten events in Waterloo and London deaneries.

Page 3



### SEEDS OF THE FUTURE CHURCH

Church as granary and greenhouse: Ven. Graham Bland's take on stewardship.

Page 10

# HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • MARCH 2020



Photo: MJ Idzerda/Huron Church News

## TODD TOWNSHEND SEATED AS THE NEW BISHOP OF HURON

The moment the newly seated bishop comes face to face for the first time with his flock: St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario on January 25, 2020.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls could not hide her excitement: "I have never seen the cathedral so full! The joy in the loud 'IT IS!' when people replied to the question 'Is it your will that we ordain Todd a bishop?' and their 'WE WILL!' when asked if they would support him!"

This acknowledgment coming from Bishop Todd Townshend's predecessor on the throne of Huron – and now the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada – tells it all: the service of the ordination, consecration and seating of the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron at St. Paul's Cathedral on January 25, 2020 had a feeling of being something really special in real time.

This can partly be explained by the fact that the Townshend name represents a significant part of Huron's history, with two bishops serving as suffragans: William (1955-1967) and Robert (1984-2002) – Bishop Todd's grandfather and father. But with the newly seated bishop there is a definite air of looking into the future and being open to the challenges of the world. This quality captured the attention of several major media outlets in his very first week on the job – a task he handled with ease and engagement.

**Grace to you and peace! That is my first wish for everyone – that we lead all the things we do by seeking God's grace and peace for everybody.**

– Rt. Rev. Bishop Todd Townshend after the service on January 25, 2020

On Saturday, January 25, the Cathedral church – the oldest sacral structure in downtown London, Ontario – was full. More than 700 people from across the Diocese filled the pews and several rows of extra chairs at the back of the nave. Present and participating in this service were 22 bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada as well as Bishop Marinez from Amazonia, Huron's companion diocese. The current Primate of the Anglican Church was part of the service, also her predecessor, Archbishop Fred Hiltz.

Huron's retired bishops came to participate embodying the continuity of the diocesan episcopal ministry: The Most Reverend Percy O'Driscoll (the tenth Bishop of Huron); The Right Reverend Robert F. Bennett (the 12th Bishop of Huron) and Rt. Rev. Terry Dance who served as the Suffragan Bishop from 2009 to 2015.

Also present were representatives of other Christian

jurisdictions in Canada – Bishop Michael Pryse (Lutheran Church), President Joyce Payne and Rev. Michelle Down (United Church) and Bishop Fabbro (Roman-Catholic Church).

The Metropolitan of the Province of Ontario, Archbishop Anne Garmond was the Presider and Chief Consecrator. Todd Townshend's sister, Ms. Andra O'Neill was the preacher.

From the very first steps and incantations of the ritual of smudging all through the Bishop-elect's presentation, examination and consecration, the cathedral church reacted as one body. The Cathedral Dean then escorted the newly consecrated bishop to the Cathedra and seated him there. The Right Reverend Dr. Todd Townshend became the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron.

Dr. Townshend was elected Bishop of Huron on October 26, 2019 among five candidates by the diocesan synod convened at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario. He succeeds to the throne of Huron after his predecessor Linda Nicholls was

elected the head of the Anglican Church of Canada in July last year.

Todd Townshend was ordained deacon and priested in 1992. He has served as rector in different parishes in Huron.

Dr. Townshend has a long academic record that started with university instructor positions in 1999. He was Associate Professor of Contextual Theology at Huron University College from 2011 to 2013 and served as the Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Huron College from 2013 to the end of 2019.

**See more: ALL IS WELL IN HURON, p. 6-7**

**Rev. Canon Dr. Robert Todd Townshend was ordained, consecrated and seated as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron in front of more than 700 faithful.**





# The marks of God's mission: part one



**BISHOP  
TODD  
TOWNSHEND**



**T**hanksgiving and praise. This was my first response to our celebration on January 25 at St. Paul's Cathedral as I was ordained bishop and seated as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron.

It was a very beautiful moment in which the Holy Spirit of God conducted a liturgy of healing, upbuilding, strengthening, and sending — and not just for me. So many of you have let me know how it was a meaningful day in your own ministry and walk with Jesus. I am so grateful to all those who prepared for the day — a huge job done with cheer and excellence. My thanks to the people (primarily women, thanks be to God!) who planned and lead the liturgy, to the visiting bishops, to the Dean and Cathedral community, to the whole diocese for your faith and service.

I would also like to thank

those of you who gave so generously to outfit me in episcopal gear. These gifts will be worn, I pray, in a way that will always point to God's Word and Spirit in our midst. To be "clothed" by members of this diocese, and by friends from beyond, is a most holy gift. Thank you so very much.

My thanksgiving and praise is directed to all of those whom I mention (and cherish) in the preceding reflections but, of course, every good gift comes from God. The God who has a mission within the created order and within our church. The God who rightly deserves our thanks and praise. For the next couple of months, I'd like to ask the members of this diocese to consider the following.

We continue to be shaped by the "Marks of Mission" in our

diocese. I support this fully.

- We proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- We teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- We respond to human need by loving service
- We seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- We strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We have learned a very important thing about our purpose in life when we can act in these ways. The part that is missing, however, is that God's own mission is often assumed, implied, or completely forgotten as we focus on the things WE

are supposed to do. All of these "marks" are impossible without God's prior action—without God's activity in mission within creation.

So, what is God's mission? What are the many ways in which we can articulate and proclaim this? What are the Marks of GOD's Mission?

Let's continue this conversation over the months to come. Scan the holy scriptures and the tradition of the church and gather from the patterns and proclamations a list of clear statements that may reveal the ongoing mission of God. Think of Creation, think of "the fall", think of the calling of Israel to be a light to the nations, think of the Christian "key" to understanding and entering it all—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We can pray with these thoughts in mind. Together we can broaden our focus to see what God has done, what God is doing, and what God promises to do. These will reveal the marks of God's mission for our time and place. May this focus show us again and again the source and goal of our lives.

+ Todd

## Lent: the slow approach to Easter

### ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

By Libi Clifford

**J**oan Chittister uses the image of a waterwheel when she describes the liturgical calendar.

The movement is slow, steady and continuous. Lent is the slow approach to Easter. We've come down from the joy of Christmas and Epiphany and are now into the steady upward movement toward Easter day. The word Lent is derived from an old English word for spring, recognizing that Lent is the time of year when our natural world changes from the somber browns and greys of winter to the bright greens of the new life in spring. Lent is a time of personal preparation. It is the somber time of making our lives right with God again as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. Since the wheel moves slowly, we have lots of time to complete the preparation.

Traditionally, there are three aspects to the Lenten preparation for Easter, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Together, they represent our personal relationship with God, our relationship with His world, and our relationship with others. For most of us, prayer is a daily conversation with God. Lenten prayer



might be a reflective process with more soul searching. This will inevitably involve less conversation and more listening on our part. What is God asking us to do, not what are we asking God to do is the point of these moments. Lent might also be the time to begin meditation in one of its many forms or to examine our baptismal covenant more thoroughly to see if we are fulfilling our part of the contract and where we have fallen short.

Fasting can be thought of as prayer in action, a discipline that teaches us to focus on the abundance of God's world. When people think of fasting, it typically revolves around food and a lost meal or indulgence. Perhaps we should expand that thought. Our continual overuse and misuse of the resources that God asked us to care for, is an insult to Him. Lent is a good time to acknowledge the errors in our use of these resources and see where we can reduce our footprint in God's world. Climate change and the resultant economic migration with all its problems might be improved somewhat if we fasted a bit more.

Almsgiving is another form of prayer in action. Children

find that one of the most difficult lessons to learn is sharing. Apparently, it doesn't get any easier for adults. We still want to acquire and keep things. Lent is the time to let go and share. God provided resources for everyone. Those that have more than they really need, have to relearn how to share. It is more than throwing money at a problem, it is getting involved and doing with less so others may also share in the bounty.

Renewal and reorientation in our relationship with God, His world and our neighbours through prayer and prayer in action is the goal of Lent. The waterwheel slowly and steadily will move toward Easter.

Will you be prepared for Easter?

*Libi is a member of the diocesan Anglican Fellowship of Prayer executive, and treasurer of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada).*

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Presents  
The Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference 2020

## Prayerfully Engaging the Five Marks of Mission

Saturday, May 2, 2020  
St Jude's Anglican Church  
9:00am book browsing  
10:00am-3:00pm conference  
1537 Fanshawe Street, London  
\$20 includes lunch

In the *Five Marks of Mission* we see a holistic approach to mission as we strive to live out of these Marks and allow them to inform and direct both our individual choices and the ministries taking place within our parishes. Join us as together we consider just what it is to prayerfully engage these Marks. A variety of speakers will be joining us for the day to lead us through conversations and practices related to these Five Marks. To register please contact: the Rev'd Kim Metelka at [kimmetelka@diohuron.org](mailto:kimmetelka@diohuron.org) or by calling/texting 519-980-4545.

## HURON CHURCH NEWS

Volume 70, Number 3

### Submissions

Huron Church News welcomes news articles, commentaries, photographs and story ideas. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.

### Editor

Davor Milicevic  
huronchurchnews@gmail.com  
519-434-6893, ext. 251  
c/o Huron Church House  
190 Queens Ave.  
London, ON  
N6A 6H7

### Deadline

Friday, February 28  
for the April edition

### Subscriptions

To subscribe, unsubscribe, change address or name, report a delivery problem, contact:  
Circulation Department  
1-866-924-9192, ext. 245 or 259  
Fax: 416-925-8811  
Email: [circulation@national.anglican.ca](mailto:circulation@national.anglican.ca)  
Via Web: [www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe](http://www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe)

Individual suggested donation:  
\$15 per year in Canada.  
\$23 in U.S. and overseas.

Huron Church News shall not be liable for damage arising out of errors in advertisements. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by the Huron Church News or the Anglican Church.

### Publisher

The Right Reverend  
Todd Townshend  
Bishop of Huron  
Diocese of Huron  
Huron Church House  
190 Queens Avenue  
London, Ontario N6A 6H7  
Phone: 519-434-6893

Huron Church News is published by the Diocese of Huron as a section of the Anglican Journal. Approximate circulation 3,000

### Printer

Printed and mailed by  
Webnews Printing  
North York, Ontario

This newspaper is printed on partially recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.



## Spiritual practices in everyday living



For the third year now, All Saints' Waterloo and St. Columba Waterloo are joining with our full communion partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to offer a Lenten series.

We have previously partnered with Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Christ Lutheran Church, Trillium Lutheran Church and now we welcome St Matthews Conestoga to the group.

The series rotates around to the various churches, attracting 75-80 people each evening. We always begin with a simple

meal of bread, soup and water graciously provided by the host church. We then move into worship which is followed by a presenter and discussion.

In the past, we have been blessed with Archbishop Mark MacDonald and others as the Lenten theme surrounded Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Spirituality. Last year the theme centred upon water and the Grand River and we were blessed to welcome Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

This year's theme is Spiritual Practices in Everyday Living

and the guest presenters are Rev. Steve Greene, Sherry Comen from Lutherans Connect, Ven. Megan Collings-Moore, Pastor Bob Shantz, and Aiden Ninomiya & Thomas Beech.

If you are in Waterloo you are welcome to join us on any or all of the Wednesday evenings throughout the series. For more information, including each evenings theme and location, please visit [allsaintswaterloo.ca](http://allsaintswaterloo.ca)

Rev. Marty Levesque

March 11: Christ Lutheran Church (445 Anndale Rd.)

March 18: All Saints Anglican (400 Northfield Dr. W.)

March 25: Trillium Lutheran (22 Willow St.)

April 1: Mt. Zion Lutheran (29 Westmount Rd. S.)

Each evening begins with a community meal of soup, bread and water at 6:30 pm

## London Deanery Lenten season: exploring the Anglican music tradition



Members of St. Luke's Worshipping Community with former trustee for St. Luke's Worshipping Community, Murray Hunter (far back left)

A music-focused series is coming to the London Deanery this Lenten season!

With Lent being a season for reflection, a group based out of St. Luke's Worshipping Community is organizing a series around our Common Praise hymnal, reflecting on the great musical tradition of the Anglican church that can be found within it.

The series was first envisioned by Murray Hunter in his time as Trustee of St. Luke's Worshipping Community. Murray was struck by the richness of the Anglican musical tradition as set out in our Book of Common Praise. So he enlisted the help of Matthew Pope, Director of Music at Luke's Place, Rev. Canon Dr. Doug Leighton, a member of St. Luke's Worshipping Community, and Dr. Kate Helsen of the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University. Together, they have organized a six-week series,

taking place at approximately 9 am on Sunday mornings (time may vary depending on venue) throughout the Lenten season. Each weekly session will offer a 20-minute lecture on a particular topic and 20-minutes of music-making related to the session's topic. The topics that will be discussed include a general overview of the Common Praise hymnal, music based on early music composers, contemporary voices, contributions by Canadian composers, as well as music by the great classical composers.

The organization committee is very pleased to have been able to recruit the talents of a number of members from the London Deanery, including Stephen Holowitz (Saint James Westminster Anglican Church), and Angus Sinclair (Huron University Chapel).

The series, which begins at Luke's Place on March 1 (Sun-

day), will take place at a variety of venues throughout the Deanery, including St. James Westminster Anglican Church, and Huron University Chapel. Admission is free. Donations to the ministry of Luke's Place are welcome.

Luke's Place is a new ministry under the direction of the Bishop, located a few blocks north of Western University's main gates. The focus of Luke's Place is to provide a safe, friendly, inclusive space where 18 to 30 year olds in the neighbourhood feel valued as the person God created them to be. Throughout the academic year, Luke's Place holds a weekly Thursday night Coffee House, a free study hall during the exam periods for the Fall and Winter semesters, a once a month Toonie Supper, a free food cupboard, as well as other events.

Check out Luke's Place Facebook (Luke's Place) and Instagram (@lukesplacelondon) pages for more information regarding dates, venues, and times. Feel free to also reach us by email ([lukesplacelondon@gmail.com](mailto:lukesplacelondon@gmail.com)), and keep an eye out for posters that will be distributed throughout the churches in the London Deanery.

As Anglicans, we have inherited a wonderful tradition, known the world over for its breadth, depth, and beauty, so let's gather around it as a community, this Lenten season, to explore and celebrate it!

Matthew Pope  
Dr. Kate Helsen  
Rev. Adele Miles

# Lenten reflection

## SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



By Nancy Harvey

**W**e are experiencing a Climate Emergency!

I am called to ACTION this Season of Lent.

This year I will be sharing a Lenten Campaign called 'Give it Up for the Earth.'

For the 4th year 'Citizens for Public Justice' or CPJ is lobbying the Federal Government.

"A complete suite of measures is needed to address the climate crisis and move towards decarbonization by 2050. At the heart of a good way forward is respect for Indigenous autonomy and consideration of people who have been traditionally marginalized and are particularly vulnerable in the climate crisis. Essential climate action measures include ending fossil fuel subsidies, strengthening carbon emissions pricing, and investing low-carbon infrastructure. Drawing many of these issues together, the Give it up for the Earth! campaign calls on the federal

government to invest in a National Just Transition and Decarbonization Strategy. We know that a modernized, diversified green economy will lead to major emissions reductions, create good, secure jobs, and promote the well-being of everyone in Canada." ([cpj.ca](http://cpj.ca))

I will be sharing this postcard campaign with my fellow parishioners at St. Mark's Anglican, Brant Deanery. It is a good way to experience advocacy and to act upon the 5th Mark of Mission, 'To Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'

It's not too late to sign up to organize a Give it Up for the Earth event for your church or wider community. Go to [cpj.ca](http://cpj.ca) You will get all that you need in the mail including postcards, posters, an organizing guide a faith and climate reflection and a Just Transition Backgrounder.

Nancy Harvey is a Co-Chair of Social & Ecological Justice Huron.

### An Invitation from the Earth

Take off your shoes.

Like Moses, take off your shoes.

This is holy ground.

Walk gently through my woods.

Tread softly on my face.

Walk reverently through my garden.

This is holy ground.

This is God's sanctuary.

I invite you to worship with your feet this day.

I invite you to walk across my landscape and sense the life within,

The glory that fills my body – God's presence below.

I invite you to reach down to the holy ground beneath you.

Walk in the water. Sink in the sand. Stand on a rock.

You are walking on fire, the fire of God's glory vibrant within.

Take off your shoes. This is holy ground.

This is the sanctuary of God.

Amen.

(Norman C. Habel, *Seven Songs of Creation in We Dare to Say – Praying for Justice and Peace 2007 from Living Ecological Justice: A Biblical Response to the Environmental Crisis*, a publication of Citizens for Public Justice, 2013)

**FOR LENTEN REFLECTION PACKAGE  
GO TO SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE POSTINGS ON  
[WWW.DIOHURON.ORG/MINISTRIES](http://WWW.DIOHURON.ORG/MINISTRIES)**



# JOY at vestry (thanks, congregational coaches)

When thinking of the advantages of having a coaching team available for consultation, vestry came to mind.

In very small parishes, the availability of the coaching perspective has resulted in an in-depth discussion of the Five Marks of Mission, more complete ministry and mission plans and a wonderful feeling of being on the right pathway when vestry reports were given.

The coaching team discussions have led to true JOY in parishes: (J – Jesus first, O – others second, Y – yourself last). Two wardens have shared their vestry report. Without the input of the coaching team, it would have looked much different.

When Bishop Linda was in our diocese, she asked each parish to develop a mission and ministry plan for 2018–2022. We have now set plans for the last two years. We as wardens have really appreciated this direction, and feel this should be continued. It is time to report on what we accomplished and where we fell short.

The plan is set into five sections based on the Marks of Mission, Ministry, and Leadership. Congregational Health, Long-term Future, Buildings and Finances. At this year's vestry, we will once again be approving our plan with the goals clearly defined. As our report, we wish to identify for you where we are right now at the end of 2019.

**1. Evangelism:** The First Mark of Mission “to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom” is to share the news that Christ, God is reconciling the world to himself in words. How can we speak the Good News to the world around us?

We spent the first part of the year studying the Spirit of Invitation – a free resource downloaded from the Diocese of Toronto website. After completing the discussion that accompanied this series, we realized that one of the reasons we have trouble implementing this mark of mission is because of how little we really know about the Bible. We also recognized that we seldom talk about our faith to even members of our own congregation so it is no wonder we don't talk about it with anyone else.

**2. Discipling:** The Second Mark of Mission – “to teach, baptize, and nurture new believers” is the work of discipling. How can our congregation foster the Christian development of new participants, long time members, and everyone in between?

Bishop Linda made copies of a study series entitled Christian Foundations available for purchase at half the listed price. This book was the focus of the

## CONGREGATIONAL



## COACHES

Huron Coaching Retreat last spring. We really like this book and continue to use it. We have all learned so much! And we have questions which keeps the discussion fluid.

A few of us also took up the challenge to read the bible in a year. Through the website the-biblechallenge.org we were led through the entire bible by reading for about a half hour or less each day. We found that with this reading and the Christian Foundation study guide we were able to make many connections that opened our understanding. During Advent, many of us also registered to receive daily material from SSJE (Society of Saint John the Evangelist) with links to PWRDF. Each day we received a short meditation and prayer.

**3. Service:** The Third Mark of Mission “To respond to human need by loving service”. On a regular basis food was collected for the food bank. Once again in Advent we collected a large list of food each week for food hampers for Christmas. The parish tithed one tenth of all parish fundraising activities again this year. As a parish we contributed to PWRDF, the Anglican Foundation and Huron Church Camp. We also held “Gratuitous Grub” free luncheons for anyone in the community who wished to attend. This seemed to fill a need as people asked that we hold more. We started earlier in the fall this year and set the third Monday of each month as a date for these events.

The Village Stitchers continued to knit, crochet and quilt numerous items and distribute them to needy groups. Their supply of materials and yarn is overflowing. They need more help! We continue to send well wishes and provide food and gift cards for those in our community who we know are in need.

**4. Transforming Society:** The Fourth Mark of Mission “To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.” In October we hosted an elder abuse awareness session with guest speaker Tracy Rogers who is part of the organization CCVAW. Because the majority of our congregation and community are seniors, we felt it was a timely topic for discussion and awareness.

**5. Safeguarding and Renewing the Earth:** The Fifth Mark of Mission. A new more energy efficient front door was installed in the parish hall. We continued to do dishes and encourage the entire parish to stop using styrofoam and recycle more. We asked the township if we could be provided with a recycling bin. We also discussed one use plastic and were on the lookout for materials that could be used instead of plastic.

In December we purchased our own projector so we could project services rather than continue to photocopy. This is an ongoing process we are investigating since we need to meet the needs of everyone in our congregation.

**6. Ministry and Leadership.** Areas from this section that were addressed: attend Parish Council meetings; had a list of nominees for positions; tried to communicate about all challenges and possibilities especially the new cluster formation; participated regularly at Deanery Council by providing visioning activities and discussion of Ministry and Mission Plans.

We also had representation of the Anglican presence at the local Ministerial where the Anglican church has been closed. A donation was made to provide daily treats for the Vacation Bible School. Participation at several joint activities with other faiths groups took place including an Advent service, summer outdoor service, delivery of treats at VBS and a cemetery service.

**7. Congregational Health.** Here are the areas from this section of the new document that we already have addressed:

We complied with Safe Church requirements including an inspection by the fire marshal and replacement of fire extinguishers and fire alarms. A member took the food handling course. We provided regular opportunities for fellowship and community building (gathering for lunch after church, breakfast, pancake supper, coffee after the Remembrance Day service, ladies night out, gift grab). We advertise church events on the community board and we investigated and promoted a First Aid Mental Health Course for our deanery.

**8. Long Term Future.** We intend to have the Mission and Ministry Plan ready for approval at the vestry meeting. Discussions are pending concerning the formation of a new cluster ministry. We attempted to begin this discussion in a positive way by hosting a meet and greet last fall. Unfortunately the procedure has met some roadblocks but we are more than willing to continue these discussions so that the mission field of the Anglican Church can remain open in

many areas where small congregations exist.

**9. Buildings.** We are completely accessible in both the church and parish hall. Much has been done to upgrade the fire regulations concerning the hall. When a university project was taking place in the cemetery last spring, we realized that all the pillars at the back of the church had disintegrated and needed to be replaced. Although the project was costly, we were able to complete the restoration without taking out a loan or hosting any fund-raising events.

**10. Finances** – we have maintained a balanced budget, paid our full apportionment and fulfilled all our financial obligations to the Regional Council.

In conclusion, we held another very successful Decoration Day service for the cemetery. Our legacy circle continues to grow and we have a healthy bank budget for cemetery care. We are investigating presenting all the cemetery records in a digital format.

We are thankful to the diocese for providing a coaching team who offer resource information so ongoing learning and growth can be achieved. As our congregations dwindle, we ask God to give us grace to accept our situation but also to find joy in being able to accomplish the things we can so that perhaps we can give courage and hope to others.

*By Congregational Coaches*

## Open House

### Curious about Programs for You at Huron?

*Save the Date!*

Join Us and Learn More

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

- ✓ Learn about our degrees (Bachelor's, Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Theology)
- ✓ Learn about our Licentiate in Theology certificate and our non-credit offerings
- ✓ Meet our faculty and students
- ✓ Part-time vs. Full-time
- ✓ Your questions
- ✓ Tour Huron, and more!

Register for More Details

Faculty of Theology  
Huron @ Western, London, ON  
[Huron@western.ca/theology-open-house](http://Huron@western.ca/theology-open-house)  
srice@uwo.ca: 519.438.7224, x289



## SACRED REJUVENATION

### Making Churches New Through Architecture and Art

A CONFERENCE FOR CLERGY AND LAY READERS

With Very Rev. Peter G. Elliott, retired Dean, Diocese of New Westminster, Vancouver; and Thomas Roach, Artist in Residence, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver and textile artist

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020**

**10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Lunch included  
\$20.00 per person

Sponsored and hosted by St. James Anglican Church  
41 Mornington St. Stratford



## Helping migrant workers



**Counselor Bill Dunn listens in as volunteer Derrick Prowse practices his Spanish skills, conversing with two visitors.**

**By Rev. Andrew Wilson**

When we at St. John the Evangelist, Leamington say ‘ministry,’ knowing the area we live, it is often followed by ‘migrant workers.’

Leamington sees its population increase by 12,000 at the height of the season. There are nearly 3,000 acres under glass, at \$1.4 million per acre, with hundreds of acres always under consideration. This does not even consider the acres in Kingsville and other areas, and other types of farms.

I probably need two full pages to tell you everything from the point of view of the workers and the group that seeks to care for them, you can find that at [www.migrantworkercommunityprogram.com](http://www.migrantworkercommunityprogram.com).

The mission of the MWCP is “to provide a more positive balance to the life of the migrant worker by offering social, cultural, recreational and communication opportunities and to build cultural bridges with host community.” This is further broken down to Welcome, Hospitality and Gratitude.

To do this, a space was needed. Perry Pawliuk, member of St. John the Divine Orthodox Church and member of the

MWCP approached St. John's looking for space to offer hospitality. He was referred to us as a church that is involved in the community and who seeks to do more. So he called, and we found a way to offer our space for an afternoon. Our parishioners responded with gifts in kind and offering their time, inviting people in as they walked downtown to spend some of the \$64 million dollars in the core, estimated at \$600 per person per month.

“We are a group with a passion to help others and do things right”, says Perry pointing out that migration workers provide a big benefit to our town. Over the years, our town has seen waves of different immigrant populations that have brought change, because they brought different ways of doing things, and great benefits as they built businesses and sent their children to school. “This is why we need to care for our guests and show gratitude for all they bring to us”, explains Perry.

As Bill Dunn, Board Member and Council Member for Leamington warns, the challenges these people face are huge:

“Imagine not speaking the language, starting in winter unprepared for the cold, doing minimum wage jobs, important

to our community, that would otherwise be unfilled. We need to open our arms in friendship and fellowship for people who bring such value to our economy. This is Spirit at work as God intended, bringing people together.”

People at the MWCP know that changing our attitude requires time. For now, assistance and hospitality are seen as priority.

As I write these words, there are three young women speaking Spanish, receiving some pamphlets, snacking and playing dominoes. A volunteer migrant worker sits with them, conversing in Spanish and offering them the hospital's Spanish pamphlet health-aide services and contact information. He is volunteering in community to enable himself to meet a requirement to obtain landed immigrant status.

We have had over forty in our hall: relaxing, eating, receiving help if needed, hoping to win a bike – MWCP has a volunteer who refurbishes them for free (23 in 2019). The bikes come through one of our many community partners, in this case the OPP, who bring the bikes that have been abandoned.

The Migrant Worker Outreach is Sundays, bi-weekly. We offer food and clothing and information on bike and worker safety. There is recreation, camaradery, tea and coffee. When I say we: we have volunteers who come in, bringing their Spanish skills, students who want to help with translation and one who wants to tell the story as part of their skills requirement for school. Members stand outside the church in the cold or sun inviting people in. Lastly, Deacon Debbie and I come and stay when we can, smiles always, prayers if desired.

*Rev. Andrew Wilson is the rector of St. John the Evangelist, Leamington.*

## King of the Tillsonburg Walk: Morgan Bilger, 94, walks for Alzheimers

Morgan Bilger ‘retired’ as an active fundraiser for the annual Walk for Alzheimers in Tillsonburg a few years ago, but he planned to returned to walk each year, including the 25th annual event hosted Saturday, Jan. 18 by the Alzheimer Society of Oxford.



**Morgan is a member of St. John's, who attends 8:00 a.m. Sunday services**

On Saturday, Bilger was to be recognized as ‘King of the Tillsonburg Walk’ – the highest fundraiser in the local event's history.

“We’re celebrating 25 years for Tillsonburg’s Walk this year,” said Shelley Green, Executive Director, Alzheimer Society of Oxford. “And Morgan has the raised the most of anybody since the beginning of the (Tillsonburg) Walk – he was diligent in his fundraising. We looked back in his records and he started in 2004 and he has raised \$23,400.

“He’s living life like we should all live – staying socially active, staying physically active, and he’s keeping his brain stimulated,” said Green. “And he made sure he had a succession plan. I remember him telling me for a few years, ‘Shelley, I’m not getting any younger, I may not be able to keep this up.’”

“I could have still kept it going, I think,” said the 94-year-old (95 in March 2020), born in Lyndoch, south of Delhi. “But when I turned 90, I said, ‘You know, I think I’ve done enough.’”

At that time, Bilger, a retired insurance adjuster, gave his contacts to Margaret Patterson, who had volunteered at the Walk.

“Marg, her husband worked for me when I was in the insurance business and she was getting interested. I knew she’d be a good prospect so I asked her, ‘Would you be interested this? I’ll help you the first year.’ And she did quite well. The second year... she was the top (fundraiser) in Tillsonburg – she was top.”

“How amazing to have somebody like Morgan, who not only fundraised all that money for us, but he made a plan himself to have somebody take over for the people who donated to him,” said Green. “That’s incredible.”

Bilger initially got involved in the Walk for Alzheimers when his wife Marie (1941-2014) was diagnosed.

“She was in Maple Manor. They were amazing, they really treated her well. Unless I went on a trip or something, I would see her pretty well twice a day.”

“I think it’s amazing that even though Morgan was seeing his wife twice a day... he was still out there raising funds to help others who were dealing with Alzheimers and dementia.”

“When I first started, I was getting \$5 here, \$10 there,” said Bilger. “And then I finally said, ‘For my own good, why don’t you give me a cheque? And if you give me a cheque for \$20-25 I’ll give you a receipt.’ Which is true.”

Bilger’s first source for donors included neighbours and relatives.

“I didn’t target the whole community, but pretty well everybody on my street supported me. And relatives all over the place – Delhi, Lyndoch – you name it.”

“Basically, Morgan, you reached out,” Green nodded. “You went door to door, contacted people, and you were persistent.”

“Yeah, my kids kid me a little bit about it,” Bilger laughed.

“Because your wife had Alzheimers, and they knew that that was the connection for you, I would think most people admired your tenacity? Not everybody would be that persistent.”

“Oh I think so,” said Bilger.

“You had a lot of enjoyment in fundraising, didn’t you?” Green asked Bilger, smiling. “It connected you with people and it gave you something to work towards. I think it was a sense of accomplishment,” added Green, an accomplished Walk for Alzheimers fundraiser in her own right.

“I’ll never forget the first time I asked Bill Pratt for a donation,” said Bilger. “He said, ‘OK, so you’ll donate for this...?’ I forget what it was (Great Ride n Stride to Beat Cancer).”

This year’s fundraising goal for the Tillsonburg and Woodstock Walk for Alzheimers is \$200,000, the largest fundraiser for Alzheimer Society of Oxford.

“Last year we raised \$183,500 (in Oxford)... which was up from \$168,000 in 2018,” said Green.

## Fresh water, baby blankets, and a goat



This Fall St. George’s, Goderich and Christ Church, Port Albert offered a PWRDF Sunday using liturgies from the PWRDF web site and stories of PWRDF ministry.

The Sunday School learned about our National Relief and Development Ministry too! Exploring the PWRDF insert mailed in the Anglican Journal, the children talked about all the ways we can contribute to other people’s wellness around the world. They decided to ask the congregation to help them donate to PWRDF’s ministry even though grown ups were donating on their own too. The children thought it was very important to have fresh water to drink and cook, that babies need blankets, and they wanted to help someone have a goat too! They raised \$350 to enable this support of PWRDF’s work.

The picture shows Olivia Grandmison presenting to Wardens Sherrie Garton and Dale Lougheed the money they raised and a letter the children wrote to PWRDF. Thank you PWRDF for the colourful display of your ministry! It helped capture the imagination of our children.

Thanks for all you do in Canada and around the world.

*St. George’s Sunday School*

*Chris Abbott/THE TILLSONBURG NEWS*



# All is well in Huron!

Former Huron bishops who were present at the service on January 25 react on the seating of Rt. Rev. Robert Todd Townshend as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron



**Bishop Todd (centre) with former Huron bishops (from left): Archbishop Percy O'Driscoll, Bishop Bob Bennett, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Bishop Terry Dance**

ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 2020, a large number of people gathered in our St. Paul's Cathedral to take part in the Consecration of our new Bishop Todd Townshend.

The worship experience was magnificent, very moving and very meaningful. Archbishop Anne Germond presided. She brings with her a gentle touch which brought all of us together as one and helped us to focus on the reason for being at the celebration. When our new bishop was introduced the applause was obviously heartfelt, intense and lengthy. One felt a sense of joy, happiness and new promise.

What of the future of the Church? One version was contained in a recent Journal headline "Gone by 2040". There are a lot of opinions about that viewpoint. However, not long ago I heard Bishop Todd speak about the need for communities of love in which people will hear the Spirit's voice and live together peacefully, gently, faithfully with joy and self-control, bearing each others' burdens. That attracts me, especially when I couple it with a verse from the last hymn we sang together on Saturday.

"Come and journey, journey outward  
where that cross calls us to care,  
where injustice and where hunger  
and the poor call us to share."

This is the ancient journey and the journey which calls us into the future.

*ARCHBISHOP PERCY O'DRISCOLL (10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron, 1990-2000)*

DURING THAT WONDERFUL SERVICE of consecration and installation of Todd as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron; I couldn't help but think of how blessed we are to have Todd as our episcopal leader.

The pathway ahead is full of anticipated and unanticipated challenges for God's People in Huron. For the life of me, I can't think of anyone more suited to lead us with such an impressive skill-set of faithfulness, pedigree, deep theological grounding and interpersonal pastoral sensitivity.

I left the Cathedral that day with a hopeful sense that all is well in Huron. And for that I thank God.

*BISHOP ROBERT BENNETT (12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron, 2009-2016)*

IT'S SUCH A JOY AND DELIGHT to be here to celebrate with Todd and the Diocese as they begin this next phase. For me it feels like the closure on my time here but I can also sense the deep joy here. I have never seen the cathedral so full! And the sense of joy in the loud "It is!" and "We will!" when people replied to the question "Is it your will that we ordain Todd a bishop?" and "Will you support him?"

The number of bishops that were here says a lot. So many of them know Todd and they wanted to welcome him into the family of the House of Bishops and to support him in his ministry here.

I can't think of a more joyous service, and beautifully done by everybody here in Huron.

*ARCHBISHOP LINDA NICHOLLS, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada (13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron, 2016-2019)*



From Andra O'Neil's sermon at the Service of Ordination, Consecration and Seating of Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend as the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron

*"I'm sending you out sheep into the midst of wolves so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves"*

When our teenage children leave for school each day, if I see them before I go, I say something like "have a good day", "I love you" and often I give them a hug, which they accept because they are sweet and kind and willing to put up with their Mom's affections most of the time. And if I'm honest, I'm pretty certain there is at least one or two pieces of advice.

Hard as I try I can't seem to stop myself from "equipping" my children with some due warning or preparedness for the day, even if it is a simple as "take a coat it is cold".

When Grace began driving this past year, a whole new genre of advice was added to the repertoire and I think Grace would agree, my specific concerns around teen drivers became evident with the sending off...

"Don't listen to your music too loudly."

"DO NOT look at your phone." Stay Focused.

"Watch for terrible drivers, people drive through stop signs in the county!" Don't get Distracted. (...)

And I am quite confident that the talks that we are having with our teenage children as they enter into all of these new experiences: driving, parties, dates, going away to school... have gone on in the homes of parents who have come before us and those who will come after. And you all know why we do it. We are trying to prepare them for what lies ahead. (...) Sheep among wolves, that is what they are, sheep among wolves and I only hope that when they face adversity they will remember what I said, hear my voice in their head and know what to do.

Jesus has called the twelve disciples, given them authority over unclean spirits - to cast them out and to cure disease and sickness. They are being sent out with a very challenging task into a world they think they know but are only about to discover. They bring with them the testimony of the Gospel. The Kingdom of Heaven has come near: Love, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Healing.

They will bring the message that every person longs to hear: Darkness to Light; Bondage to Freedom; Death into Life.

Jesus' advice to them sounds a lot like my advice to Grace when she takes the car: Stay focused, don't get distracted, be discerning. Be wise as serpents, innocent as lambs.

But while I am imagining these very human concerns for my child, Jesus is warning the disciples of concerns of a cosmic nature. Jesus is beginning to tell them what his life will mean, the seismic shift that will take place in the spiritual universe in his death and resurrection. They weren't facing the very real risk of distracted drivers, they were experiencing the very real risk of distracted people of God. Look at Saul - educated, faithful, devoted...distracted by tradition. Saul thought he knew what the Messiah was going to look like. He had forgotten to allow the voice of God to speak to him. He was distracted by what he thought he was seeing and so God took away his sight.

God will tear down whatever does not built up the kingdom. And God can do this with a small handful of sheep regardless of the number of wolves because those sheep are following a Shepherd whose voice they know. "Do not worry about how you are to speak, or what you are to say. It is not you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." (...)

When we think about the testimony of the gospel and what those disciples accomplished through the grace of Jesus Christ, we have to ask ourselves what is possible for us when we let the Spirit of God tell us what to do and what to say. If we can learn anything from the story of God's people, from the Garden of Eden to this day it is that none of it was predictable. What has seemed impossible has always been possible for God. And what has been possible was not imaginable for humans. This is what Jesus is telling us - warning - you are sheep among wolves but don't worry - just let me do the talking.

**Contd. on next page**





The children and youth of St. Aidan's, London, assisted in vesting the bishop in the cope and mitre. The pectoral cross was presented by Seth and Samuel Townshend and the episcopal ring by Mrs. Patricia Townshend.



Andra O'Neil: from page 6

When our father Bob was consecrated a Bishop in 1986, we stood outside this cathedral greeting all those who had come to celebrate and worship with us that day. Mary and I were standing beside Todd and heard many people ask him if he would be the next Bishop Townshend. And though those comments were asked in the good spirit of the day, it was a lot for a 17-year old to contemplate. Dad's advice to Todd was this, "Todd, you have to figure out what God has planned for you on your own. Don't worry about what anyone else thinks."

This was not the first or last time that our parents taught us that the only way through this life was to seek the path God intended for us. Trust that there is a path that God intends for us.

Possibly from his own experience, our Dad knew that who we are in God's great story is only discovered through our own relationship with God. That day in 1986, he had heard from his own father, preaching from this pulpit, that a good Bishop must be Priest, Prophet, Shepherd and Friend. His Dad had given him some advice to equip him for the task of Bishop. Words taken from this ordination service and lived in Grandpa's life. Words that our Grandfather knew would be important for Dad to continually recall during his 17 years of Episcopal service. And Dad pursued this calling faithfully following his own path set out by God.

And to any of you who are in this cathedral today, who wondered casually if there would be another Bishop Townshend...? Isn't God a wonderful storyteller.

Now Todd has become all that he needs to be to take on this calling. Like our grandfather he is a teacher and preacher, he teaches about the great gift of grace- how to testify to the activity of God in the scripture and in the world. And through his preaching and teaching has shown so many of us that this world is brimming with the grace.

And like our Father he is an administrator with vision, wisdom and devotion to his calling. He sees the church as a living, evolving body that belongs to Christ. And like both of them, he is a Pastor. Loving and caring. And with God's help, Todd will pastor to the wolves if he can. But what may be most important in Todd is his steadfast faith in the purpose of God for humankind and this world.

At 17 Todd didn't know how to respond to those good-hearted questions but he allowed himself to be led to this day. He takes up the responsibility of shepherd but as one who follows in the line of the apostles, I know that he will continue to first be a follower of the Shepherd of us all.



"On behalf of the people and clergy of the Diocese of Huron we give into your hands the diocesan crozier."



The newly seated Bishop of Huron exits the Cathedral with Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ontario.

## A Donation of Shares



### A tax-effective way to give to The Anglican Foundation of Canada

When you transfer shares to the Anglican Foundation of Canada, you receive income tax relief on the value of the shares as well as an exemption from capital gains tax. The Foundation will sell the shares, and the proceeds benefit ministry in Canada.

The Foundation will issue an official donation receipt for the value of the gift of publicly traded shares on the date they are transferred.

*For example, if you transfer shares with a value of \$12,000, you will receive a charitable donation receipt for the full \$12,000, as well as an exemption from any tax on the increase in value from the date that you originally purchased them (capital gain).*



To receive a copy of the Transfer Form, call (416) 924-9199 x322 or email: [foundation@anglicanfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@anglicanfoundation.org)

## Bishop's Friends Huron-Perth:

April 29, 2020

Mitchell Golf & Country Club



# ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

## ACW Diocesan annual meeting



St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario

Invite all women in our Diocese to attend our ACW Annual Meeting. This yearly event is not just for ACW members, but all women and girls. In fact, we consider all women to be part of the ACW, whether they "join" their local ACW group or not and whether their church has an ACW or not.

Some Anglican women make a point to attend every year. Some attend from time to time. Each year, a number of "first time attendees" come. For those who do gather, the day is a meaningful one.

Why should you make an effort to attend? The Annual is the one time during the year when you can meet with >100 faithful women, to share ideas, discuss challenges, worship, learn, discern, med-

itate, pray, receive comforting and fellowship.

Being in our wonderful St. Paul's cathedral is an experience in and of itself. This building, with its history and artistry, has been the one worship space of all of us have shared. down through the years. In particular, it is the home of our bishops. These men – and now women – have been the leaders and movers and shakers of our Diocese for 1 ½ centuries. All major decisions are made there. All of the great diocesan-wide events happen there. The grand occasions when all the pomp and majesty are on display happen in the cathedral. The "feel" of being in the cathedral is tangible. The people who make the effort to come here are the faithful. Their faith infuses this space. You will feel it.

The women who attend the Annual are ladies who want to be there. These are not women who are causal in their faith. These are women who truly believe. They are intentional in their faith. They live their faith daily. You will want to be surrounded by that faith. It will reinforce your own faith. You will feel it.

There will be a renewal of friendships – women who now may only see each other once a year. There will be introductions and new friendships just forming. You will be embraced and encouraged to get to know everyone. Take the opportunity to do so. It will be rewarding.

You will learn things about the wonderful work being done by the ladies surrounding you and the women they represent. You will be surprised, maybe overwhelmed, by their accomplishments, their enthusiasm, their confidence in walking in the way of Jesus. How do they do that? How do they maintain their

faith in our increasingly secular society where moral codes are stretched beyond tolerance? Don't they have doubts? Don't they question the worth of their efforts? Does it seem worthless, at times? Come to the Annual. Learn how the faithful persevere.

Take part in the times of worship. Pray and feel faith surrounding you. We are honoured that our new bishop, The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, will be celebrating the Eucharist in the afternoon. This will be an opportunity to celebrate with him, hear his sermon and break bread with him. It may be your first opportunity to be in his presence in his new role.

Arrange to travel with other ladies coming to the Annual. Enjoy the camaraderie of travelling together.

Learn about the work of the ACW Diocesan Council. Who are they? What do they do? Who do they represent? Take the time to read their Annual Report and participate in their business meeting to answer these questions. Talk to the Council members. They are approachable and welcoming.

Cronyn Hall will house displays from various faith-based ministries and organizations as well as several vendors of religious and fair-trade items. Browse there prior to the meeting and during the lunch break. Be sure to order your lunch on the Registration Form. Complimentary coffee and muffins will be available as you arrive in the morning.

I love the Annual Meeting. I love being surrounded by women with Anglican Christian values. I love being in the cathedral with them. My faith soars there. Yours will, too.

Bonnie G. Rees, President  
ACW Diocesan Council

### ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN'S ANNUAL

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Held @ St. Paul's Cathedral, London

Lunch will again be catered by  
"NOONERS"  
(local restaurant)

The lunch includes assorted sandwiches, wraps, salads, vegetable & fruit trays & cookies  
Coffee & tea will be provided  
(Gluten free available – see below)

The cost of the lunch is \$15.00 – per person  
**PAYABLE IN ADVANCE**

Please fill in the following information & return to:  
Anglican Church Women  
Attn: Ellie  
Synod Office – 190 Queens Avenue  
London, Ontario N6A 6H7

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Deanery: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Cheque or Money Order - **PAYABLE to ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN**

Number of luncheon tickets ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by Cheque \_\_\_\_\_  
Money Order \_\_\_\_\_

Gluten free sandwiches & salads are available if requested (indicate number of Gluten free lunches)  
**# of Gluten free** \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP for lunch order no later than 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Thank you.



### ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF HURON

#### ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

**"USE YOUR GIFTS TO SERVE"**

St. Paul's Cathedral  
London, Ontario  
Saturday 25 April 2020

Registration @ 9:00 a.m.  
Meet & Greet – Coffee/Tea  
Morning Prayer – Followed by Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

**Guest Speaker**  
The Rev'd Rosalyn Elm

**Holy Eucharist – 2:00 P.M.**  
The Right Rev'd Todd Townshend  
Bishop of Huron  
Celebrant



### In Memory

London Deanery  
St. Jude's  
Rosalie Hopkins



## PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

### Appointments

Archbishop Johnson appointed the Reverend John Maroney, Regional Dean of Lambton, effective January 1, 2020. John also remains the Regional Dean of Kent.

### Rest in Peace

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of the Reverend Canon Norman (Norm) Casey who died Jan. 20, 2020.

Canon Norm was ordained a deacon on May 25, 2000 and ordained a priest on December 7, 2000. He served the parishes of Holy Trinity with St. David's, Brantford, the parish of Six Nations (St. Luke's, Smooth Town/Oswège; St. Peter's Church, Oswège; St. Paul's Kanyengeh, Sour Springs/Oswège; Christ Church, Chapel of Ease, Beavers Corner/Oswège; St. John's Chapel of Ease, Oswège) and chaplain to Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks.

Canon Norm was appointed a Canon of the Cathedral on May 5, 2015. He retired from parish ministry December 31, 2016.

At a national level, Canon Norm was a former co-chair of The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, staff person to the Suicide Prevention Program and co-chair of The Healing Response Committee for the Anglican Healing Fund.

The funeral service was held at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Ohsweken on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 11am.

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of the Reverend Gary Parker who died on January 29, 2020, remembering especially his son and daughter-in-law, the Reverends Robert and Rachael Parker.

Gary was ordained a deacon on May 3, 1986 in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and ordained a

priest there on December 2, 1986. He came to the Diocese of Huron in 1989 and served the parishes of Christ Church, Corunna; St. James' the Apostle, Port Lambton; St. Stephen's, Courtright; Christ Church, Meaford and St. James', Fairmont. After retirement in 2009, Gary continued to live out his vocation, serving the parishes of St. Andrew's, Tilbury; Church of the Ascension, Comber and the Parish of the Transfiguration (Church of the Advent, Ridgetown; St. Stephen's, Thamesville; Church of the Redeemer, Highgate, St. Matthew's, Florence; St. John-in-the-Woods, Aughrim; Christ Church, Dresden, Trinity, Howard Chapel of Ease). Gary also served as a member of the Catechumenate Network and as the Regional Dean of the Saugeens.

A funeral service was held on Monday, February 3rd at 11am Sarnia.

## Bishop Marinez at the seating of the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron



**Bishop of Amazonia in front of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario on January 25, 2020**

One of our distinguished guests at the service of ordination, consecration and seating of Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend 14th Bishop of Huron was Rt. Rev. Marinez R. Santos Bassotto, Bishop of the Diocese of Amazonia, Brazil, our Companion Diocese.

Bishop Marinez is no stranger to Huron; she has visited several times, most recently our Diocesan Synod last May. She is the second bishop of the Diocese of Amazonia. When Bishop Robert Bennett established the Companion Diocese covenant in 2014 Rt. Rev. Saulo Barros was the Bishop of Amazonia.

Five years later, when the covenant expired, Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls was the Bishop of Huron and +Marinez was the Bishop of Amazonia. The two bishops agreed to renew the covenant for another five-year term. Many visits and exchanges between the two dioceses have occurred during that time.

After some sixteen hours and several flights Bishop Marinez arrived in Toronto at 5 am on Thursday, January 23. Ven. Tim Dobbin and Nigel Challen met her at the airport and drove her to Brantford where she had breakfast with some of Ven. Dobbin's parishioners at St. Mark's. They are helping to fund a project in Amazonia and wanted to meet with Bishop Marinez.

Friday afternoon Bishop Marinez met with our Bishop-elect. They had met on a previous visit as Bishop and Dean of Theology; Friday they met as equals, colleagues in episcopacy. Friday evening the guest from Amazonia attended a festive dinner with the House of Bishops, Huron archdeacons and honoured guests.

Saturday needs no explanation: we came together in great joy as a faith family to ordain, consecrate and seat Bishop Todd Townshend. Bishop Marinez

gave our new bishop an exquisite woven red and white stole, a gift from our sisters and brothers in Amazonia.

Sunday saw Bishop Marinez at St. James Westminster where she celebrated. A lunch followed the service allowing the bishop a chance to meet the parishioners.

Later in the afternoon Dean Paul Millward, Tracy and Canon Paul Rathbone took the bishop bowling and on to dinner. Bishop Marinez had never bowled before, I believe that she got a strike! It was a wonderful time of fun and laughter.

Monday, she joined the Primate for lunch. This allowed the two friends to have some quiet, relaxing time together. Nothing else was scheduled for the rest of the day, giving the bishop time to pack and catch her breath.

Tuesday morning Rev. Canon Marian Haggerty and I picked Bishop Marinez up after she had checked out of the hotel. On to a long and leisurely lunch, where Rev. Graham Bowcott joined us as he was driving the bishop back to Pearson for her midnight return flight. After lunch we retired to some over-stuffed leather lounge chairs and talked 'strategies', new ideas and how to bring them and existing plans to fruition. There was so much energy, so much enthusiasm.

Time flew by and suddenly it was time to part company. It was hard saying 'good bye' to our dear friend but much comfort in knowing that this will not be the last time that we come together.

*Stephanie Donaldson,*  
Co-Chair Companion Diocese Committee.



*Join us as we explore the natural wonders of the world, places and peoples who will inspire us in joy & wonder to love and care for Earth, our island home.*

*Swim and splash in Lake Huron. Run and play amongst the trees. Marvel at a sunset and the starry night sky. Stand shoulder to shoulder with friends both old and new, feet planted on our beautiful camp, arms outstretched around the world!*

*Camp is waiting for you to join the fun! The world is waiting for all of us to make a difference!*

### One Week Camps

**ages 6-14, grades 1-8 \$520 + \$67.60 HST**

Session 1	Deep & Wide	July 5-11
Session 2	Dazzling Light	July 12-18
Session 3	Living Waters	July 19-25
Session 4	Just Keep Swimming	August 2-8
Session 5	Safe Harbor	August 9-15
Session 6	Up, Up & Away	August 16-22

### Senior Camp

**graduating from grade 8 \$1250 + \$162.50 HST**

Session 1	July 5-18	Companions on a Journey 1
Session 2	Aug 2-15	Companions on a Journey 2

### Leader in Training

**ages 14-16, grades 9 & 10 \$1835 + \$238.55 HST**

July LIT1	July 5-25	
July LIT2	July 5-25	
August LIT1	August 2-22	FULL
August LIT2	August 2-22	

Find out about more about the summer, watch our video, see lots of pictures and register today!

[www.huronchurchcamp.ca](http://www.huronchurchcamp.ca)

For more information contact us at [huronchurchcamp@gmail.com](mailto:huronchurchcamp@gmail.com)

or call 519-434-6893 ext 217





# Church as granary and greenhouse

giving

By Ven. Graham Bland

Part of my dismay about our Church's preoccupation with its own demise is that sometimes it feels we have forgotten that Resurrection is our reason for being.

I served 10 years in a Palliative Care setting. Death was a daily occurrence. Had we not carried within us the profound hope, nay certainty, that the mystery of new life could sprout afresh even in the midst of death, it would have been unbearable.

It is unbearable for many to serve a Church that has lost its perspective and hope in the face of death. So, how can we restore our lost perspective and hope?

A long time ago, I was privileged to visit Masada, in

Israel. The guide told us they had found 2000-year-old seeds in a granary there. When they planted them, they germinated.

Seeds are amazing! The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, in Norway, stores thousands of seed samples against the possible extinctions of those plant species.

Can we imagine our churches as 'flowering plants' scattering 'seeds' in their neighbourhoods that may be ready to be watered and grow into new church plants? Are you (or your friends and family) former members of a church that died? Are you yourselves 'seeds' from it that might grow into a new plant?

This is not only about churches that have died. All living churches are seed-bearing plants that will likely one day die, but while they live,



Markus Spiske/Unsplash

they do not live to themselves. One church (Life on the Vine) in Chicago talks about churches as greenhouses, with all the possibilities of greenhouses, not least, nurturing new plants.

While we live, both as individuals and as churches, we flower and produce seeds that want to germinate and grow to become the next generation, and the new Church. Nature is like that.

Recently, I was privileged to spend time with Bishop Marinez of Amazonia while she was in London for Bish-

op Todd's consecration. The Diocese of Amazonia is so inspiring! Bishop Marinez spoke about two new 'church plants' there... One is in Manaus, 800 miles from Belém by air, 1000 miles by river. Another is in Castanhal, just 50 miles from Belém. Manaus and Castanhal both had Anglican communities in the past. They died. Now, new plants are growing where the old ones once flourished.

The vision of our companions in Amazonia is inspiring – they plant new churches wherever there are 'seeds' that

hold promise. Can we in Huron learn from this?

This is a Stewardship article. Stewardship is about much more than money. Money is just stored energy. Seeds are much more than stored energy; they also store history and DNA, character and beauty. Seeds are dead, but they hold the promise of new life. Let's get planting, to the glory of God who gives the growth!

Ven. Graham Bland is the chair of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee.

[grahambland@diohuron.org](mailto:grahambland@diohuron.org)

## Becoming a People of Mission

By Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

For the last few years, parishes within the Diocese of Huron have prepared, reviewed and deployed Mission and Ministry Plans designed in part around the Five Marks of Mission.

The stated intention of these plans is to identify a way forward for every part of the Diocese with clearly identified mission purpose and concrete goals to support that purpose.

At its essence Education for Ministry (EfM) supports our ability to live out of these Five



**Education for Ministry is spiritual, theological, liturgical, and practical formation for laypeople. EfM is about integrating faith and life, and communicating our faith to others.**

Marks of Mission, helping us to become a people of mission, with mission-oriented lay leaders, offering us a way to investigate our call to ministry-whatever kind of lay or



ordained ministry that may be. EfM is meant to equip participants with the knowledge, background and vocabulary of Christianity to enable us to live our faith as well as to talk

about our faith with others.

EfM groups are designed to help participants consider how their lives are shaped and guided by their Christian faith and how their ministry can be expressed at the local parish level.

At the moment we are very pleased to have a total of five EfM groups in Huron. There are three London EfM groups, one in Kitchener, and one in Strathroy. We are hoping to begin groups in the Windsor area, the Cambridge/Brantford area, and in the Sarnia area in the Fall of 2020. While that may seem some time away it is

never too early to register your interest in one of these groups and learn more about the groups as they begin to form. Several Open Houses have been planned for the spring.

Please be in touch at the e-mail listed below for more details.

For more information on EfM and how you might become involved, please contact Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or myself Val Kenyon at [EFM@huron.anglican.ca](mailto:EFM@huron.anglican.ca)

Rev. Canon Val Kenyon is EfM Animator in Huron.

## Yellow pages in a digital age: how to claim a listing for your church



MEDIA  
BYTES

REV. MARTY  
LEVESQUE

By Rev. Marty Levesque

Whether it is Google, Facebook, Yelp or Bing, there are many modern replacements to the "yellow pages" that include churches.

Have you claimed these business listings for your church yet? It is simple, easy, and free.

**By claiming the listing you can control your content and share the story you want to tell the world.**

But more importantly, it allows you to manage your content and control the story you want to tell.

For instance, if you Google your church, you will see a business listing on the right-hand side of the search result. There is likely a picture,

location on Google Maps and reviews from people that have attended your church.

Your church is likely listed whether or not you have claimed ownership of it. This means other people are telling your story, influencing which images are seen first, and you are missing a chance to interact with people who review your church. These reviews can be a point of contact and give you valuable insight into how visitors experience your services and facilities.

Claiming listings allow you to update your business hours and communicate when the church

is open. You can link directly to your website which makes it easy for people to learn about your church and all you offer in God's name. And the listings can support each other. For example, Google pulls events from your Facebook page and can list them on when your church appears in the search results.

Each service has a number of tools and features that allow you to claim and manage your listing. From the images that appear, to what it says. Leaving it unclaimed means others will tell your story and it may not be the story you want to be told. By claiming the listing you

can control your content and share the story you want to tell the world.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the diocesan social media officer and rector of All Saints' in Waterloo.

[martylevesque@diohuron.org](mailto:martylevesque@diohuron.org)





# Doubt, despair and spiritual confusion



As I See It

REV. JIM INNES

There is much talk of the decline in church membership within mainline churches. There is also much response. This response is often about ways to fix it. These practical ideas are good stuff, but unfortunately, in some of these earnest attempts at a solution, there can be a subtle critique of the way things are.

These subtle (and not so subtle) critiques create anxiety. As a result, I have found church leaders stressed by a sense that 'something' is wrong and 'something' needs to change. Such stress has particular merit in the ongoing development of healthy discipleship. But such stress creates its own set of issues and adds to the overall anxiety.

One of these issues is 'doubt'. It is often difficult to determine what it is that needs



Daniel Mingook Kim/Unsplash

to change. For example, a church has not seen many new members and is worried about what that means. Most new members do not participate like the past members (especially financially). The search for solutions not only consumes the church council's energy but, without proper care, can cast a damp shadow over the entire community.

Another issue is despair. Problems, when identified, are

not easily rectified. For example, a small rural group sees itself as "not having enough young people," or a large established city church finds itself spending large sums on maintenance. Attempts at resolving these issues can be like wriggling in quicksand. Every move sinks them further.

Another issue is spiritual confusion. The need to take declining church membership seriously can lead us away

from confidence in God's good graces. For example, a church council overly driven by putting 'more bodies in the pews', can potentially become distant from what it means to have their own body in the pews. In other words, we can forget to breathe and feel the pleasure of the moment. And at that moment, remember that God is in charge.

I wonder about these matters a lot. And I often wonder if there is relief from the stresses mentioned above if we can balance being responsible for our future with living in the present moment. And in that process carefully and responsibly ease back on overly critiquing where the church is in this time in history.

Which, to be clear, is not to say that the Holy Spirit is not calling us into some change. But to balance the need for change with the God-given hope that all will be well, and all is well.

I wonder what would happen to the church if we fell in love with who we are and the people who surround us? And instead of always stating the apparent

shortfalls, uplift our continual growth in the journey of discipleship. Would this shed light and healing and passion upon what in some cases has become doubt, despair and confusion? Would it not gift us with an attractive energy from which our lives become a celebration of God's love for us? Would it not gift us with the power to love others as we are so loved?

I am not saying to push our heads into the sand, nor to pretend all is just wonderful when it may not be. I'm looking for a balance to offset any anxiety in changing times.

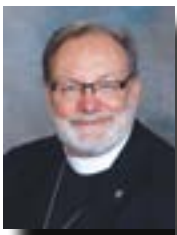
When we anxiously focus on the negative and contrive to control, manipulate, or force any change, we risk making things worse. And we risk losing the joy of this beautiful journey in faith.

We must be willing to live till we die, trusting that God's presence surrounds us. And that this presence is the light of the world.

Rev. Jim Innes is the rector of the Regional Ministry of South Huron.

[jiminnes@diohuron.org](mailto:jiminnes@diohuron.org)

# My collection of pictures: the framework for a story



A VIEW FROM THE BACK PEW

REV. CANON CHRISTOPHER B. J. PRATT

Throughout my ministry, it has always been a bit of a challenge to find space at my desk, as I have consistently made pictures a priority. Pictures of people I have met, places I have visited and, most importantly, pictures of family.

The pictures form an emotional arch from my grandparents and others of that generation, rooted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, who represent a storied past; my parents and my family, rooted in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; to the ever changing pictures of my grandchildren, whose birth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century heralds all of the unknown which the future holds.

The pictures offer a constant reminder of personal connections as a Grandson, Son, Husband, Father and Grandfather. Alongside that changing profile are pictures which identify me as a Student, an Ordinand, a Priest, a Colleague, a Tourist, a Conference Attendee and a Friend. In one form or another, each of us has a variety of different ways in which people see us. There are outward and



Annie Spratt/Unsplash

**Known or unknown, our lives have been impacted by those who in "every generation", have sought to be faithful witnesses to Our Lord.**

visible signs of an inner and invisible character.

In a digital age, where a personal profile photo may be changed at a whim, I have opted for some consistency. Standing on the Island of Iona my Facebook page gives me the opportunity of celebrating a link with a spiritual heritage which spans the centuries. The picture places me in a location where individuals sought to

be faithful witnesses to their Lord. That is a good heritage to acknowledge and to celebrate.

Grandparental opportunity will draw me away from another family gathering of great importance. It is that moment when the Family of the Diocese of Huron will convene at St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the beginning of a new period of episcopal leadership. My desk is not the only place where a collection of pictures can provide the framework for a story. Anyone who has visited our diocesan cathedral will be aware that the long hallways are filled with photographs of bishops and deans whose leadership over the years has shaped the life of the Diocese of Huron. It is a history of diversity and faithful witness which is linked with our own faith journey.

As a part of the Consecration Liturgy, anyone who is called to episcopal ministry is reminded:

*Your heritage is the faith of patriarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to God in hope. Your joy will be to follow him who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.*  
(BAS page 636)

Life as a part of a community of faith is not something whose richness may be experienced in total isolation. Throughout the centuries there have been individuals whose life, work, witness, service and sacrifice have brought us to this moment in our lives. Many of those persons may remain unknown to us. Some of them may be closely linked to our branch of our family tree. We may even have pictures of some of those people.

Some may have shared their own faith journey with us. Others may have written down their thoughts and insights which have lasted through the generations. Known or unknown, our lives have been impacted by those who in "every generation" have sought to be faithful witnesses to Our Lord.

Our personal family stories and the stories which reflect the life of the congregations we identify as our spiritual homes help to colour our lives. Whether the stories of faith

come from a generation lost in the mists of time, or come from our contemporaries, they become part of our own spiritual journey and experience.

It is fitting that as Bishop Townshend moves into a new ministry which will be a witness of faith to our Diocesan Family and beyond, so we are reminded that Huron University College was the site where, more than half a century ago, a phrase was penned which reflects our identity as Anglicans. We are called to be "mutually responsible and interdependent members of the Body of Christ."

There is space on my desk for a picture that reflects that reality in the life of the Church. My prayer is that the space will be filled soon.

Rev. Canon Christopher B. J. Pratt has retired from full time parish ministry, but continues to offer priestly ministry in the Diocese of Huron.

[chrispratt@diohuron.org](mailto:chrispratt@diohuron.org)





# The bishops I've known, the things I've learned



**MOSTLY ABOUT  
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON  
KEITH  
NETHERY**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, along with about a thousand other folks, I entered St. Paul's Cathedral to witness the consecration and installation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, the Right Reverend Todd Townshend.

In a moving liturgy that included a wonderful sermon from Todd's sister Andra and the participation of many bishops from Canada and Bishop Marinez from our companion diocese in Brazil, hands were laid upon Todd in the Anglican tradition as he was called by God to Episcopal ministry.

In the days following the service, as I reflected on what might be ahead for our new bishop, I also found myself thinking back to stories and memories of bishops that I have encountered. There isn't enough space to talk about all those bishops I have served with; but as I thought about it, I have had some interesting connections and conversations.

The first bishop I met, and to be honest I remember very little of this meeting, was the Right Reverend Harold Appleyard. He presided at my Confirmation which probably occurred in 1970 or thereabouts.

As Bishop Appleyard served in retirement as an assistant at my current parish, I have had a chance to read a little biographical information and see a few pictures. But to be bluntly honest the only thing I truly remember about my Confir-



The seating of Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend

mation is that I was informed that the Bishop might ask me a question and I better know the answer. I fretted for days about the potential inquisition, all for naught as I was not asked anything other than my name and despite being rather nervous, I believe I got it right.

I really didn't meet another bishop until I sat down with Bishop Barry Curtis in Calgary. I had requested a meeting with him and when I arrived he asked what I would like to speak about. I said I was somewhat interested in ordination. I was thoroughly deflated when he said, "You know you are supposed to talk to your parish priest first?" I didn't know that and was about to slide quietly out of the room when Barry added, "But given that you are already here, let's talk about it."

Some three years later, Bishop Curtis laid hands on me in tiny All Saints Anglican Church in Medicine Hat as I was ordained a Deacon. In 1996, this time at St. Augustine's in Lethbridge, Barry hands again signified a change in my life as I was ordained a priest. I have much love for Barry, for his kindness to me. Given that his God-son is a member of St. James

Westminster, I hold hope that I will again have the pleasure of Barry's company.

While studying at Emmanuel and St Chad in Saskatoon, the Right Reverend Joseph Marona of Maridi Diocese in the Sudan joined us for the 1993-94 school year. Having never seen a flake of snow in his life, in early October, Joseph appeared in a parka, hat and gloves and soon declared that he would not be going outside anymore. It was fascinating to listen to Joseph's stories of riding his bicycle from parish to parish in his huge diocese, or confirming several hundred children in a single service with an attendance in the thousands. He smiled as only Joseph could as he told us that there were times he needed help holding his arms up, he had confirmed so many in a single day!

But one day will stand out for me. It was Homiletics class and we were beginning preaching to our classmates. I enthusiastically had volunteered to go first and preached what I thought was a barnburner (well at least an acceptable) sermon and the professor invited other students to provide critique. Joseph was immediately on his feet and with

great passion exclaimed, "You insult me and you insult God!" To say I was shocked was an understatement and my knees knocked together as Joseph again began to speak. "In my country if you preached for such a short time the people would pick you up and put you back in the pulpit to tell them more of the wonderful story of Jesus." The grin that spread across his face proclaimed "gotcha!!" Joseph became the Archbishop of the Sudan in 2000 and we sadly lost him in 2007 at just 68. I did not have a chance see him again after he left Saskatoon in 1994 to get home to "his people."

Another interesting encounter came in 2005. Bishops from Canada and the United States gathered in Windsor for what was called the "Can Am" House of Bishops meeting. I was asked to help with media but spent much of my time helping the Rev. Steve Harnadek in the hospitality area. Most of the people there knew each other and for the newbie, back in Huron for just three years, I felt a little out of my league. I noticed an American bishop sitting alone and struck up a conversation. It turned out to be fascinating. Their diocese was small and having a private pilots license, they often flew to individual parishes. As we talked a bit about each other's background, I learned the bishop was a scientist before ordination. It was the first of a couple of interesting discussions we had. I have to admit I was surprised not that many months later when Katharine Jefferts-Schori was selected as the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States.

Two years later, Bishop Bruce Howe asked me to serve as co-chair of the local Arrangements

Committee as Huron hosted all Canadian bishops and their spouses as part of of Sesquicentennial event. What a wonderful opportunity to see our bishops up close and personal and to get to know them just a little bit. One lasting memory is the day that our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz was interviewed by my then ten-year old nephew Jack Sizeland for the Life and Faith television program. It was immediately evident that Fred would address Jack as an equal, as another Christian wishing to talk about Jesus and what ministry was all about. There were smiles and laughs through what was, I think, one of the best interviews the show ever aired. Just a couple of days later, as promised, Archbishop Fred said hello to Jack as he stood before 9000 Anglicans crammed into the then John Labatt Center for a most memorable service of Eucharist.

If I've learned anything between Bishop Appleyard and Bishop Townshend number three, it's that bishops are clearly just like the rest of us. They have hopes and dreams, personalities, strengths, weaknesses. They each have their own take on what Episcopal ministry means and how they carry it out. They each deserve our support, encouragement and, from time to time maybe even some constructive criticism.

It's a pleasure to tell you a few stories about bishops I have interacted with. There have been laughs and tears, smiles and frowns, but always a story worth telling. The story of Jesus Christ whom all these bishops have served well!

*Rev. Canon Keith Nethery is the rector at St. James' Westminster, London.*

[keithnethery@diohuron.org](mailto:keithnethery@diohuron.org)

## Longing for colours of spring



**LAUREL  
PATTENDEN**

In our wintery, dark S.W. Ontario winter we long for the brightness and colour of spring. The return of our favourite bird, the robin, letting us know that the sun and warm weather are truly on its way. We love telling people about our early crocuses blooming and daffodils breaking ground. The earth begins to birth colours that we have so long missed.

It is interesting, that in a world of ready colour, we should long so much for these true nature given colours. Our

screens can produce multitudes of colour within seconds that light up the entire room. Selections of paint for our walls outnumber our moods. We are free to dress in the entire spectrum of colour, whether in fashion or not. Or we can wear rose-coloured glasses. Bath water can be awashed in coloured bath salts to match our energy levels at any chosen time. We have colour on demand. So why does the appearance of a tiny crocus uplift us so much? We could just stick plastic flowers in our decaying, muddy snowbanks.

It is not easy being an early crocus (nickname "tommies") even though they appear hardy and very adaptable. This tiny, two to three inch, flower takes on winter at winter's first vulnerable time. Its tiny stem can push through frozen clay,

chalk, sand and loam. When we take time to stop we can see the bloom triumphing over top of crystalized snow. It kind of makes us want to cheer.

Nor is it easy for the crocus to push roots out into frozen ground. Why would it even start such a difficult pilgrimage to blooming? We don't see the crocuses effort to break open tunnels for their tiny roots to gather needed nourishment. To gather life sustaining energy.

It is also that way with us. We don't see the roots of others. We don't see their struggle to attain needed nourishment. To gather life sustaining energy. It's a Henri Nouwen idea. I have written about the Catholic priest and writer Nouwen before, so please google if necessary. We don't see the roots of others because we really do not

want to enter into the darkness of somebody else's roots. Oh, we can do a quick analyzes but to truly sit and hold hands takes humility, love and strength. I wonder if hopelessness and loneliness are products of un-nourished roots?

The crocus has a definite advantage over us humans. It has the Love of Creation deep in it's bulb to set the roots growing. As for us, God's love gets so buried and weakened, in this world, that we struggle to set deep roots. In humility, we can regain deep roots by reaching out to God and holding hands. It is only then that we will be able to truly hold the hands of others and bloom together with God given colour.

We will always look to the early crocuses and not to plastic flowers stuck in the snowbank

for inspirational colour. For crocuses have healthy roots that only God can grow. The nourishment of God is needed to grow deep, healthy roots so we can bloom with all humility. Enabling us to sit, hold hands and be truly with others who feel the hopelessness and loneliness of this world. To bring true colour into their world.

Let's face it, we would all choose the fresh crocus over the plastic flower, and seeing the tiny crocus bloom makes us want to cheer!

*Laurel is retired and likes to spend her time in her art studio.*

