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# HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • MARCH 2019



Laurel Pattenden, *A Cat's Judgement* (Pen and ink)

## Approaching Lent: looking for lessons in humility

We were created to live in community with each other and all God's creation, writes Bishop Linda in her column urging us to find a healthy dose of humility in faces and events around us – something we probably tend to neglect in the routine of our daily lives. Entering Lent is a good enough reason to refine our spiritual habits.

For Bishop Linda, even an encounter with a cat works. Here is how she sees her cat, Bagheera:

"When I walk through the front door Bagheera is stretching after a long nap, meowing for food. He seems to say, 'I don't care who you are, I need to be fed'. (Luke 17:7-10) Although humans may offer some deference to the bishop, my cat knows none and humility is learned daily. Suddenly my life must re-center to take account of the needs of this four-legged friend and the servanthood Jesus commends is literally made real!"

Of course, we know it's not about cats. It's about us. Our Lenten Calendar, prepared by Social and Ecological Justice Huron, presents each day of Lent as an opportunity to engage with the world around us in a way that may give us a lesson in humility. A lesson that translates to a call to action to change that world (and ourselves) for the better. Here are some of the entries in this year's Calendar:

"We often say in passing 'Hi. How are you?' When you find yourself saying this today, stop and listen for the response. Find out how someone is really feeling. Ask questions and don't judge!"

"Talk to a local farmer. Find out something about the labour required for growing and harvesting crops. Pray for all who work the land."

"We are not the first to walk on this land. How do we honour First Nations?"

"Have you ever tried to live on minimum wage? What would you have to give up in order to survive? Support those businesses who provide a living wage for their employees."

"Have people made assumptions about you that were wrong? How does that feel? What do you do to correct those assumptions?"

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2019 Lenten Calendar: page 9

## Two hundred years of continuous worship

Christ Church, Amherstburg is the oldest continuously used church in Ontario and the oldest military church in Canada.

By Sandra Menard and Terry Hall

During this year, Christ Church, Amherstburg, will be celebrating 200 years of continuous worship.

The church in Amherstburg began its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration by having an Epiphany party on Sunday, January 6. This was just the beginning of many events planned for the church during 2019. The most important one is planned for December 1 – 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary service with Bishop Linda Nicholls presiding.

At the Epiphany party on January 6, a delicious pot luck was enjoyed by everyone in the

church hall. An epiphany cake was shared. Three wise ones were chosen by the gifts found in the cake: Joan Browning, Vivian McManemy and Michelle Wilson. Wearing crowns, they led the congregation up into the church for singing of hymns.

Christ Church, Amherstburg was built by the Rev. Richard Pollard as one of four sister churches opened sequentially: Christ Church, Amherstburg (1819); St. John's, Sandwich (1820); St. Paul's, Chatham (1820); and Christ Church, Colchester (1821). The Amherstburg church was finished first, having been built by the British Army engineers as a garrison church for Fort Malden.

Pollard was a missionary clergyman who conducted lay services in Detroit from 1792 and from 1796 at the government building in Sandwich as well as the Indian Council House at the Fort. His sponsor was the Society for the Preservation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG).

When ordained a deacon in 1802 (priested 1804), he formed two congregations at Sandwich and Amherstburg, each having 250 parishioners, 1,500 in the surrounding area, with an annual visit of 5,000 aboriginals. In 1807, he built a log structure as an early church in Sandwich.

In 1815, after the War of 1812, in which Pollard had been a prisoner-of-war, he returned to



Christ Church, Amherstburg: Still serving its community after 200 years

the area he found the churches at Sandwich and the Indian Council House burned down. Hence his efforts to erect the four churches with SPG assistance.

Although several rebuilt churches have made the claim, Christ Church Amherstburg, as

original, is the oldest continuously used church in Ontario and the oldest military church in Canada.

Pollard's history and correspondence are available at the Diocesan Archives.

Photo: Huron Archives

**Events at Christ Church, Amherstburg, in 2019:**

March 5: Pancake Supper  
March 31: Mothering Sunday (all former parishioners encouraged to attend and renew friendships)  
April 24: Windsor Symphony Concert to support Belle Vue Conservancy

May: Community Picnic (date to be established)  
June 9: Renewal of marriage vows (couples married at the church are invited)  
Sept 8: Civic Service  
Sept 21: Gala celebration featuring "Canto in Armonia"  
Sept 29: Blessings of the animals

Oct 19: Parish dinner  
Nov 23/24: Participant in Christmas House Tours/River Lights  
Nov 30: Wine and Cheese reception for the Bishop  
December 1: 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary service (Bishop Linda presiding)

# The teachers God has given us

I love cats! Don't get me wrong – I also am very fond of dogs and have been the 'favourite human' for a friend's Border collie on many a canoe trip. But for decades I have almost always had a cat or two.



**BISHOP  
LINDA  
NICHOLLS**

Maybe it is simply the ease of care in the midst of a busy life – food, water and kitty litter and you don't even have to be home all the time. No need to walk a cat. But it is more than that.

As a single person the cat (or cats!) have been my teacher in life and faith. Living alone can lead one to a highly self-centered life. With no one to check in with or to be home for, life is very free and all about 'me'. The cat is my quiet, living, breathing reminder that I do not exist for me alone.

When I walk through the front door Bagheera is stretching after a long nap, meowing for food. He seems to say, "I don't care who you are, I need

to be fed". (Luke 17:7-10) Although humans may offer some deference to the bishop, my cat knows none and humility is learned daily. Suddenly my life must re-center to take account of the needs of this four-legged friend and the servanthood Jesus commends is literally made real!

This is even more so now that he has become diabetic and requires insulin injections twice a day. This creature reminds me to recognize and respond to the needs of those I live with more broadly – at home, in the community, in the Church and in the world, with humility.

He also teaches me about living with those in community who are 'other' than me. If you have never lived with a cat, you may not realize that you cannot force a cat do anything – no matter how much you want it to. In early days I longed for a lap cat to sit with in contented comfort. I would pick up the cat and put it in my lap only to have it look at me disdainfully and jump down. Patience was required and a recognition that I could invite but never force the relationship.

This has proved to be a valuable lesson on many occasions

in life. I cannot presume to know the needs or desires of others and so must listen and wait with patience, making invitations into relationship, and respecting them as God's unique and blessed creation (Matt 22:37). Jesus made invitations with compassion and grace leaving the response an open possibility.

Lastly, he reminds me that I need others. Life would be so easy if there were no one else around to mess it up! But it would also be emptier. Despite the fur balls coughed up at 4 a.m. and cat hair on every piece of clothing, the presence of this creature in the house is comfort and hope.

We were created to live in community with each other and all God's creation. Just one small (or not so small these days...) cat is a reminder that the messiness is worth it. When life seems too difficult because of the people, I remember I do need all God's people – their gifts and quirks; their frailty and strengths. (1 Cor 12) And some days – out of the blue – the cat jumps in my lap, settles down and purrs – even as people surprise me with their kindness, compassion, forgiveness and grace.

Your reminder of these lessons may not be a cat. It may be a dog, or other animal, or maybe the humans in your life and home. All are part of the gifts God gives us to draw us to be the kind of community in which all are needed, welcome and treated with respect and dignity.

They are our teachers if we are listening. May your Lent be filled with new insights from the teachers God has given you.

+Linda



## Cleaning your house: the way to a Holy Lent

### ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

By Libi Clifford

When I was growing up, one of the signs of spring was the annual house cleaning.

This was a top-to-bottom, no holds barred, clean up and clean out. As a teenager conscripted to help, I could never understand the need, because if cleanliness was next to godliness my mother was two for two. As I grew older, I realized that the cleaning had a twofold purpose. The more important one wasn't the physical cleaning, it was the joy and satisfaction of starting a new season with a clean slate. The dust and clutter were gone.

The same joy can be achieved with a personal house cleaning before Easter. A clean up and clean out of the clutter during Lent can help us focus on what we really need to live. We can eliminate the things that slow us in achieving a closer relationship with God. We can come to Easter with new appreciation for all God provides for us through his Creation and through his gift of Jesus in our lives. When you really appre-

ciate something, you want to share this bounty with others.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer website has a pamphlet called Keeping a Holy Lent, which describes the three traditional practices you can follow to achieve this house-cleaning-Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Prayer in Lent is meant to focus on self-examination so we can better understand what separates from God. Fasting helps us eliminate some of the unnecessary things in our lives (not just food) and fosters a better appreciation for the bounty that God provides for us. Almsgiving is sharing this bounty and your gifts with others. Jesus gave his life, we can use our gifts for others.

The brochure also gives bible readings for the season of Lent and suggestions for making Lenten prayer a daily practice, fasting from food and different kinds of almsgiving.

The brochure can be located at [http://anglicanprayer.org/resources/Keeping%20a%20Holy%20Lent\\_Sep\\_2017.pdf](http://anglicanprayer.org/resources/Keeping%20a%20Holy%20Lent_Sep_2017.pdf)

Libi Clifford is a member of the AFP Huron executive.



Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

## HURON CHURCH NEWS

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# More than just a meal and a place to crash

While many big cities struggle to provide shelters for the homeless – as highlighted by January's deep freeze – an Anglican church in Woodstock manages to offer this kind of service all year round.

The Inn of Oxford, or simply The Inn, is situated at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church, Woodstock, and it represents the only homeless shelter in all of Oxford County.

It has been serving the population of over 100,000 people for the last 14 years as a three-way mission run by the Operation Sharing, an outreach organization from Woodstock, Oxford County and Old St. Paul's Church.

"Fourteen years ago the Operation Sharing put out a plea to public to provide a place to host the project. Old St. Paul's was the only place in Oxford County that stepped up and said we are going to do it," says Darryl Watson who represents the Operation Sharing as the Inn coordinator.

Since May of last year, the program has been going all year round.

"Homelessness is becoming a bigger problem as the city of Woodstock grows, so it's not just a seasonal problem now," explains Watson.

That is why Oxford County approached the Operation Sharing with a suggestion to start providing shelter service



**Darryl Watson (left), Sue Pieters and Rev. Rob Luxton in front of the shelter at Old St. Paul's Church, Woodstock**

throughout the year and people at Old St. Paul's also agreed to come on board.

The funding provided by the County is minimal, just a staff of two. Everything else – cash, clothes, food – are donations of residents and business of Oxford County.

"Between the staff and volunteers we keep it going all year round", says Watson adding that it would be impossible for The Inn to function if it were not for St. Paul's and the members of the community.

The capacity of The Inn is 18 people and the staff takes care of eight to ten people per night

on average. During cold spells, like the one in January, the Inn serves about 12-16 people.

The Inn offers more than a meal and a place to spend the night in. The staff of two work with other agencies in the area to provide different kinds of support for their guests.

"It's not just a place for people to come and sleep. We work on getting them housing, or helping them to find a support that we do not offer here – like going into some kind of a treatment program that they need", says Watson.

"There are some people who are here for a while, and the

point is to try to help them to move on, to try to get them where they need to be on their journey, to see what's holding them back and what kind of support they need."

The Inn has witnessed some of its former residents moving into their own apartments, usually through a community housing organization.

"Two people came in just last night to let us know that they've got their housing and to take their belongings. We've been able to help three to four people per month to find housing", comments Watson.

Sue Pieters has been a member of Old St. Paul for her whole life and now she works for the shelter as the public relations manager getting the word about The Inn out. Changing the view what homelessness is, especially in the Oxford County is one of Sue's priorities.

She insists that homelessness is not just what you see in the big cities:

"We have a unique profile of homelessness. We have homeless people that have cars; we have homeless people that have jobs; we have people who have lost their place, because they were unable to deal with the rent, for example. So the way The Inn works is different than what you see in the big cities."

It's more personable, says Pieters and adds that some of their volunteers are people who used

to stay at The Inn. "They want to come back because they want to thank The Inn and provide help for those who need it."

Both Pieters and Watson agree that the church plays a crucial role in the work of the shelter. The members of Old St. Paul do the renovations of the shelter regularly. Switching to the year round schedule certainly required additional efforts.

"Old St. Paul's organized a few concerts in support of the church and the receptions were the donations for The Inn, so we raised \$1,000.00", says Rev. Robert Luxton, the rector of Old St. Paul's.

Rev. Luxton has been in Woodstock since 2014. He has his share of experience with church outreach programs – he was involved in the meal program while serving at St. John the Evangelist in London for 13 years. His energy is now focused on The Inn.

"It is important that we have this outreach here. It's amazing how many people come through here wanting to help."

His position on this kind of outreach is clear – he considers it a major part of ministry:

"We worry about the Church and what its future is, but when we are doing this kind of work, people acknowledge that Church matters. That's good publicity."

*Text and photo: Davor Milicevic*

## The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Ecumenical worship service at St. Paul's Cathedral, London

**By Very Rev. Paul Millward**

At the invitation of Bishop Linda, St. Paul's Cathedral hosted a service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held on Wednesday, January 23.

The theme for this year's service, held annually between the Confession of St. Pater and the Conversion of St. Paul was "Justice shall you pursue and only justice", taken from Deuteronomy 16.

We gathered with our brothers and sisters in Christ from across the city, with members from Lutheran, Baptist, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches and from our own Anglican community.

Annette Donovan-Panchaud, Campus Minister at King's University College, offered the homily, reminding us that "Our readings challenge each of us to really examine our lives, our homes, our places of work and our churches to see if we are living in sync with who we are called to be as Christians so that



**King's College Choir at St. Paul's Cathedral marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

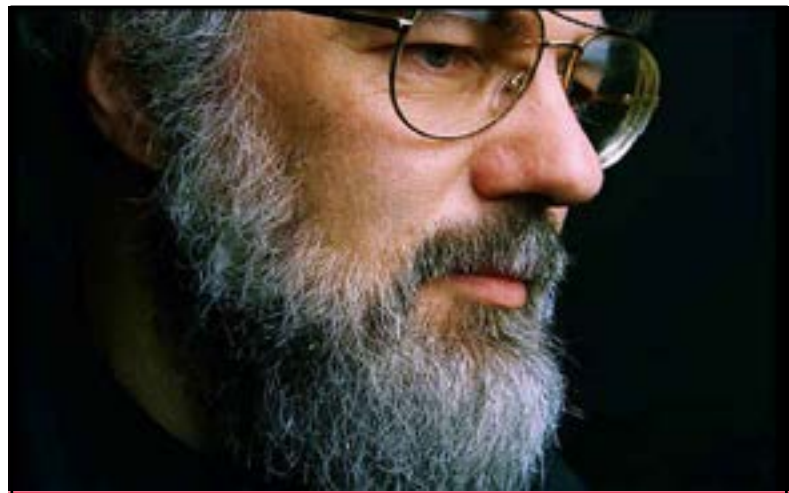
we will be able to present ourselves before the Lord".

The choir from King's College, under the direction of Janet Loo led us in song.

Following a combined blessing offered by Bishop Ronald Fabbro of the Roman Catholic Diocese of London and our

own Bishop Linda, we shared in a time of fellowship and refreshments, a gift from the Roman Catholic Diocese of London.

We were blessed by a truly inspiring evening as we shared our common faith together and look to future opportunities to minister together, in His name.



### Rowan Williams

Presented by Huron University, Diocese of Huron, & Metropolitan United Church

**Learning to Live: How Do We Grow in Christian Insight?**

Saturday, March 16, 9 am-12 pm, Metropolitan United Church, London. Cost: \$20  
Registration required at [www.metropolitanchurch.com](http://www.metropolitanchurch.com)

**2019 R. T Orr Lecture:**

**Theology & Human Rights: Conflict & Convergence**

Sunday, March 17, 7:30 pm, St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Free lecture.  
Seating will be available first come, first served.

**Awarding of Honorary Doctor of Divinity followed by Lecture: What Shall I Cry? How Do We Preach Today?**

Monday, March 18, 1 pm, Kingsmill Room, Huron University College, London  
Free. Registration required by emailing [srice@uwo.ca](mailto:srice@uwo.ca). Please note change of time.

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# A life of service: "Make us worthy of our calling"

By Rev. David A. Hyatt

I was offered an opportunity to submit a reflection on my ordination to the diaconate on December 6<sup>th</sup>, something less than two months ago as I write. What could I possibly say, especially with such a short time of ordained under my belt?

To be sure, I spent a lot of time over the days and weeks leading up to the big event praying and meditating on what was being offered to me, of the incredible honour and the awesome responsibility I was preparing to commit to. In truth, much of that prayer and meditation happened, and continues, in a place too deep for words.

Honestly, I am not trying to sound all mysterious and mystic-like! But as with any sacrament, there is mystery in ordination and I am still trying to understand it myself.

Indeed, I am still adjusting to being "Reverend" Dave; I catch myself wondering from time-to-time, "Who is that guy in the mirror with the funny collar? Ohhhh! It's me..."

And it is an adjustment: for me, for my family, for my



Ordination of David Hyatt at St. Paul's Cathedral

parish... Just this past Sunday, I walked into my church, Grace Church, Brantford, greeted some folks in the pews and was asked, "So, can we call you Father?"

It was the first time someone had asked me that, and the implication of that appellation – 'Father' – struck me.

As I replied, "No, I'm not Father Dave, at least not yet," I was thinking to myself just how much of an adjustment my ordination was for these lovely folks who have known me for years as plain old 'Dave'. How

should they relate to me? How in the world could I ever be 'Father' to them, these folks who could be my mother or father, who had watched me grow up and who had done so much to support me in this journey towards ordination? I'm still working on that, but with time and God's grace, we'll figure it out.

While the entire process of ordination seems a touch surreal in some ways, the concrete reality of being a deacon is a life of service:

"David, every Christian is

called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people... At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's helplessness they are serving Christ himself." (The Examination, Ordination Service, December 6, 2018)

I am still working out with our Rector, Fr. Paul Silcox, just what that service will look like at Grace Church and beyond. The real challenge I face is to balance my commitment to part-time ministry with full-time secular employment, family responsibilities and personal time – no easy feat, to be sure!

My brother-in-law, Canon Mark Kinghan of Toronto, preached at my ordination and he reminded me that ordination vows are rooted in our baptismal covenant. On a day-to-day basis I prayerfully try to take my diaconal calling out into the world among the people I meet and deal with in my job.

As a prosecutor in traffic court, the call to balance the competing interests of soci-

ety, victims and defendants is paramount. To that role I now bring the lens of diaconal service which adds a fresh layer of challenge and opportunity to my work.

I pray daily for the grace of the Holy Spirit to guide and help me in getting that balance right. My work is, literally, a justice issue, and I am mindful of God's call for integrity and fairness in the administration of justice, coupled with the Gospel call to balance justice with mercy.

I think God is doing great things at Grace Church and throughout Huron. I can't wait to see what He has in store for us, and through us, for our communities and the world we serve. I pray God's blessings upon all of you, and I beg your prayers for me, His unworthy servant.

As the old collect says: "Remember, O Lord, what thou hast wrought in us and not what we deserve; and as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Rev. David A. Hyatt is the transitional deacon at Grace Church, Brantford.

## COURSES FOR LAY PEOPLE & FOR THE LICENTIATE IN THEOLOGY

Expanding your personal development? Seeking deeper understanding of faith?

### WINTER/SPRING 2019 COURSES

9:00 (on-line) and 10:00 (in-person) - 2019 (1-12) (add link at all end of page)

#### Religion & Place

Local presence, global impact. How do we live in a global world? What are the implications of our local presence? What are the implications of our global presence? What are the implications of our local presence? What are the implications of our global presence? What are the implications of our local presence? What are the implications of our global presence?

#### Journeying through the Bible: A Guide to Leading Bible Studies

Monday, February 19, 2019 - June 3, 2019 (on-line) and 10:00 (in-person) - 2019 (1-12) (add link at all end of page)

More online at [www.huronu.ca](http://www.huronu.ca) or [www.diohuron.org](http://www.diohuron.org)

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## Theology Open House

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

*Come check us out!*

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# The London's forgotten come together

A story behind St. John the Evangelist's Hospitality Meal program



More than 100 people gathered at the funeral service for Benjamin Musgrave at St. John the Evangelist, London

On Saturday, February 2, a funeral service was held at London's St. John the Evangelist for Benjamin Musgrave, one of the frequent guests at this church's weekly meal program.

Musgrave's death, following an accident at a London intersection, drew media attention that focused, as reported in the London Free Press, on "a strong community of people who are easily forgotten but who conquer each day through their own sheer will to live."

As Rev. John Thompson, deacon at St. John's said for the same newspaper, a photo of the aftermath of the crash, with the walker Musgrave used left at the crossing where he was struck, just didn't seem right as the last public trace of Benjamin.

More than 100 people attended the service proving that St. John's Hospitality Meal program has brought together a strong community of people over the years.

"Much of our assumptions about our guests are wrong", stated Rev. Thompson for the service, "The social moment is equally important to them."

"We open up as soon as the cooks get here, at 3:00 pm. We officially open the door at 5:00 pm, but by four o'clock there are always at least a dozens of people. We try to get the coffee out early so that they can sit down and talk. The groups form at the church hall - same groups at the same seats", says John.

By the time the serving window slides up the line stretches out to the sidewalk and often down the block to the corner.

"We have four or maybe five people who are homeless. Most of the people have some kind of a shelter, even their own homes but they are really at the very bottom of the economic scale and that meal is very important to them", says Thompson.

The program is in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year - it started in May 1997. Every Saturday the volunteer teams at St. John's serve some 110 people. Compared with ten years ago the numbers have dropped down slightly and Thompson believes that this is true in all the programs across the city.

Rev. Thompson insists that this kind of outreach builds stronger relations on both sides of serving stations.

"We have about twelve teams that serve and they sign up from two to six times a year. We have teams from within St. John's and we have teams outside of St. John's", concludes Thompson.

The church organizes a Five-K Walk fundraising every year to help support the program raising between 12 and 14 thousand dollars each year. These events, says Thompson, have also contributed to the larger number of volunteers who are helping with the program.

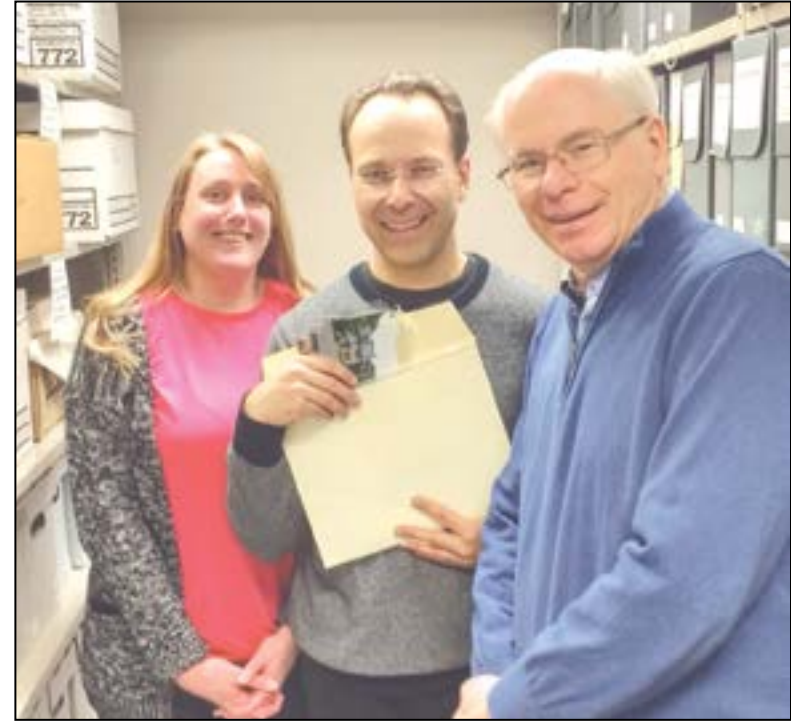
"One of the women who served as a marshal at Five-K fundraising learned about the program and this year she has a group of people from her fitness club who come and serve the meal."

Rev. Thompson has been engaged at St. John's meal program for about 10 years. His message about his involvement in the outreach program is simple:

"I feel a huge amount of joy and I like doing it. I do it because this is I think the central message that Christ came to earth to teach us - to care for each other."

Photo: Rev. Robert Luxton

# Huron Archives completes photographic survey of diocesan churches



Michael-John Idzerda (centre) with Huron Archivist John Lutman and Archivist Assistant Carolyn Lamont on February 5, 2019. Idzerda deposits the last set of photos of diocesan property survey to the Church History File.

On Tuesday, February 5 the very last set of photo prints of Huron churches was submitted to the Church History File at the Huron Archives by photographer Michael-John Idzerda thus officially ending a three year long project of the diocesan property photographic survey.

The project started in November 2015. Idzerda submitted 3,230 images of 256 churches. He covered over 30,000 square kilometres and photographed diocesan property in all ten deaneries.

The first photos, taken on November 17, 2015, were those of St. Jude's in Brantford. The last church Idzerda photographed was St. John the Evangelist Chapel at Huron College, three years later, on November 13. After that, it took two and half months to finish the processing of the photos he took in the last few sessions.

The photos submitted to the Archives on February 5 were of The Trinity Church in Wiarton. The reason they were deposited last was the place of Wiarton in alphabetical order of churches in the Diocese of Huron.

Photo: Bill Acres

# A small group with big hearts



Church of Epiphany, Woodstock

The children and youth at Church of the Epiphany in Woodstock may be a small group, but they have big hearts.

For the season of Advent, they took on a project with the PWRDF World of Gifts program. Their task was to raise \$50.00 to purchase five sheep for a family, which not only would provide improved nutri-

tion but would create a source of income for them.

They presented their project to the parish family, which was well received.

They sold crocheted sheep pins as the fund raiser and the response was more than they expected. Instead of raising \$50.00, they raised over \$500.00.

They not only purchased the five sheep, which was their goal, but they were able to purchase the whole farm. This included: one cow, one goat, two pigs, 40 chickens, 20 guinea fowl, 20 kg bag of seeds, and farming tools.

With the left over money raised they decided to help other children in their own community.

After some researching they purchased craft supplies for DASO (Domestic Abuse Services Oxford). These supplies would bring pleasure to children, who need some joy and comfort in their present situations.

This project brought excitement to the children & youth as they watched their fund raiser grow beyond what they ever imagined.

Crystal Drost and Shirley Doney, Church of the Epiphany Woodstock, Ont.

Photo: Huron Archives



**2019 BAC Conference**

**Respecting Indigenous Cultures**

a one-day conference that explores the relationship between Indigenous communities and the Church

St. James the Apostle Anglican Church  
Wallaceburg, Ontario

**Saturday, April 27, 2019**

**Open to ALL interested**

Conference Program starts at 9am  
**BAC Annual Meeting 2:30pm**  
Holy Eucharist 3:30pm  
Annual Banquet 5pm

**Speakers**  
Bryan Loucks  
Rev. Canon Laverne Jacobs  
Rev. Mark Loyal  
-and-  
National Inquiry into  
Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

Sponsored by the  
**Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen**  
for pre-registration information and conference details visit  
[www.bac.diohuron.org](http://www.bac.diohuron.org)

# ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

## Taking something on for Lent

Bishop Linda is suggesting that, instead of giving something up for Lent, we take something on for Lent: something such as intentional prayer... making time in our lives for our spiritual side.

How in the world do we do that? Many of us barely make it to church on Sunday. And those that do go to church regularly may think that they are done with that for the week. Maybe it is easier to give up something!

How about giving something up AND taking something on? How about a trade?

• Giving up getting annoyed at the traffic – and thank God that so many people are employed that they need to get to work?

• Giving up fretting about standing in line/ waiting in the drive-through lane for coffee – and be thankful that you can afford coffee?

• Giving up frustration at the length of the football/hockey/baseball season – and be thankful that the sports industry not only employs so many people, but inspires young people to greatness?

• Giving up your envy for a better (read “material”) life – and count your blessings?

• Giving up being the perfect wife/mother/ housekeeper – and be glad that you have a husband, children and a house?

• Giving up always pushing your children to do better – and praise them for what they do accomplish?

• Giving up dieting – and explore the many fruits and vegetables in the grocery store that you have never tried?

• Giving up fighting aging – and realize that your spouse may have been attracted to your looks as a young and foolish lad, but he has stayed with you because of the beauty he sees inside you as he has grown to be a man?

• Giving up acquiring “things” – and give away the things you have not used to a thrift store?

Or, start doing things that make you happy. Get out of your rut.

• Bake a chocolate cake – and take half (or more!) to a neighbour.

• Go to a movie – and invite a friend who will share your popcorn.

• Take a walk – with the neighbour’s dog.

• Read a good book – and donate it to the library when you are done.

• Wave and say hello to a neighbour as you pull out of your driveway. Make their day.

• Make eye contact with a stranger and smile at them.

Don’t you think that God wants you be happy? To enjoy your life? Isn’t it easier to praise God when you are happy, grateful, thankful?

Turn your thoughts around – look at the bright side instead of the negative one. There will always be a dish to wash – but not every day has fresh snow, sparkling and white making the world look clean. Be thankful if it is only a dusting of snow! If it is more – look at the face of a child contemplating a snow day off school! Think about a cozy fireplace and hot cocoa that comes after clearing the sidewalk. Hey, burn a few calories and enjoy the treat. Do you remember enveloping yourself around a warm furnace vent when you were a kid? Push the cat aside! You deserve it.

God is in your life when you give back, when you do something nice for someone, when you appreciate His gifts to you. Your prayers may be momentary but heartfelt.

Work to send micro-prayers more often and throughout the day. Take on the challenge. Try it for Lent. Try it for life.

Try it for Lent. Try it for life.

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Bonnie G. Rees, President  
ACW Diocesan Council

**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF HURON**  
**ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**  
**St. Paul's Cathedral**  
**London, Ontario**  
**Saturday 27 April 2019**  
Registration @ 9:00 a.m.  
Meet & Greet – Coffee/Tea  
Morning Prayer – Followed by Meeting – 10:00 a.m.  
**Guest Speaker**  
The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff  
Bishop of the Diocese of Brandon Manitoba  
**Holy Eucharist – 2:00 P.M.**  
Celebrant  
The Right Reverend Linda C. Nicholls  
Bishop of Huron

**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN**  
**DIOCESE OF HURON**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2020**

<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations - Lighthouse	515,000.00	
Thankoffering	10,000.00	
Interest from investments	25,750.00	
Miscellaneous income	250.00	
Withdrawals from investments	1,000,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>541,000.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Contract		
Diocese of Huron - Furniture	515,000.00	
Huron Church Camps	5,000.00	
Morice Place	4,500.00	
College Chapel (1 of 5) 500 (00)	4,500.00	
Castellburg, Huron, Remount		
Dioc. Churches & Youth Ministries	2,000.00	*to be used for CLAV
Money to Benefactors	1,000.00	
Henry Good College for Ministry	1,500.00	
Dr. Abraham Holmes - Child Sponsorship	150.00	
Donation to Huron Church News	2,000.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>519,350.00</b>	
<b>General &amp; Administrative</b>		
Office Rent & Administration	5,400.00	
Continuing Training	7,500.00	
Annual Meeting Expenses	2,300.00	
Salary & Benefits	7,200.00	
Council Expenses - Travel etc	4,200.00	
Audit	1,700.00	
Special requests	250.00	
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>521,850.00</b>	
<b>Total Excess</b>	<b>21,150.00</b>	

**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN'S ANNUAL**  
**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**Held @ St. Paul's Cathedral, London**

Lunch will again be catered by  
"NOONERS"  
(local restaurant)  
The lunch includes assorted sandwiches, wraps, vegetable & fruit trays & cookies  
Coffee & tea will be provided  
(Gluten free available – see below)

The cost of the lunch is \$10.00 – 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 6J7

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 2019. Thank you.**

*Essex Deanery*  
*St. David/St. Mark's Church*  
*Barbara Eunice Burton*



## Meet your Council



**Janice McAlpine**  
Janice was born in Sarnia where she worshipped at St. John's Anglican Church followed by Christ Church Anglican, Camlachie and is currently a member of the Spirit-filled St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove.

There she serves God as a Licensed Lay Reader, Lay Delegate to Synod, member of the Pastoral Care Team, parish convener for Doors Open Lambton, former AFP Representative and is honoured to be a member of the ACW.

Although Janice is a cradle Anglican, she remains one by her own choice because she firmly believes in the Marks of Mission. She looks forward to the two Lambton Deanery Days held yearly and sharing in loving fellowship with women from other parishes.

Janice has been joyfully married to Mike who keeps her laughing for 25 years. They have rescued numerous animals during their journey together and are currently managed by two dogs and a cat. Janice earned a degree in

Journalism from Western. At that time positions for women were scant so she entered the hospitality industry and held the position of Food and Beverage Manager with two major hotels. This was followed by co-ownership of an appliance store with Mike.

Janice enjoys walking in the woods, cycling, tent camping and attempting to garden. All of these can be in while in prayer.



# PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

## Appointments

Bishop Nicholls appoints the Rev'd Shaun Eaton as Rector of St. John-in-the-Wilderness, Bright's Grove effective March 1, 2019. Shaun is currently the priest-in-charge of the Parish of the Holy Spirit (St. Paul, Clinton and St. Thomas', Seaforth).

Bishop Nicholls gives thanks to the Rev'd Robert Clifford (Rector All Saints, Windsor) for serving as the Chaplain to Lay Readers in our Diocese since 2015.

Bishop Nicholls appoints the Rev'd Paul Sherwood (Rector Trinity Church, Simcoe) as the new Chaplain to Lay Readers for the Diocese, effective February 1, 2019. Paul may be contacted via email: paulsherwood@diohuron.org.

Bishop Nicholls is thankful to the Rev'd Canon Linda Nixon for serving as the Regional Dean Waterloo Deanery in the Diocese of Huron since 2016.

Bishop Nicholls appoints the Rev'd Dr. Stephen Hendry as the new Regional Dean for Waterloo Deanery effective February 12, 2019. Stephen may be contacted via email at: stephenhendry@diohuron.org.

## Appointments outside Diocese

The Rev'd David Matthews (Associate Priest, Trinity Sarnia) has been appointed as the Incumbent of the Parish of St. Thomas à Beckett in the Diocese of Toronto. David's last Sunday in the Parish of Trinity, Sarnia will be March 17th, 2019. We commend David with our best wishes in his new ministry.

## Conclusion of Ministry

The Rev'd Laura Lightfoot will conclude her ministry as rector of St. Stephen's, Stratford effective January 31, 2019. Laura remains a priest in good standing with a General Permit.

## Retirement

Bishop Nicholls has accepted the request of the Rev'd Canon Dr. Timothy Connor to retire effective August 31, 2019 with his last Sunday in the parish being July 28, 2019. Canon Tim was ordained a deacon on May 1, 1984 and priested on December 8, 1984. He has served the parishes of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener; St. David's and St. Thomas the

Apostle, Cambridge; Church of the Transfiguration, London and St. George's, London from which he will retire. Canon Tim has been a member of Diocesan Council, the Catechumenate Network, the Renewal Committee and the Doctrine and Worship Committee including as co-chair. He has represented the diocese at both Provincial and General Synod and served on the Provincial Synod Executive Council. Tim served as the Archdeacon of Middlesex and was named a Canon of the Cathedral on May 28, 2006.



## Life-long learning: understanding ourselves



**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.**

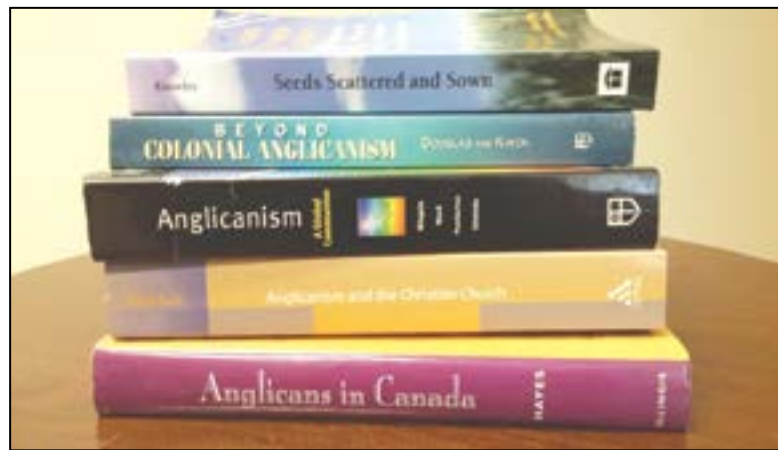
by Rev. Val Kenyon

*Close to the heart of what it means to be human lies the dynamic process of finding and making meaning in our lives. (Ernest Becker, The Structure of Evil)*

If you are anything like me, I find that I am often trying to make sense of things, whether listening to the news, reading a book filled with new and sometimes challenging ideas, or just balancing household accounts.

As the quote above states, making meaning in our lives is just part of what it is to be human. This idea seems very closely linked to a topic we hear more and more about in these times of great change, the idea of being a life-long learner.

I recently heard of the times in which we live described as "a permanent white-water society ... [in which] we are white-wa-



ter rafting through the rapids of social, technological, and demographic change." (Thomas R. Hawkins, The Learning Congregation: A New Vision of Leadership) It is easy in times like this to feel sometimes ill equipped for the tasks before us often leading us to look for more information, a greater, a fresher, more informed understanding of ourselves and the wider world. Experts tell us that while many of us seek out learning opportunities to master a new skill, as adults we are most often motivated by a desire to come to a better understanding of ourselves, who we are, and who we are becoming.

As Christians and disciples of Jesus this is particularly important and while the process may be a gradual one, we are called on all levels to become the people God wants us to be and to use our gifts to serve

God and serve others wherever we find ourselves. Why not consider making Education for Ministry one way in which you explore with others these times in which we live, and how we all might participate with God in God's ongoing mission? At the core of the EfM approach is the regular practice and habit of reflecting theologically, that is of reflecting on where God can be found all around us, and what we can learn by paying attention.

While new classes will not be starting until the Fall why not inquire now to discuss the possibilities. Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or myself Val Kenyon can be reached at EFM@huron.anglican.ca and are always pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Rev. Val Kenyon is EfM Animator in Huron.



Crickets chirp, birds tweet, bees buzz. Breezes blow, leaves rustle, waves crash! Campers run, splash, shout out loud and whisper softly. What wonderful sounds - music to God's ears.

Follow the joyful noise to HCC! With feet stomping, hands clapping, hearts beating and many voices raised, we'll join a chorus of friendship, welcome and belonging,

## Sung Together

- all of us, all creatures, all creation.

### One Week Camps

ages 6-14, grades 1-8 \$510 + \$66 HST

Session 1	Come All You People	July 7-13
Session 2	Earth Below, Sky Above	July 14-20
Session 3	Lost + Found	July 21-27
Session 4	A Place in the Choir	August 4-10
Session 5	Surprise!	August 11-17
Session 6	Sing a New Song	August 18-24

### Senior Camp

graduating from grade 8 \$1200 + \$156 HST

Session 1	July 7-20	Companions on a Journey 1
Session 2	Aug 4-17	Companions on a Journey 2

### Leader in Training

ages 14-16, grades 9 & 10 \$1800 + \$234 HST

July LIT1	July 7-27
July LIT2	July 7-27
August LIT1	August 4-24
August LIT2	August 4-24



Go to [www.huronchurchcamp.ca](http://www.huronchurchcamp.ca) to find out more, watch our video, see lots of pictures and register

For more information contact us at [huronchurchcamp@gmail.com](mailto:huronchurchcamp@gmail.com) or call 519-434-6893 ext 217



# Coaching begins with valuing relationships and effective listening

By Ven. Perry Chuipka

A seven-year old boy had lived near this large church all his young life. He used to watch people go in just before 9am and just before 10:30am, but he only saw a few people leave because the church hall was connected to the church building at the back. He was always wondering what people did in that church.

One Sunday morning, the little boy found the courage to go into the church by himself. Before he entered, he saw a big sign outside that said: Welcome, we have a 9am and 10:30am Sunday service.

He had left his house at 8:30 so it was still early before the 9am service. He entered and walked into the church.

The pastor who was in the church lighting the candles noticed the boy so he went over to greet him. The pastor said, welcome to our church, and then asked are you from the area. The little boy told him his name and then went on to tell the pastor how he had always watched people going to church from his bedroom window.

After their conversation the boy noticed a large plaque at the back of the church. Then the little boy gained the courage to ask: "What is this?"

"Well son, these are all the people who have died in the service," replied the pastor.

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little boy's voice barely broke the silence when he asked quietly, "Which one, the 9:00 or the 10:30 service?"

It is interesting to me in that funny story that the first thing that the Pastor did in meet-

ing that little boy was to take time to listen to his story. That Pastor would have made a great coach. Coaching begins with developing a relationship with a congregation by letting them tell their story and the coach being an effective listener.

Story telling is the beginning of any valuable relationship. Think for a moment of any of your relationships that you value. What makes them valuable? My valued relationships are important to me because I know something about the history of the person. The same holds true with our coaching relationships with congregations. A coach wants to know what happened to them in the past. The good and the bad. The sad stories and the joyful stories. The things that brought them down and the things that redeemed them and enabled them to carry on. Coaches care about the congregations they work along side with by giving congregations time to tell their story.

I remember being with a congregation that was asked to bring in an item from their past and tell everyone a story about it. I was amazed what everyone brought with them. There were pictures of the past, an old stuffed cat that attended many

blessing of the animals services, an old hat that had been at many Easter Sunday services and the list goes on. Even the most introverted person had something to tell when they held their item up to the group.

In listening to their stories we discover a great deal about a congregation. But we not only listen to hear stories, we listen for other reasons. Effective listening is about much more.

Listening is one of the most important skills you can have. How well you listen has a major impact on the quality of your relationships with others.

We listen to obtain information. We listen to understand. We listen for enjoyment. We listen to learn.

Given all this listening we do, you would think we'd be good at it!

In fact most of us are not. Depending on the study being quoted, we remember between 25% and 50% of what we hear. That means that when you talk to someone for 10 minutes, they pay attention to less than half of the conversation. It is hard to believe I know!

Turn it around and it reveals that when you are receiving directions or being presented with information, you aren't hearing

the whole message either. You hope the important parts are captured in your 25-50%, but what if they're not?

Clearly, listening is a skill that we can all benefit from improving. By becoming a better listener, you will improve your productivity, as well as your ability to influence, persuade and negotiate. What's more, you'll avoid conflict and misunderstandings. All of these are necessary for healthy relationships.

Here are some coaching tips about being an effective listener:

- Give your full attention to the person who is speaking.
- Don't look out the window or at what else is going on in the room or at your cell phone. This may sound simple but today giving our full attention is something that everyone needs to work at, especially, with all the electronic gadgets we cater to.
- Make sure your mind is focused, too. It can be easy to let your mind wander if you think you know what the person is going to say next, but you might be wrong! If you feel your mind wandering, change the position of your body and try to concentrate on the speaker's words.
- Let the speaker finish before you begin to talk. Speakers appreciate having the chance to say everything they would like to say without being interrupted. When you interrupt, it looks like you aren't listening, even if you really are.
- Let yourself finish listening before you begin to speak! You can't really listen if you are busy thinking about what you want say next.
- Listen for main ideas. The main ideas are the most important

points the speaker wants to get across. They may be mentioned at the start or end of a talk, and repeated a number of times. Pay special attention to statements that begin with phrases such as "My point is..." or "The thing to remember is..."

• Ask questions. If you are not sure you understand what the speaker has said, just ask. It is a good idea to repeat in your own words what the speaker said so that you can be sure your understanding is correct.

• Give feedback. Sit up straight and look directly at the speaker. Now and then, nod to show that you understand. At appropriate points you may also smile, frown, laugh, or be silent. These are all ways to let the speaker know that you are really listening. Remember, you listen with your face as well as your ears!

So let me return to my original story about the small boy who attended church for the first time. The pastor did a great job of developing a relationship with the boy and also used effective listening skills in doing so. Every relationship that we value deserves our full attention. When we allow others to tell their story and we use effective listening skills our relationships can only get healthier.

Want to develop healthier relationships in your congregations? Contact a coach from the Huron Coaching Team. All our contact information is on the Diocese of Huron web page.

([dihuron.org](http://dihuron.org) Click Ministries link and then click Coaching Team link)

Ven. Perry Chuipka is the Archdeacon of Congregational Development.

## CONGREGATIONAL COACHES



# Have you ever been asked why you give?



By Andra Townshend O'Neill

Is it in response to the generosity of God?

That may not be the first thing that comes to mind. For many of us our giving began with the example of our parents. Giving became part of our character. Giving can also be quite practical, sometimes we give because it is a good financial decision for us (tax benefits) or the specific need resonates with us.

Dinners, concerts, bazaars, sometimes giving happens while we are enjoying ourselves with our friends, or helping others. Tim Cestnick, FCPA,

FCA, CPA(IL), CFP, TEP, a Financial writer for the Globe and Mail, suggests that each of us give for multiple reasons and identifies what he calls the 7 Faces of Philanthropy, 7 of the most common motivations for giving which along with those mentioned above, includes one "face" for "the devout". He suggests that knowing why you give can help you make decisions about how and where you give and often also tells us why we say yes to some things and no to others.

For Christians, although we strive to be practical and responsible with our financial resources and like others are motivated to give for various

reasons, perhaps we should begin at the beginning, with what we have received. Isn't the very foundation of our faith that we have received everything - beyond what we can ask or imagine? We were created by God in the image of God, who loves each of us, you and I, known, to the last hair on our heads.

And through that love, we receive the gift of Christ, God revealed to us, our redeemer, and promise of life to come. All this we receive by faith through the grace of Christ.

And so although Tim Cestnick's very helpful model includes "The Devout, Doing Good for Faith Reasons"

it doesn't quite capture why the faithful give. How can it? How do you describe the gratitude of a people that have had their very lives given and redeemed?

Andra Townshend O'Neill is a member of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee.

## Seven Faces of Philanthropy

COMMUNITARIANS	Doing good makes sense
THE DEVOUT	Doing good for faith reasons
INVESTORS	Doing good is good business
SOCIALITES	Doing good is fun
REPAYERS	Doing good in return
ALTRUISTS	Doing good feels right
DYNASTS	Doing good is a family tradition

Tim Cestnick, Seven Faces of Philanthropy



# 2019 Lenten Justice Calendar

## SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>In support of Respect Justice Camp 2019 held in the Diocese of Huron Aug. 13-19, this year's calendar provides information, opportunities for reflection and resources that highlight some of the topics and immersion experiences offered at this year's camp for those 18 and over.</p> <p>Check out <a href="http://www.justicecamp.ca">www.justicecamp.ca</a> for more information. You can also follow us on Facebook "Respect Justice Camp" or Twitter @CampRespect. We hope to see you there.</p>						
<p>March 10 <b>Read Rm 12:4-6</b> Who are the many members of your community? Are there some whom you do not really know? Pick someone new to you and spend some time getting to the know them. Offer to pray for them this week</p>	<p>March 11 The 2017 Canadian survey on Disability identified that 35% of Canadians 15 and over have some disability. This includes cognitive and mental health impairments. What does disability look like to you? Who do you know that has a disability? What makes it hard to identify in some people?</p>	<p>March 12 Consider the farming area around you. Do you know of migrant workers coming to the area? Where are they from? Pray for the economic and political issues in these countries affecting their people</p>	<p>March 6 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Read John 15:4</b> Identify 10 people to whom you feel close. Why are you close to these individuals? How do you maintain this connection? Pray for these "branches" as we begin this Lenten journey.</p>	<p>March 7 Take a look at the fresh produce in your local grocery store or market. Is it possible that migrant workers have helped to harvest some of these? Give thanks for the hands that help us to eat.</p>	<p>March 8 <b>International Women's Day</b> Of the top 100 companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange, only 1 has a female CEO and 15 have just one woman on their board of directors. Make note of the gifts of women around you. How can these be better shared in your community and beyond?</p>	<p>March 9 We often say in passing "Hi. How are you?" When you find yourself saying this today, stop and listen for the response. Find out how someone is really feeling. Ask questions and don't judge!</p>
<p>March 17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> Are you Irish? Do you pretend to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day to engage in the fun? There was a time when it wasn't so great to be Irish. Consider those groups who continue to be unpopular for any reason. Learn more about these groups and pray for greater respect.</p>	<p>March 18 Find out what the various letters mean for the LGBTQ2ia+ community. Why is naming difference important? In what ways can you seek and serve Christ in this community, loving these neighbours as ourselves? Pray for those who are LGBTQ2ia+</p>	<p>March 19 <b>Tea for Two Tuesday</b> Have a cup of tea with a friend. Remember our friends in the Diocese of Amazonia. Consider making a donation to support their programs. Offer a prayer for our ongoing friendship</p>	<p>March 13 Did you know that Walpole Island has a state of the art water filtration system and yet there have been times when they could only flush with the water? Consider what that says about the water around Walpole Island and what is in our waterways in general.</p>	<p>March 14 <b>Learn about Butterflies Day</b> Colourful butterflies are fun to watch in the summer. Did you know butterflies need host plants to thrive? Milkweed plants are great for attracting Monarchs. Learn about butterflies in your area and what is needed to bring them into your yard.</p>	<p>March 15 Have people made assumptions about you that were wrong? How does that feel? What do you do to correct those assumptions? What if someone decides you must be a certain gender and they are wrong? Pray for those who confront this struggle regularly?</p>	<p>March 16 Parishes were challenged to increase their efforts to help those living in poverty at our recent vestry meetings. How are these efforts going in your parish? How will you hold one another accountable to achieve this commitment over the course of this year?</p>
<p>March 24 <b>Read 1 Cor 12:4-7</b> What God given gifts do you have? To what extent do you use these gifts? Pick one gift that you haven't used in a while and find a way to share it this week. Say a prayer for those who struggle to share their gifts.</p>	<p>March 25 How do you keep connected with family members who are not close by or when you travel far away? Imagine how it would be for months, even years on end, working in a foreign country to provide necessities for family back home. Pray for those far from their homes and families.</p>	<p>March 26 Pay attention to how many times you use gendered pronouns when talking about someone. What would it be like if someone used the wrong pronoun for you? Pray for those who struggle to be recognised for who they are.</p>	<p>March 20 <b>International Day of Happiness</b> What do people need to be happy? What gets in the way of happiness? How can we better support those for whom daily struggles interfere with their physical, mental and spiritual health? How can we help to bring hope and happiness to these groups?</p>	<p>March 21 <b>World Down Syndrome Day</b> Demonstrate your support for the gifts of those with Down Syndrome by wearing crazy, mismatched socks today. Consider what needs to happen to ensure those with Down Syndrome are not only welcomed into our churches but also INCLUDED in our communities.</p>	<p>March 22 <b>World Water Day</b> Did you know that on any given day, upwards of 100 communities in Ontario are under some form of a Boil Water Advisory? First Nations communities are often over represented on these lists. Consider ways to collaborate with First Nations to better ensure access to safe drinking water.</p>	<p>March 23 Research the rights and services available according to different legal status of individuals in Canada. Pray for those organizations that support the vulnerable in our country and work for justice for all.</p>
<p>March 31 Our Baptismal covenant challenges us to "...seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself". In whom do you have difficulty seeing Christ? Does this affect how you might serve Christ in these persons? Pray for a way to overcome this struggle?</p>	<p>April 1 <b>April Fools' Day</b> Advertising, social media and other resources can trick us into willful ignorance of the injustices and consequences associated with our choices. Take some time to do research on one item you regularly purchase. How do you feel about the story behind that purchase?</p>	<p>April 2 <b>World Autism Day</b> Learn more about autism. How does this impact those who have autism and their families? What programs are available in your area for those with autism? How can you support these programs?</p>	<p>March 27 Have you personally struggled or currently struggle with mental illness? Share your story. You may encourage someone else to seek help.</p>	<p>March 28 Have you ever tried to live on minimum wage? Could you imagine making only \$14/hour? What would you have to give up in order to survive? Support those businesses who provide a living wage for their employees.</p>	<p>March 29 Persons with severe disabilities are nearly 3 times more likely to live in poverty than those without disabilities and 2 times more like than those with mild disabilities. Consider connecting with local organisations who support people with disabilities and explore how you might make a difference.</p>	<p>March 30 <b>Earth Hour</b> – Join the millions around the globe: switch off your lights from 8:30-9:30pm and show your concern for the impacts of climate change via social media. Go to <a href="http://www.earthhour.org">www.earthhour.org</a> for more information.</p>
<p>April 7 The Holy Trinity models a special partnership. How can we, as Church, also model a Trinitarian partnership with others in this world? What would it take for us to reach out to those who different, unfamiliar and perhaps even frightening? How can we embrace difference?</p>	<p>April 8 The maximum housing allowance for a family of 3 on Ontario Works is \$697. Take some time to find out what accommodations are available in your area. What can a family on OW really afford? What is needed to ensure people have an adequate place to live?</p>	<p>April 9 The suicide prevention hotline is available 24/7 to provide assistance for those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts. Memorise the number: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) Pray for those whose mental illness includes suicidal thoughts.</p>	<p>April 3 Talk to a local farmer. Find out something about the labour required for growing and harvesting crops. Pray for all who work the land.</p>	<p>April 4 Language matters. When faced with someone who is different, take the time to learn the proper language. Learn preferred names. Be open to understanding the difference terms make. Take the time to put assumptions and allow others to speak for themselves.</p>	<p>April 5 Residents on Walpole Island are actively involved in maintaining endangered species like the small white lady's slipper – a wild orchid. First Nations have also used a number of native species for health care. Take some time to learn about the wisdom of caring for Mother Earth from First Nations.</p>	<p>April 6 Have you ever been somewhere and there is a line up for the bathroom you want to use but the other is empty? Why do so many people feel a need to use a bathroom based on a sign? What if there was no bathroom that fit your 'sign'? Pray for those for whom going to the bathroom is political.</p>
<p>April 14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Pride and privilege distracted the leaders of the Synagogue from truly appreciating God as revealed in Jesus. What distracts us from recognising God at work in our world today? How can we move beyond these distractions?</p>	<p>April 15 Have you ever been a stranger in a strange land? How did it feel? How did you cope? Pray for the spiritual gift of hospitality.</p>	<p>April 16 Have you ever been to a homeless shelter? Can you imagine sleeping in one? What would need to happen to your sense of self to enable you to feel comfortable staying in a homeless shelter? Pray for those who have little choice.</p>	<p>April 10 We are not the first to walk on this land. How do we honour First Nations? It begins with a land acknowledgement and that should be a first step to getting to know the Indigenous people around us and learning from their wisdom.</p>	<p>April 11 The "Planetary Health Diet" seeks to provide guidelines for healthy eating while addressing the major role of agriculture – especially livestock – in driving climate change. Consider shifting one meal today to one that fits this guideline.</p>	<p>April 12 Offer a smile and a word of kindness to a stranger. Give thanks today for those who show you the face of Jesus by their kindness.</p>	<p>April 13 Look around your community, your home, your church. To what extent are people with disabilities welcomed? In what ways are people with disabilities not simply passive observers but active leaders in your church and your community? What needs to change to make this happen?</p>
<p>April 17 What does marriage mean to you? How is this sacrament a reflection of love, a desire to build a right relationship with each other and God? Pray for the conversations around the marriage canon especially for those who feel their relationships challenged.</p>	<p>April 18 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Did Judas want Jesus to die? Was that his intent? There is a difference between intent and impact. Reflect on a time when the impact of your actions was very different from your intent. Pray for healing.</p>	<p>April 19 <b>Good Friday</b> The soldiers brutally abused and taunted Jesus. Bullying can be received in this same brutal way leading to depression and anxiety. Pay attention to your words and actions. Don't be a bystander to bullying. Pray for courage to support those whom others might bully.</p>	<p>April 20 <b>Holy Saturday</b> Jesus died to take away our sins, not our minds. Select one of the activities from this calendar and live it out the rest of the year.</p>			

**April 21**  
**Easter:** Celebrate the resurrection with family and friends. Live the transformation of Easter every day.

*Consider registering for Respect Justice Camp to explore these themes more deeply and challenge yourself to build a deeper respect for God's Beloved Creation in its fullness so that we become more able to recognise that the Divine Spirit of God is moving us all towards that collaborative work for redeeming justice that is God's life poured out for all the world.*

# The art of peace: letting go of self-protectiveness

*"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"*  
(Lk 23:34)

The world is ravaged by self-protectiveness. It can be violent and ruthless. And it is bolstered by broken and fragmented relationships, ceaseless warfare, and unrelenting political disputes (on issues that should have been settled decades ago).



**AS I SEE IT**

**REV. JIM INNES**

Letting go of self-protective behaviour is a risk and comes at the cost of personal comfort. Because self-protectiveness is a natural response to threat. And, one may argue, there are legitimate threats everywhere.

To move through self-protective reactions, especially in situations where the potential of conflict exists, means growing into an almost unreasonable vulnerability. Unreasonable, because you may be the only one invested in ending the mess, and in return for your vulnerability, you may not be treated fairly.

Unreasonable vulnerability can be understood as self-sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is not a willingness to be thrown to the sharks, but a philosophy of living with others, all others, best described in a well-known Christian hymn, the Prayer of St. Francis: "Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul...".

This philosophy invests in others by setting aside an automated guardedness. It promotes empathy before suspicion, and is, in its truest form, peace at work.

In my experience, the challenge to becoming an instrument of peace is setting aside any and all reactivity. This reactivity deserves a paper all its own, but in short, it derives from past pain. And, those who have suffered deeply, are impeded by a vow (to self), "it won't happen to me again."

I write this article on and around Martin Luther King Jr. day in the US. Within his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize lecture he stated: "Broadly speaking, nonviolence in the civil rights struggle has meant not relying on arms and weapons of struggle. It has meant noncoop-

eration with customs and laws which are institutional aspects of a regime of discrimination and enslavement."

This statement raises questions as to how the path to peace is accomplished. And, for me, speaks of the painful, difficult and often confusing journey of making oneself vulnerable in situations less than safe. Reactivity is habitual. And it is triggered by mistrust, hypervigilance and over-personalizing every little nuance of another's behaviour. Sure enough, it may defend us from the devil, but the cost is way too high. For we risk losing our ability to love, and becoming wolves amongst the sheep.

For all my admiration of M.L. King Jr., one of my struggles, found within the same speech as mentioned above, is how he describes nonviolence as a "weapon".

The word weapon, though understandable in his context, provokes violent imagery. And it falls way short of explaining the peace-creating power released by non-violence (in its truest form); a form which I have come to know as 'sacrificial love'.

In the art of peace, I want to promote the notion exemplified in the Christian story around



Javardh/Unsplash

Jesus' surrendering himself to death. A story in which a man, albeit, God incarnate, remained vulnerable to the hate that surrounded him. He submitted to ruthless agony, with intention, and despite the cost to himself. He let his pain 'wash away the sins of the world' because he knew, that on the other side

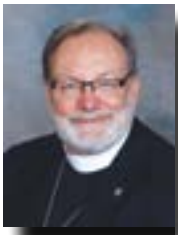
of conflict, one is able to find peace... not by fighting for it, but by letting go reactivity, sacrificing safety (even if just a little bit), and taking the road most feared.

*Rev. Jim Innes is the rector of the regional Ministry of South Huron.*

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## "The light shines on in the dark..."

Like a curtain being drawn across a window, shutting out the sun's glare and darkening an interior, so a shadow slowly crept across my vision and did not go away.



**A VIEW FROM THE BACK PEW**

**REV. CANON CHRISTOPHER B. J. PRATT**

A visit to the family doctor was not an option, it was a necessity. After a thorough examination, a referral was made, bags were packed, a drive from Waterloo to a specialist in London, and the next morning I was having emergency eye surgery to repair a detached retina in my right eye.

Time passed.

I was informed that a not uncommon impact of the surgery that I had experienced was the development of a cataract. Surgery was needed to deal with that issue.

Time passed.

Once again, the all too familiar experience of a darkening curtain became a reality, this time in my left eye. Once again, an examination and a trip to London for surgery, this time,

through a snow storm! Once again cataract surgery awaits. (This time, it will take place on the date when this article is due!)

A brief reflection, offered by the surgeon who will be operating on the cataract which has developed on my left eye, has caused me many moments of reflection. "Be grateful", he said, as he prepared to leave the examination room, with his hand on the door handle. "Be grateful that you were born at a time when eye surgery has moved to a point where we are able to take care of you. Not too long ago, you would have been blind by now."

Since hearing that statement, I have had moments when words of scripture have had an impact on me in new and different ways.

When I hear, "The light shines on in the dark..." (John 1:5), the word "dark" has a powerful reality as it leads me to a point when I am able to value and appreciate the true power of "light". My world, my life, would be so different from what I am able to experience now, as I benefit from medical care, the practical support of family and friends, and from the prayers of those who support me on my journey to renew my vision.

Clarity of vision in our lives

is not simply limited to our physical sight. The personal experience which I have shared with you, has its parallels in our spiritual pilgrimage through life.

When the disciples of John the Baptist approach Jesus and enquired if he was the one whose arrival had been heralded by John, or if they should continue looking with hope and expectation for the message of John to find its fulfillment in someone else, Jesus replies, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight..." (Matthew 11:4)

Those words strike me anew as I share these thoughts with you, not only because they reference the incredible healing ministry of Jesus, but because they also point to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit alive in our lives today. Spiritual blindness is as much a reality for many individuals who do not have to grapple with the reality of physical blindness. Blindness which prevents an appreciation of another person, or another person's point of view; blindness which prevents a sense of awareness of the depth and diversity of our own identity; blindness which stands as a barrier preventing the free flow of God's love, mercy and grace to be experienced as a personal reality; these

darkened areas of our lives are as much in need of healing as physical blindness.

There is, perhaps, the temptation to avoid dealing with our own blindness. No rush for emergency surgery is necessary, because we need others to see things our way. The problem, from our viewpoint is theirs, not ours. That may influence how we live our lives as individuals and also as members of a community, even a community of faith. If only, we think, our viewpoint carried the day, all would be well.

Yet that blindness stands in the way of the desire which all of us need to share. Putting our time, our efforts and our energy into discovering how we may make God's will a reality in our own lives will lift the darkness from our lives and lead us to experience the brightness and beauty of God's light shining in God's world.

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

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# On funerals, weddings and baptisms

Rarely do clergy gather together that the conversation doesn't turn to funerals, baptisms and weddings; and someone boldly proclaims, "I could write a book."



**MOSTLY ABOUT RELIGION**  
**REV. CANON KEITH NETHERY**



Kristina Tripkovic/Unsplash

Well, it's not a book, but over the next three months this space will carry some thoughts, ideas and stories on funerals, weddings and baptisms in that order.

When I was first ordained (waaaay back in 1995 in a diocese three provinces west of here), it never occurred to me that funeral homes would call and ask if I would do a funeral. I had assumed that all funerals would be parish members and done from the church at which I was rector.

That dream was shattered about two weeks into my tenure in Medicine Hat and the phone rang often in the seven years I was there because for extended times I was the only Anglican priest in the area. It was also in Southern Alberta I learned that it was indeed possible to survive an outdoor funeral at minus 30 something Celsius.

On that day I also learned what it was to pay tribute to a family member. Wearing a high school jacket and loafer shoes with no socks, a young woman, tears streaming (and freezing)

down her cheeks, sang a near perfect version of "The Rose", her uncle's favourite song.

A funeral procession with more than 50 motorcycles; getting lost trying to find a cemetery; feeling rather under scrutiny when the hearse I was riding in (front seat) pulled into a Tim Horton's; a complete power failure mere moments before a service was to begin; riding to the cemetery in a white out (and being amazed at a bare kneed piper playing at the ensuing committal) and a funeral home service featuring ACDC music – these are amongst the more colourful memories of 23 years of funerals (I lost count many years ago.) I have buried close personal friends and family members, parish members that I loved dearly, many dozen people I didn't have a chance to meet in this life and countless people with the most interesting of life stories. Perhaps the most difficult span in my time in ministry was doing six funerals in nine days and I knew

five of the people quite well. I can't accurately describe the toll that took on me.

So, what have I learned? In no particular order: funerals are about two things – celebrating life and beginning the process of returning a person to the God who created them and loves them always; if a family asks you to tell a golf joke during the service of an avid golfer, you should do it; I can't do a veterans funeral without a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye; I've eaten far too many church lady sandwiches; never do a funeral without doing your best to find out who the person is, was and always will be; it is horrible to preside at the funeral of a young person – but necessary to help the family; never get closer than three feet to a grave (especially if it is snowing or raining); in general terms, funeral directors are some of the nicest people I have ever met; I no longer like the song "In the Garden" because I have heard it way too many times and the story behind the song

"Turn Turn Turn" is a great way to tie the secular and sacred together. (Now you didn't really expect me to tell you the story? Your homework is to find it for yourself. Google!)

Along the way some things stand out to me as good things that I have done. Using the prayer on page 602 of the BAS helps! I blurted out one day, "I don't know what heaven looks like, tastes like, smells like or feels like. But I know it is there." I have used it in most every funeral homily since because people tell me it makes them think. Be gentle at all times, but it is important to share with people what experience tells you will work and what won't work. Even if a family's request seems odd, difficult or completely out of left field, do it if you can because there is always a reason behind the request.

I'd been trying for more than a week to sit down and write this and have been going through a busy time with parish funerals. The words wouldn't find their way on to paper, until after a discussion this morning. A person who recently lost their wife and had given me the tremendous honour of doing her funeral told me that people keep telling him what a tremendous sense of "relationship" they had felt in her funeral. I can think of no higher compliment.

Twenty three years ago, I didn't much think that funerals would be important to ministry. I didn't expect the close personal relationships, the incredible entrance into people's lives at their most fragile.

I will end with something you perhaps might not expect. The most difficult part of doing funerals is that I don't get to grieve along with everyone else, at least not in the same way. While the priest, pastor, minister might look completely composed, in control of their emotions and focused on the unfolding liturgy; oft times they are crying inside a broken heart, touched to the core by acts of love and care and barely clinging to composure. When the day is done, in the silence of a private time of prayer, the life of each special person is placed before God, wrapped in the sense of honour in being entrusted with such a tender moment of goodbye.

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# Building a welcoming website



**MEDIA BYTES**  
**REV. MARTY LEVESQUE**

I have said it many times: a professionally designed and developed website is no longer an option for the church. It is a communication tool that is often overlooked, simply forgotten, or the old website from 2002 is left un-updated.

But with only two in ten Millennials attending church, while over 66% of Millennials still believe in God, we need to ask ourselves how to reach them with the radical love of God and invite them to join us on the transformational journey of faith.

The answer is, just as it was for St. Paul, is to be where they are, and that is the web and social, our Agora.

Now, we may not all be comfortable with a powerful web design tool like Wordpress that powers over 60 million websites worldwide, nor do we have someone in the congregation able to build us a website that inspires and attracts. Luckily, there are many tools to help the novice build out an attractive, informative site as the new front door of the church.

Squarespace.com, Weebly.com, Sitebuilder.com and Wix.com are all simple tools to help any novice and social media user to build an attractive welcoming site. The professionally designed templates allow the user to simply input their content and quickly publish a world-class site.

The only downside to these tools are that much like Facebook and Twitter, you do not own your content. If you stop paying our cancel the service you will lose all your data, pictures and history, just as if you deleted your Facebook account.

So back everything up.

If your church decides to go the way of a web builders' service this is something to always keep in mind. Yet, it does make it an ideal solution for the small local church who doesn't have the resources or volunteers to build and maintain a robust website.

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



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To register please contact: the Rev'd Kim Metelka at [revkim55@gmail.com](mailto:revkim55@gmail.com) or by calling or texting info to 519-980-4545.

# A cat's judgement

I really like cats. They are experts at knowing how to relax. Laying upon their favourite chair, sleepy eyes, opening to look at us. Although I must admit at times it appears as a critical eye is upon me.



**LAUREL PATTENDEN**

Is my cat casting judgement on me? Probably.

Like my cat, I too am pretty good at judgement. Judgements are made within a nanosecond without any effort. How about you? From that first moment that we experienced feeling "less than" someone else we began to judge. Perhaps it was in school when someone received a star on the board. Or you were considered "late at talking, walking or whatever" as a toddler and that label has followed you throughout the whole relationship you have with your parents or siblings. Judgements also begins the first time we feel "more than" some other. Maybe your town had a

neighbourhood deemed better and those homeowners carried a "better than thou" judgement on some others. Perhaps you lived there.

Judgement can be outward towards others. Judgement can be on an inward spiral directed at ourselves. Just as it can be directed to those who we think fit into the world better than us and to those who don't fit in as well. Judgement is time consuming and energy consuming. Judgement can briefly make us feel better and right. Therefore judgement becomes very addictive to our egos. Judgement separates. There is not a lot of room in judgement for love.

We all judge for whatever reasons but I think where the problem really exists is if we truly believe in our judgements. It is one thing to think in an instant that purple cannot be worn with red. But it is completely another to actually feel "right and better" than whoever is wearing those colours.

In the poem Warning by Jenny Joseph we celebrate, with the author, about the freedom to wear purple with a red hat. Why do we celebrate? It is because it goes against all "learned judgement" to wear those colours together.

Maybe the poem lets us take a breather from our constant need to find fault. I think Jenny Joseph was on to a good thing. Let's free ourselves from our own and others judgemental behaviour. Now we would have to let go of the buzz we get from being right!

It takes a lot of space and energy to store and hold onto years of giving and receiving judgement. We could call this space the "Judgement Files".

Imagine all the space in our thinking and emotions that would be freed up if we just pressed delete. Cold turkey on judgement. I know habits are hard to break and I will need something to divert myself from it.

Hmmmm... what if I sent out blessings instead of judgements?

Just the idea makes me feel lighter in a way and closer to God. What do you think? Shall we send ourselves and each other blessings?

Now that I think about that look my cat had for me I'm going to take it as a blessing. I think I was too quick to judge.

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



**Laurel Pattenden, A Cat's Judgement (detail)**

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With every blessing,

**Michael Thompson**  
 General Secretary,  
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