



A VOICE SOUND, CLEAR, CHARITABLE, REASONABLE
Archbishop Fred Hiltz on the election of the new Primate
Page 3



WHAT'S NEXT FOR HURON?
The diocese will elect its new bishop on October 26.
Page 2

A LOOK AT WHAT GOT LOST IN THE SHUFFLE
Rev. Canon Keith Nethery's take on Marriage Canon debate.
Page 16

HURON CHURCH NEWS

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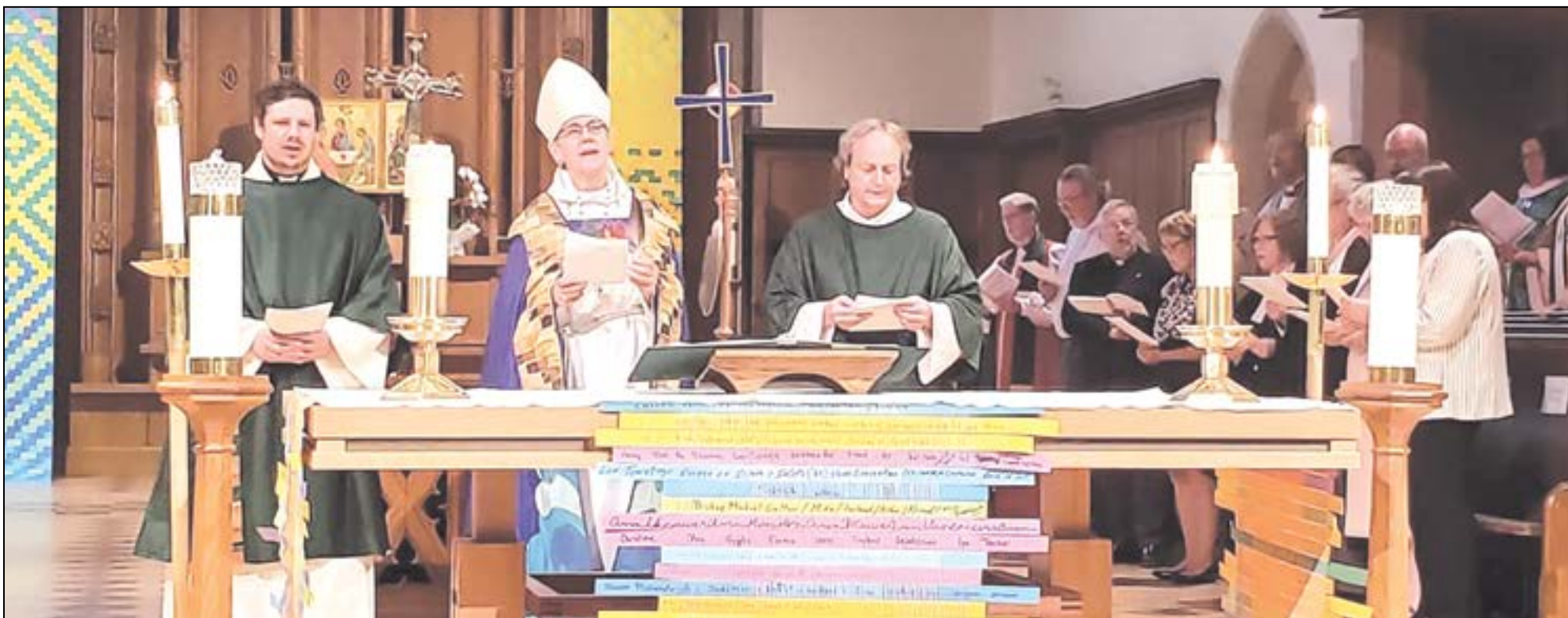


Photo: Tanya Phibbs

Installation service at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, July 16, 2019: Archbishop Linda Nicholls (centre) starts her role as the head of the National Church

What good can come out of Huron?

Linda Nicholls is the new Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

Linda Nicholls was installed fourteenth Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada on July 16 at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, BC.

The current bishop of the Diocese of Huron was elected Primate on July 13 at the 42nd session of the General Synod of

the Anglican Church of Canada. She succeeds Archbishop Fred Hiltz, who has served the Church as Primate since 2007.

Archbishop Nicholls is the first woman to head the Anglican Church of Canada and only the second woman in the entire Anglican Communion to lead a

national church. She is the first bishop of Huron elected as Primate.

Nicholls was elected among five candidates nominated earlier this year by the House of Bishops. More than 200 delegates – lay people, deacons and priests – casted their votes. She

was elected on the fourth ballot, with 64.2% of lay votes and 71.1% of votes among the clergy. Jane Alexander, bishop of the Diocese of Edmonton, was the only nominee remaining on the fourth ballot. She received 35.8% of laity votes and 28.9% of the votes of the clergy.

Archbishop Nicholls announced her resignation from her current diocese effective September 30. The Diocese of Huron will elect its new diocesan bishop on Saturday, October 26, 2019.

See Page 3: Interview with Archbishop Linda Nicholls

General Synod fails to approve changes to the Marriage Canon, Huron moves forward to permit same-sex marriages

General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada did not approve changes to the Marriage Canon to permit same-sex marriages in a close vote July 12 at its 42nd session held in Vancouver.

Second reading of the proposed changes needed 2/3 of "yes" votes in each order – bishops, clergy and laity – to make the Marriage Canon of the Anglican Church of Canada ap-

plicable "to all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage". It received the necessary majority among clergy and laity but failed to gain 2/3 support among bishops who voted with 62.2% for the proposal.

The resolution to change the Marriage Canon passed its first reading, also in a very close vote, at Synod's previous meeting in 2016.

Although the motion was defeated, some of the dioceses decided to move forward to permit same-sex marriages, as defined by the clauses of the document "A Word to the Church" adopted by the General Synod on July 11. The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls authorized the availability of marriage to same couples in the Diocese of Huron starting August 1, 2019.

General Synod: Pages 4-6



Photo: Milos Tosic

What now: the moment of silence after the vote on the changes to the Marriage Canon at 2019 General Synod



I HAVE CALLED *You* BY NAME

July 10-16, 2019

GENERAL SYNOD 2019 • VANCOUVER, B.C.

'I will not leave you nor forsake you'

Do you remember that feeling in the pit of your stomach when September began each year?



**ARCHBISHOP
LINDA
NICHOLLS**

As the summer ended and a new school year began we faced change – a new teacher, new classes, different classmates and new challenges. Some faced September with eager anticipation while others dreaded the adjustments ahead and most of us felt a mixture of fear, anxiety, hope and excitement.

I rather suspect that is how we are feeling as we face the coming months of changes. I will end my ministry as Bishop of Huron on September 30th. These almost three years as your diocesan bishop will remain in my heart as a treasured gift. You welcomed me so warmly; taught me about ministry in southwestern Ontario; and worked with me to face our challenges of living the Five Marks of Mission sustainably.

My excitement at the challenge of being the Primate is deeply tempered with the regret of leaving Huron. Many people have also shared their mixed emotions with me – regret that I am leaving so soon; joy in my call as Primate; and some apprehensions about the coming transition to another new bishop.



Another bit of Huron at the installation of our Primate: The Canada Cope and Mitre were made by Betty McLeod from the Diocese of Huron. She also did all the fabric art at the Cathedral. The Cope was commissioned by Michael Peers when he was Primate.

Whenever we face change we face letting go of something and entering into new experiences. We know we will face change in every season of our lives. Throughout my ministry I have held onto a verse of

scripture that was shared with me as I was leaving Canada to teach in India. A good friend gave me a locket with a verse inside from Deuteronomy. It was spoken by Moses to Joshua as the Israelites were

preparing to cross into the land promised to them, a land that Moses would not see. Facing uncertainties and fears Moses offers Joshua this promise from God – 'It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you: he will not leave (fail) you, nor forsake you' (Deuteronomy 31:8).

My locket with the words 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee' has long since disappeared – but the verse has remained as a touchstone for me. In times of challenge, despair or joy and even when I was not sure where God was in a situation, I held on to that promise, certain that if God was with me if I would listen and seek God.

So I bequeath this same verse to you, individually and as a diocese, as you move into a new time, a new 'land' with a new bishop. Both you and I go into the unknowns of that future with God beside us. For God is always with us ready to guide, encourage, forgive and challenge us as we daily live the faith that has been marked with a cross on our lives.

I ask for your prayers for me as I too enter a new 'land' and face the anxieties and uncertainties of change. My prayers will be with you as you discern the best person to serve as your bishop for the next part of your journey.

As we go into the future – let us both take a deep breath and remember that we do not go into that future alone. We go with God, who has promised us – 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

+ Linda

Episcopal election in Huron set for October 26

The Diocese of Huron will elect its new diocesan bishop on October 26 and the diocesan administrator from October 1 until the consecration (or installation) of the 14th Bishop of Huron will be the Most Reverend Colin Johnson, retired Metropolitan of Ontario.

These decisions were made at the meeting of the Diocesan Council on July 27, following the election of Huron's bishop Linda Nicholls as the new Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada at the General Synod session in Vancouver on July 13, 2019.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls shared with Diocesan Council her formal letter of resignation as the Bishop of Huron effective September 30, 2019. Diocesan Council appointed the Most Reverend Colin Johnson, retired Metropolitan of Ontario and Archbishop of Toronto and Moosonee as the Diocesan Administrator from October

Nominating process

Each member of the Diocesan Council nominates (by secret written ballot) up to three eligible persons. In order to qualify, a nominee has to receive minimum five votes from the Council members. The Provincial House of Bishops may provide additional three candidates. The nominees selected by the Diocesan Council who accept the nomination and the nominees added by the Provincial House of Bishops represent the nominees of the Electoral Procedures Committee.

The Constitution also allows for further nominations for candidates for election for bishop from any five members of Synod. Such nominations, along with the written consent of the nominee to stand for election, must be received by the Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese through Church House or email sent to vicechancellor@diohuron.org before October 16, 2019.

1, 2019. Archbishop Colin will have all the rights and privileges of a diocesan bishop during this time period.

In accordance with the Diocesan Constitution, the honorary secretaries of Synod gave notice of an Electoral Synod to be held on Saturday, October 26 at the

Cathedral Church of St. Paul in London.

The Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Christopher Sinal, convened an Electoral Procedures Committee whose members are: Rev. Canon Val Kenyon, Rev. Kristen Aikman, Rev. Robert Clifford, Mr. Scott Saunders, Ms. Gail

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We need a deeper humility to listen to one another

Archbishop Linda Nicholls gives an exclusive interview for the Huron Church News immediately after elected Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada



Photo: Milos Tosic

By Rev. Canon Keith Nethery

What do you have to say to the Anglican Church of Canada?

We have a unique opportunity to witness within the Anglican Communion to what it means to live together in faith. In a world of increasing polarization where differences become reasons to hate, we are a Church that gathers first around our call in Jesus Christ.

We have differences – language, culture, race, sexual orientation, liturgical preferences, theological preferences – and we could divide on any or all of these.

Yet, our beloved Church seeks a unity in God built on respect, dignity of every person, and the humility grounded in our need for each other as we each seek to be faithful to the Gospel and need to hear how God is speaking to each of us and to the whole Church. Despite the sometimes pain of our differ-

ences – we are family in Christ.

Over my years in ministry I have watched our Anglican family engage divisive issues and differences. We are learning ways to listen; to explore theological questions and to practice reconciliation. We are learning... We have much to share with others on this journey with us in the Anglican Communion and our ecumenical partners.

I look forward to deepening my knowledge of and care for every part of our beloved Church and seeing how God is being made known through our ministries. I also look forward to sharing with the wider Church how we, in Canada, live with our differences.

What do you want to say to the Diocese of Huron?

Thank you! Thank you for the privilege of serving as your diocesan bishop for almost three years. Thank you for your warmth in welcoming me into

your midst and your patience as I learned your history and needs. Being elected Primate carries with it the pain of leaving a ministry I love in your midst. Thank you for welcoming the stranger, opening your hearts and ministries as together we have plunged further into the Five Marks of Mission. Huron will always have a special place in my heart as I watch the next steps in your journey.

What does this mean in your personal journey with Jesus?

The process of being nominated for Primate and awaiting the election has taken me deeper in prayer and into a new place in offering myself in ministry. I wrestled with personal choices alongside the needs of the diocese of Huron, alongside the needs of the wider Church and the possibility that I have gifts to offer. The vulnerability of the process has drawn me closer to Jesus and renewed my practice

of Ignatian prayer, seeking that place of deep consolation and peace that is beyond any particular outcome. I am grateful for that renewal as it will be needed in the journey ahead.

Is this a church hopelessly divided or can you see a light of reconciliation?

I do not believe the Church is hopelessly divided. I am aware that each of us has received and sees the gospel through the particular ways in which it has been shared in our context. Instantaneous global communication and migration means that we hear multiple expressions of the gospel all around us. The way forward is through building relationships grounded in our shared call in Christ. My experiences in my D.Min. studies, in ecumenical dialogue, on the Primate's Task Group and in the Bishops in Dialogue have shown me that we need a deeper humility to listen to one another; recognize the marks of the Spirit in the other; and joyfully worship and be at God's table together.

The fullness of reconciliation is in the future but the first steps are being practiced now and are bearing fruit. We have a unique opportunity to practice these steps of reconciliation in the Anglican Church of Canada as we are in such a journey with our Indigenous partners in the gospel and with others who have made Canada their home.

What would you like to say to Fred Hiltz (besides help!!)?

My first words would be deep gratitude for his leadership and profoundly pastoral care and

love for our Church – our whole Church – in all of its diversity. Fred modelled for me and the Church the heart of a pastor; the wisdom of the Spirit; and the courage of Christ in his primal ministry. My next words would be – “Enjoy the deserved rest and refreshment of retirement – but let me have your cell number on speed dial!!”

Reflect on what this means to you personally?

I am humbled by the confidence of the General Synod in electing me as Primate and aware of the weight of the office. I am aware that I enter this office as the first woman to hold it in Canada and know that this is another step in the awareness of the gifts that women bring to ordained ministry.

There is a sacrificial nature to primate ministry as it removes the bishop from the joys and challenges of directly working with clergy and laity in parishes in a particular area. Both Trent-Durham, Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Huron have allowed me to share in the exercise of episcopal ministry in ordinations, confirmations, baptisms, church dedications and in deconsecrations.

I will miss that direct connection – even as I take new joy in seeing the ministries of parishes and dioceses across the country. It will mean likely more travelling – which is an aspect that I have yet to discuss with Bagheera (my cat!!)

(For the full interview visit: <https://diohuron.org/we-need-a-deeper-humility-to-listen-to-one-another/>)

A voice sound, clear, charitable, reasonable...

Archbishop Fred Hiltz on our new Primate and challenges facing the head of the Anglican Church of Canada

I rejoice in Linda Nicholls' election as our new Primate as does the entire Church, says Archbishop Fred Hiltz in the exclusive interview for the Huron Church News following the installation of the new head of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The former Primate praises Archbishop Linda's broad view of the Church. She has “a great appreciation for the every-widening circles of our Anglican Church” – in Nicholls' case a quality based on her deep knowledge of the Anglican tradition.

“She knows what it means to be Anglican”, says Hiltz pointing out that Nicholls also knows “how to articulate her vision both in spoken and written from in a way that is accessible to people, which will be very important in her new role.”

Hiltz's twelve years at the helm of the Anglican Church of Canada has led him to believe that Primate's main responsibil-



Photo: Milos Tosic

Primate's role is to be the focus of unity for the entire Church

ity is to be a focus of unity for the Church.

“A bishop is called to be the focus of unity in his or her diocese”, says Hiltz, “and when you are called to be Primate, you really are called to be the focus of unity for the entire Church and that can be pretty daunting at times. Linda has the gifts to be able to exercise that ministry.”

The Archbishop's faith in his successor is based on his appre-

ciation of Nicholls' contribution in the National House:

“Her voice is sound, it is clear, it is charitable, it is reasonable, and she has a great way of being able to work with people across differences and that is so important.”

Another quality Linda Nicholls brings to her new role is that she is well respected in the Anglican Communion through her ecumenical work.

“She's got a good name in the wider circles of the Church”, states the former Primate.

When it comes to the challenges facing the new Primate, Hiltz is certain that people are still pondering outcomes of conversations regarding the Marriage Canon.

“I think the move to amend the Canon will never go away; people really want to see that happen”, says Hiltz. He is also quick to point out that the ultimate outcome of General Synod was not that the amendment to the Marriage Canon failed in order of bishops, but that bishops “sent a message to the Church through Synod saying that we are living in a new reality leaving room for bishops and synods to exercise what is defined as a local option.”

It is important that this message is sent across the Church, says Hiltz, and Linda Nicholls will be able to do just that.

“I truly hope that her prima-

cy won't be overshadowed or overburdened by this one issue”, concludes Archbishop Hiltz while pointing out to a different challenge that could dominate the life of the Anglican Church of Canada during Nicholls' tenure as Primate.

“General Synod itself is at the point in history – and it happens every so many years in the Church – where it has to refocus its own ministry”, explains the Archbishop referring to the fact that some dioceses are not able to meet their apportionment to General Synod to the extent they once could. Going forward with the process of strategic planning will involve a high degree of consultations with dioceses and the Council of the North and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

“That is going to be a big challenge, but I think it is the challenge she will readily and skilfully embrace”, says Hiltz.

Davor Milicevic

Intense and demanding, yet celebratory, honest and promising

General Synod 2019 as seen by a Huron participant



Photo: Milos Tosic

Walking together, weeping together: embracing youth representatives after July 12 vote on a motion to amend the Anglican Church of Canada's marriage canon

By Ven. Tim Dobbin

Those expecting General Synod 2019 in Vancouver to be emotionally charged would not have been disappointed.

There were three big ticket items on the agenda – the second reading of a motion to amend the Marriage Canon, the movement towards self-determination for our indigenous sisters and brother, and the election of a Primate – any one of which on its own would have generated enough firepower for a Synodical gathering.

Your delegates Sydney Brouillard-Coyle, Rev. Rosalyn Elm, Canon Marilyn Malton, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Ven. Tanya Phibbs, Canon Paul Rathbone, Paul Townshend, Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend, Pam Walton and I experienced something of a roller-coaster over the days Synod met (July 10-16).

Calling for patience

Synod opened on Wednesday evening with a beautifully crafted liturgy in the superbly appointed Christchurch Cathedral, four blocks east of the Conference Centre where proceedings took place. Our National Indigenous (now) Archbishop Mark MacDonald reminded us of the importance of God's resurrected presence in our midst in whatever we are living – 'if God doesn't show up, we are toast...' Our response to Jesus' resurrection is to grow together as communities of disciples, practising radical openness to one another, being renewed in love for all of God's creation and recovering the true glory, power and strength of the resurrection.

Thursday morning opened with Morning Prayer together, followed by a number of housekeeping matters. Our now former Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz delivered his final primatial address, in which he laid out the priorities we would be addressing at Synod: theological education; intentional discipleship – or 'living and sharing a Jesus-shaped life'; reconciliation; social justice issues, including human trafficking; care for creation; and ecumenism.

He called for patience and respect for one another as we continued our conversation on changes to the Marriage Canon. He concluded with his reflections on the role and requisite gifts of the next Primate, which includes the casting of a fresh strategic plan for the national Church to carry us beyond 2022. For his final prayer for us, he drew on Paul's outpouring of love to the church at Philippi, 'I thank my God every time I remember you...' (1.3-7).

The emerging Indigenous Church

After lunch, Canon Martin Brokenleg and Bishop Lynne McNaughton led us through a process of mutual invitation and reviewed how to engage in respectful dialogue in preparation for agenda items on Friday.

We watched the compelling and challenging documentary produced by the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice entitled 'Doctrine of Discovery: stolen lands, strong hearts.' It led into the former Primate's heart-rending and comprehensive apology for the spiritual harm inflicted on indigenous peoples by the Canadian Angli-

can church. The floor of Synod fell silent. Indigenous leaders thanked and embraced Archbishop Fred and undertook to respond to the apology before the conclusion of Synod.

The fruit of Thursday's preparatory work was evident on Friday as we gathered in the morning to respond to Resolution A050-R1 which dealt with amendments to the Canon XXII (National Indigenous Ministry). The proposed changes provided for greater self-determination for indigenous members of the Canadian church.

We listened to a number of speakers including the Chairperson of the Anglican Indigenous Network, Bishop Te Kitohi Wiremu Pikaahu from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia before Archbishop Mark laid out the four key areas for the emerging indigenous church: forming disciples and strengthening communities; governance; resources and stewardship; and valuing and equipping youth.

The motion passed easily. Judith Moses (daughter of the late Leona Moses of Six Nations) from the Vision Keepers, a group formed in July 2016 to play an advisory role on the national church's implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and how we live into the Fourth Mark of Mission, presented their findings.

'A Word to the Church'

The buoyant mood carried into the afternoon as we considered amendments to the resolution to amend the marriage canon which passed by a slender margin in 2016. Essentially the amendments provided for

the holding of different understandings of Christian marriage and for the capacity of indigenous Anglicans to come to their own decisions in their own time about the marriage canon.

This amendment and a statement of affirmations ratified by the Council of General Synod passed easily (89.6%). Perhaps this was one of the reasons, the failure to pass of Resolution A052-R2 to amend Canon XXI to extend the definition of marriage to include same gender partners came as a shock for many at Synod. Because the proposed change was to doctrine, the canons require a 'super-majority' (2/3rds) in each of the three houses (laity, clergy and bishops) across two successive synods.

Marriage Canon vote

General Synod 2019 was considering the second reading. As you are likely aware, the resolution carried easily in the houses of laity (80.9%) and clergy (73.2%), but did not carry in the house of bishops (62.2%) – 23 bishops were in favour, 14 were against and 2 abstained.

The floor of Synod once again fell silent when the results were flashed up on the screen. The silence was almost immediately punctured by the heart-rending cries of a youth representative who fled the meeting hall in significant distress. The pervading mood seemed to be one of shock and sadness. There was an attempt to move a motion in response to the result authorising clergy across the country to preside at same-gender marriage. Another delegate reminded the house that 'our children are crying' after which the Primate adjourned proceedings for the night. Members of the house embraced youth representatives who were standing arms linked and singing outside the hall.

The reaction of the media and on social media was swift and in many instances harsh. It likely reflected the considerable grief, pain and disappointment many in Vancouver were feeling. The temptation was to point a finger at the house of bishops.

'We are walking together'

The charisms of the episcopate include being a focus for unity and upholding the faithful teachings of the church as revealed. It was obvious that they as a body were divided and struggling to discern how best to respond in light of the reality that over 75% of all delegates present had voted in favour of the Resolution. Their desire to find a way forward together was clear and evident. They abandoned their scheduled presentation during the primatial election the following day

in order to listen and to speak openly with one another about their differences.

That conversation continued after the close of proceedings at 10.30 on Saturday evening, over breakfast and again over lunch on Monday. The fruit of their spirited engagement with one another was a statement, which Archbishop Fred and Archbishop-elect Linda presented to the house on Monday afternoon. The house expressed 'profound sorrow' for the 'deep hurt' their decision had occasioned the LGBTQ2S+ community across the world. Whilst acknowledging they are not of one mind, they affirmed that:

"We are walking together in a way which leaves room for individual dioceses and jurisdictions of our church to proceed with same-sex marriage according to their contexts and convictions, sometimes described as 'local option'."

The bishops also affirmed 'the inherent right of Indigenous peoples and communities to spiritual self-determination in their discernment and decisions in all matters.' How this statement is worked out on the ground in Huron remains to be seen. Council of General Synod will also be reviewing some of the structures under which we currently make decisions in our national life, which as Bishop Jane Alexander observed may need revisiting in light of our present context.

Primatial election

We reconvened on Saturday morning at Christchurch Cathedral for Eucharist at which Bishop Lynne McNaughton preached, reminding us the charisms of a true shepherd and his/her capacity to confer names.

The Primatial election followed with Archbishop Linda being elected on the fourth ballot with majorities of 64.2% amongst laity and 71.1% amongst clergy. It was a joy to witness the Synod gathering recognising and affirming God's call on Archbishop Linda's life to serve as the 14th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. As your Huron delegation, our feelings were somewhat mixed as we acknowledged that it would mean losing as our Diocesan a gifted, dedicated and transformative leader.

Synod reconvened on Saturday evening and passed resolutions encouraging dioceses and parishes to curb purchase of single-use plastics and reduce our reliance upon them. We adopted the Season of Creation in the church as 'an annual time of prayer, education and action from September 1 – October 4, and we encouraged use of UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We also listened to pre-



Photo: Milos Tosic

General Synod delegates at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver

sentations from the Anglican Foundation and PWRDF.

Thank you Fred

Delegates on Sunday morning fanned out across Vancouver as local parishes welcomed us at Sunday liturgies and watered and fed us afterwards. Provincial caucuses met in the afternoon to elect delegates to the Council of General Synod before we returned to listen to presentations and then pass resolutions concerning the General Synod Pension and Benefit plans.

Delegates moved upstairs for a farewell banquet at which a number of speakers paid tribute to the faithful, dedicated and

compassionate leadership of our outgoing Primate Archbishop Fred Hiltz over 12 years. Guests included ECUSA's Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and ELCIC's National Bishop Susan Johnson.

It was a time of laughter and tears as the warmth, concern, thoughtfulness, diligence, wisdom, accessibility, humility and gentleness of Fred (as he likes to be known) was celebrated.

The evening concluded with Archbishop Mark MacDonald leading those who were still on their feet in a rousing Gospel Jamboree.

Monday shone bright and clear, even as many of us were feeling the effects of the intensity of the preceding days. Resolutions were passed on the restructuring of our communications teams, including a revised strategy for the Anglican Journal, on endorsing an indigenous approach to relationship with the land and on memorialising both former Primate Michael Peir's apology to Indigenous Anglicans on August 6 1993 and the corresponding National Native Covenant proposed in response to the apology on April 3 1994.

We heard too moving testimony from Archbishop Suheil Duwani of work being undertaken in the Diocese of Jerusalem to promote peace and reconciliation. During the afternoon, we listened to the riveting testimony of a woman caught up in human trafficking before we passed a resolution on urging us to engage more fully with this issue and modern slavery. Later in the afternoon, we endorsed the WCC's Arusha call to discipleship and the Anglican Safe Church Charter and

Protocols, and affirmed inter-faith and ecumenical initiatives during the evening.

The installation of our new Primate

Our concluding day was packed tight with remaining agenda items. We found time in the morning to reflect in our table groups on the impact of the vote on the marriage canon, before approving various rites for use in the Canadian Church, including revisions to the Daily Office. We were also able to shoe horn in a resolution from our youth representatives on care for creation – Sydney Brouillard-Coyle played a significant role in their crafting and the passage.

We heard a report from a delegation to the Anglican Consultative Council which met earlier this year in Hong Kong, before Indigenous Elders responded to the former Primate's apology.

The 41st session of General Synod concluded with the soon-to-be installed Primate's concluding remarks in which she acknowledged that as the first female Primate in Canada

she was honouring and standing on the shoulders of many outstanding women in church leadership who had gone before her.

The highlight of the day was the installation of our new Primate, led into the Cathedral by an entourage from Huron before being cleansed in a moving indigenous rite. The Director of Mission in the Anglican Communion Office, the Rev. Canon John Kafwanka preached on the power of witnessing through love in action, especially those with whom we may be in broken relationship.

It was joyous and hope-filled conclusion to what will be remembered as a significant moment in the councils of the Canadian Anglican church – emotionally charged, intense and demanding at times, and yet celebratory, honest and promising as together we continue to do our best to discern and live into God's future for us and for the world God loves so much.

Ven. Tim Dobbin is the Archdeacon of Brant/Norfolk.

Huron permits same-sex marriages

The full text of Archbishop Linda Nicholls' letter to the diocese dated July 18 authorizing the availability of marriage to same-sex couples in the Diocese of Huron starting August 1, 2019.

At the recent General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada members from across Canada gathered to worship, pray, listen, discern and decide how our life will proceed. The work of this Synod included many significant decisions. With joy, the first steps towards a self-determining Indigenous Church were passed, including the appointment of the National Indigenous Bishop as a metropolitan and official membership in General Synod by representatives of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. We heard a deep and profound apology from Primate Fred Hiltz for spiritual harm to indigenous peoples. We approved liturgical revisions and additions to broaden our worship. We approved a new collect for reconciliation with the Jewish people. We affirmed our commitment to addressing issues around climate change. We set in motion a strategic review of the work of General Synod to meet our changing context and needs. And the Synod elected me as the next Primate for the Church – a humbling honour and challenge.

We also returned to the question of the proposed change to Canon XXI on Marriage to permit the marriage of same-sex partners which has been discussed extensively in the



Local support for same-sex marriages: Holy Trinity, Lucan was one of many churches to have their voice heard after the General Synod vote.

Church since 2013. It narrowly passed the required majorities at General Synod 2016 and was considered in each Provincial Synod and Diocese over the last three years.

It has been clear for some time that the Church is divided on this issue with deeply held convictions for reasons of theology priorities; scriptural interpretation; or community needs. Knowing how deeply the pain would be felt by either decision in 2019 the Council of General Synod offered to General Synod 'A Word to the Church' of affirmations of how we can live together whatever the outcome. This statement was affirmed by General Synod with a very strong majority.

However, the amendment itself failed at its second reading. It reached the 2/3's majority required in the clergy and laity but not in the House of Bishops. If the vote had been assessed on the basis of the members of General Synod as a whole the overall majority was 75%.

I know that our diocese is not of one mind on this issue. However I am aware that the majority strongly supported the blessing of same-sex civil marriages (over 72% of clergy and laity) and have indicated to me their strong support for equal marriage in the church. The pain of the failure of the amendment has been deeply felt and heard. In 'A Word to the Church' the General Synod affirmed the pos-

sibility of 'local option' for those dioceses where affirming equal marriage has been discerned as consistent with the current Canon XXI. The House of Bishops issued a statement that affirmed, "We are walking together in a way that leaves room for individual dioceses and jurisdictions of our church to proceed with same-sex marriage according to their contexts and convictions, sometimes described as 'local option.'"

Given the strong support in Huron for this possibility, as of August 1, 2019, I am authorizing the availability of marriage to same-sex couples as a pastoral local option under the following guidelines:

1. Same-sex marriages will be permitted in parishes where the priest and the Parish Council have considered this matter and agreed that the parish will do so.
2. Any parish desiring to do so will write a letter to the Bishop requesting permission - signed by the priest (rector/incumbent) and the Wardens and including a description of the consideration taken by the Parish Council.
3. No parish is required to offer same-sex marriage in their location.
4. Clergy already have provision by canon to refuse to perform a marriage for reasons

of conscience.

As this is a pastoral local option it is at the discretion of the diocesan bishop. It is an option that I believe is appropriate for the Diocese of Huron at this time and is supported by many, though not all, in the diocese. I am however aware that I will be the Bishop of Huron for only a short time longer. This may be a consideration in the discernment of the next Bishop of Huron. I pray that the diocese will recognize that the work of the bishop is much broader than this issue.

Our Church has a wonderful diversity in so many areas of its life. That diversity also leads to tensions but I can promise you that the bishops, clergy and laity of our church are committed to living together with love and grace as we continue to learn from one another and seek a path that honours God.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls

'A Word to the Church'

Read the entire document: <https://gs2019.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/A-Word-to-the-Church-Considering-the-proposed-amendment-of-Marriage-Canon-XXI.pdf>

'We were so full of our own self-importance'

General Synod passes Indigenous self-determination measures in nearly unanimous vote. In his last act as the head of the Anglican Church of Canada Archbishop Fred Hiltz issues a public apology to First Peoples for spiritual harm done by the Church. Mark MacDonald given the title of the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop



National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald receives a metropolitanical cross upon the formation of a self-determining Indigenous Anglican church.

Photo: Milos Tosic

Diocesan Animator for Truth and Reconciliation

Bishop Nicholls appointed the Rev. Rosalyn Elm as the Diocesan Animator for Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries effective June 1, 2019. Here's Rosalyn's first address to the diocese:

"She:koli My name is Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm. I am a priest in the Diocese of Huron serving the Parishes of Six Nations, Her Majesty's Royal Chapel and as Truth and Reconciliation Animator. The position of Animator captures what it means to follow ministry of Jesus Christ and the work of the Spirit for G-d's mission for the world.

As Animator for Truth and Reconciliation, I will assist in forming encouraging and sustaining engagement with indigenous communities and non-indigenous communities within the diocese and across southwestern Ontario. Especially working with Lene Lanape Algonkian Iroquoian council, and Bridge-builders here in the Diocese of Huron. Specifically, this includes providing understanding and paths of implementation to the TRC calls to Action UNDRIP and response to justice issues.

Including education and strategy for inclusion of all peoples through understanding the effects of race and privilege. Including looking at anti-racism initiatives and training.

The Gospel provides for us a framework to live into the promise of a New Kingdom in which God's people are inspired to work with the abundance that has been provided to bring forth new and good creations and a place for his people to flourish.

In this way we are all Animators in God's Kingdom."

From Primate's apology

I confess our sin in failing to acknowledge that as First Peoples living here for thousands of years, you had a spiritual relationship with the Creator and with the Land. We did not care enough to learn how your spirituality has always infused your governance, social structures and family life.

I confess our sin in demonizing Indigenous spiritualities, and in belittling the traditional teachings of your Grandmothers and Grandfathers preserved and passed on through the elders.

I confess the sin of our arrogance in dismissing Indigenous spiritualities and disciplines as incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus, and insisting that there is no place for them in Christian Worship. (...)

I confess our sin in robbing your children and youth of the opportunity to know their spiritual ancestry and the great wealth of its wisdom and guidance for living in a good way with the Creator, the land and all peoples.

For such shameful behaviours, I am very sorry. We were so full of our own self-importance. We followed "too much the devices and desires of our own hearts" (Confession, p. 4, Book of Common Prayer). We were ignorant. We were insensitive. We offended you. We offended the Creator.

As we look to you today, we have come to acknowledge our need to repent. (...)

With humility, I ask our Church to turn to the Creator seeking guidance and steadfastness of will in our efforts to help heal the spiritual wounds we inflicted. Let us commit ourselves to learning how traditional Indigenous practices contribute to healing and to honour them.

From the Elders' response

We understand and respect the deep meaning of this Apology and the commitment and honour with which it was made. Those of us who have had the pleasure to work with and to know Your Grace, appreciate beyond what words can convey, that you have heard and understood us. We are touched to the depths of our souls by your words and commitments.

We must clarify, however, that no single statement of 'acceptance' is possible on behalf of Indigenous peoples in this land. We respect the right for each individual to ponder your words and we hope that those who are at the stage of their healing to accept and forgive, will do so in the privacy of their homes and communities. Trauma can easily be reignited by simple cues in day-to-day life. Anger, despair, hurt and humiliation can easily reappear, often without warning, even when one has embraced forgiveness. But we sincerely hope that your words will provide comfort, and help convey God's grace and love to those affected by spiritual harm and by the Church's role in creating this harm.

This is an historic week in the life and future of our Church. We did it together! We are partners in change. It was our finest moment as a Church. As a fully recognized self-determining people within the Anglican Church of Canada, the Apology is timely in reinforcing that the Church is walking side-by-side with us as we continue our spiritual journey for healing.

(For the full texts go to: <https://www.anglican.ca/news/an-apology-for-spiritual-harm/30024511/>
<https://gs2019.anglican.ca/atsynod/a-message-from-the-elders/>)

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starting Oct. 19, 2019 with Mr. Jeremy Frost

Upcoming events

Leading the Prayers of the People

Oct. 26, 2019 with Rev'd Matthew Kieswetter

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BE ANGLICAN IN THE WORLD!



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

A place to worship and a gathering place for community functions

Holy Trinity, Cambridge marks its 175th anniversary with festivities throughout this year.



Photo: Huron Archives

One hundred and seventy five years of history: Trinity Church in Cambridge, Ontario has always been a leader in important community projects and ventures.

Festivities for celebration of Trinity's 175th anniversary started January 1 and will end Dec. 31, 2019.

We have highlighted many activities throughout this year. On Sunday, October 6, Archbishop Linda Nicholls will be coming for the Anniversary of our Consecration Day, a major celebration day.

Looking back

In those days, it came to pass that a certain man arose from his home in Pennsylvania and went to Shades Mills situated in the United Province of Canada along the Grand River. The man's name was Absalom Shade.

This Absalom took to managing lands in North Dumfries

for another whose name was William Dickson.

There, Shade and Dickson became prominent in the development of this prosperous land flowing with "milk and honey". Indeed, are not Shade and Dickson Streets, named to commemorate their industrious work, not so called until this very day? And have not several famous hockey players made their mark at Shade Street Arena before graduating to the NHL?

Being led by the Spirit, these men made bequests which include Trinity Church, Trinity Park and Trinity Cemetery. Now Bishop John Strachan, the first Anglican bishop of Toronto who is known as the political bishop because of his involvement in developing education for common people, founding the University of Toronto, and for his influence in propagating ideas that were later enshrined in the Constitution of Canada, consecrated Trinity in 1844.

Serving the wider community

For thirty-two years, Reverend Michael Boomer, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, served as rector to guide his constituents in their daily lives and spiritual matters.

Much petitioning, under the direction of Dickson and Shade, had been required for the granting of a minister to Trinity Church; further the

two men donated funds and land for the erection of the first church building which, although altered over the years, still remains.

For 175 years Anglicans and others have had a refuge from the world, a place to worship and thank God for his great mercies, and a gathering place for community functions. During its history, much effort was put into the welfare of all citizens of the city of Galt, named after John Galt of the Canada Company.

In 1973 four communities were amalgamated into Cambridge by the Provincial Government. Today that history is evidenced by Trinity's leadership in such projects as Trinity Community Table, Monica House, and other important community ventures. Trinity's wealth of stained glass windows and classic interior have attracted film makers to utilize the settings for historical programs such as TV's "Murdoch Mysteries".

God's intention is that others should look to His people and observe that they are honest, fair and respectful in their dealings with everyone. As well, His people endeavour to look after not only each other, but for all citizens in the community, and exhibit concern for others with problems, especially those who have special needs or require assistance.

Looking ahead

For 175 years citizens of the community have observed parishioners at Trinity exhibiting the type of lifestyle and community involvement that make them wonder, "What is so special about these people? Could it be their spiritual lives? Maybe we should look into this ourselves!"

At the end of the Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist at Trinity, parishioners are still asked to seek God's guidance in matters to which they have been led "to love and serve the LORD".

Although their spiritual ancestors have died and are buried with their fathers, their legacy lives on in the entity which is known as Trinity Anglican Church, Cambridge.

Jamie Smith



Serving the Lord 175 years

The oldest Anglican Church in Huron County celebrates 170 years

Parishioners of Trinity St. James, Bayfield say good-bye to their rector Rev. Dr. Wayne Malott

In 1849 The Reverend Robert Francis Campbell, after 15 years of galloping around on horseback establishing schools and divine Anglican worship in the Huron Tract, settled in Bayfield and established the first Anglican congregation in the village.

In 1855 construction had begun on the historic Georgian Style building that is still serving the area Anglican parishioners today. Not only is it the oldest church in Bayfield but the oldest Anglican Church in Huron County. It was built of bricks created in the brick yards located along the Bayfield River.

One can see the different shades of bricks, indicating that the walls were probably built in stages," explained Ralph Smith, in his book "Historical Sketch of Trinity Anglican Church in Bayfield, Ontario, published in 1999 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the church.

Just like the laying of these bricks the history of the church continues to be built in stages. Earlier this year Trinity was



With love and grateful thanks to Wayne and Lori

amalgamated with their sister church, St. James' Middleton a congregation also rich with its own history. These two parishes have come together under the Trinity St. James Anglican Church banner.

As restructuring continues in the Diocese of Huron it was announced that Rev. Wayne Malott would be moved on to the next phase of his career, Trinity and St. James having been his

first independent position as a rector.

He presided over his first service on Dec. 1, 2011 and the thought was he would work in the community for two years. However, a divine match between congregations and Wayne became evident and he was officially inducted as rector on Sept. 7, 2014.

On May 26, he delivered his last services, and performed

his first dual Baptism, to a full house during which much laughter, spontaneous applause and quite a few tears were shared.

Amid the tumult the congregation and friends in the community gathered together on the evening of May 27 to celebrate the 170th anniversary of the church in Bayfield as well as to bid a fond farewell to Rev. Wayne, and his wife, Lori.

In attendance were volunteers and Bayfield Lions' Club representatives who are great supporters of the Bayfield Food Bank (Feed My Sheep). This essential service provided for a number of families and individuals in the community is based at Trinity St. James.

Leaders from Bayfield Guiding were also present as members of the Guiding movement have been using Trinity St. James as their meeting place for more than 40 years.

Organized by the church wardens, Geordie Palmer and Paul Spittal, many, many hands worked together to make the evening a success.

The chicken dinner was prepared and served by John Pounder. Larry Dalton made the gift presentation to the departing couple on behalf of the congregation, a lovely canvas print, depicting both church buildings and a quintessential Bayfield scene, created by local photographer, Dianne Brandon.

Throughout the weekend events one recurring theme shone through, Trinity St. James is more than just a few layers of bricks from which to worship. It is an integral part of the community it serves and time only strengthens its mortar.

Text and Photos:

Melody Falconer-Pounder



Trinity Bayfield

The joy of Bishop Linda's visit to Southern Trinity



Christ Church Colchester: Choir members with the Bishop, Rev. Hilton Gomes and Margaret Newman (layreader)

On Sunday, June 16 we had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Linda to Eucharist services at St Andrew's at 9.30am with Rev. Stan Fraser and later at Christ Church, Colchester with Rev. Hilton Gomes where Ian Arthur McMahon was confirmed and Avery Stewart received into our Anglican Church.

The Bishop talked to us about the importance of our baptism promises which confirm our relationship with a Trinitarian God.

She said that the relationship of all Three in One is important. She sees this relationship between God our Creator, Jesus as our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier as one of love. It is this same relationship of the love that "energizes our Church Community", stated the Bishop.

It is also about justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. Adam and Eve gave up that relationship; Jesus came to heal it

and to send God's Holy Spirit to live with us. As a result, generation after generation has been encouraged to live in relationship with God.

She continued to show us that the "Holy Spirit helps us all to figure out how to live with those we don't know – people of other races and different gender so that we can show the love of Jesus in our lives wherever we work or study.

Bishop Linda urged us to read the important questions in the renewing of our faith, stated in the Baptismal Covenant once a week. They included: continuing in the apostles teaching and fellowship; resisting evil; sharing the good news of the gospel because some people have never heard it; serving all people with respect; striving for justice for all; and safeguarding God's creation.

Knowing what we have to do, we can be joyful people who can face difficult times, content to

belong to Christ's family, said Bishop Linda. It is the committed Christians who go into disaster areas to bring hope, help, compassion and love.

We are never alone, when we have a relationship with God and have the hope stronger than death, warned Bishop Linda. She concluded by saying, "Wherever you are, you are called to engage in life and reveal the Spirit of Jesus with joy."

During the lovely lunch and afterwards, Bishop Linda answered questions and revealed the kind of activities she does each week.

She said she loved meeting people and she has enjoyed driving to ninety-nine different parishes during her first year in the Diocese of Huron. We all felt encouraged by her openness and her delight at being with all of us that day.

Jane Buttery

Church and community supporting each other



On Monday, July 29th, Christ Church Anglican, Markdale, welcomed the Community Foundation Grey Bruce for the presentation of \$1,500.00 in support of Music on the Green.

This series of free, outdoor concerts each summer Sunday afternoon, is arranged by the music director, Gerard Willmes, assisted by a team of volunteers who do everything from advertising to setting up the tent and stage for the performers early Sunday mornings.

Chapman's Ice Cream of Markdale donate tasty treats for the audience.

There is something for every musical taste, folk to jazz to light classical. Audience members bring their lawn chairs and set up in the shade of the tall trees, with (hopefully) blue skies and fluffy white clouds above. Of course, in the case of rain, the concert moves inside the church.

Many thanks to the Foundation for this generous grant and to Chapman's for the treats.

Chris Griffin

Tuesday Talks at Holy Trinity, Lucan



Organizer Heather Smith with presenter paramedic Ben Rees holding CPR manikins at Holy Trinity Parish in Lucan Ontario. Ben discussed basic first aid for bleeding, choking, strokes and CPR.

Holy Trinity Church in Lucan was a hub of activity in the month of May. The church's hall was filled with parishioners and members of the community who had come out Tuesday evenings to hear guest speakers present on varying topics.

Parishioner Heather Smith came up with the idea and pitched it to the church's council who unanimously supported the idea. "If our church can be a place to inform people on

important topics, I'm all for it," said Holy Trinity's Rector Matthew Martin.

Heather, who was inspired after hearing about similar talks in London, thought the small town of Lucan could benefit as well. "The idea of offering weekly information sessions would not only provide a social opportunity for members of Holy Trinity, but also allow the church to provide outreach to our community."

The talks were a huge success as people learned about gardening, first-aid, wellness offerings in the community, and fraud and identity theft which was presented by OPP officer Chad Murray.

Initially Heather thought 15 or 20 people would attend, but her expectations were exceeded. "I was so pleased with the number of attendees. By the final session we had 45 people and had to keep putting out chairs. The presenters did an amazing job. They were all very informative and passionate about their topics."

In receiving a lot of positive feedback Heather plans to run more talks in the fall:

"Soon after the sessions were over I had people asking when the next Tuesday Talks would be. People were highly engaged, asking questions, and walking away with valuable information. The experience was appreciated by both the attendees and the presenters. I think this is an initiative we will offer again."

Amanda Jackman

Huron's Rich Jones on the Canadian Compass Rose Society board of directors



The Venerable Rich Jones

The Canadian Compass Rose Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Archdeacon Richard A. Jones as the newest member of the national board of directors.

Archdeacon Jones and his wife, Heather, currently live in Woodstock, Ontario. Richard served in three parishes in the Diocese of Toronto before moving in 1993 to

the Diocese of Huron where he served in Tillsonburg and Woodstock and was part of Huron's congregational coaching team.

After "retiring" in 2011 Richard has covered three interims, served as the territorial Archdeacon for Brant/Norfolk and Oxford, and continues to record the weekly radio show, "Oh for Heaven's Sake", with the Reverend Dr. Stephen Hendry.

The Compass Rose Society is the fund-raising organization which supports the work of the Archbishop of Canterbury around the world. Established in 1994, the society has helped support hospitals in Gaza, eye clinics in Ghana, theological schools in Africa, Aids relief in South Africa, a green initiative in poor nations, and many more projects which the Archbishop has chosen over the years.

The Diocese of Huron and Huron College have memberships in the Society. Memberships are available to individuals and organizations. Groups of people can form Compass Rose Society chapters in their parish or deanery.

Richard sees his role as director as a challenge to increase awareness of the Compass Rose Society and invite people to get involved in this important and life changing work of our Anglican Communion. If you would like more information on becoming a member or forming a chapter in your area you can contact Richard at: rra-jones@execulink.com.

St. James Westminster goes above and beyond in supporting housing projects

Two success stories made possible by the efforts of St. James' Outreach Committee



St. James Westminster, London Ontario. Photo: Huron Archives

Indwell

It was a simple challenge, accepted on the spot. It occurred at an early June information session in London put on by Indwell. This Christian based, non-profit organization based in Hamilton was on the verge of its first project in the Forest City following successful Housing Projects in Hamilton, Simcoe and Woodstock. Organizers asked for help in finishing the furnishing of 45 one bedroom affordable apartments in the Woodfield Project downtown. The cost was \$3500.00 per unit. That challenge was met by a family in attendance, who then turned to Canon Keith Nethery and said, "St. James should do

one too." A quick yes was followed by a little bit of, "Oh what have I done!" No fear was necessary as in three weeks just shy of \$7000.00 had been raised by the congregation.

Indwell, which has a second London project in the works at the site of the Old Embassy Hotel, is a somewhat unique concept. They call what they do affordable and supportive communities. With on-site nursing, counselling and social programs, the goal is to restore dignity while providing a home for people at an affordable rate with a community building around them. The members of St. James Westminster plan to make this partnership with Indwell an ongoing relationship.

Out of the Cold gets a warm welcome

St. James' Outreach Committee spurred St. James's response to London's Out of the Cold program this past harsh winter, raising not just the target of \$2,000, but a generous total of \$4,000.

Your gift was delivered to little Beth Emanuel Methodist Episcopal Church on Grey street, that opened its doors nightly to people needing a safe warm place to sleep.

St. James's goal was to raise \$2,000 to help Beth Emanuel buy 20 cots so their overnight guests would no longer need to roll out their sleeping bags on the floor.

The additional funds will help Beth Emanuel improve the facilities available for overnight guests, such as a shower and a washer and dryer.

Pastor Dan Morland, and Beth Emanuel's Food Scientist - Kitchen Manager - Head Volunteer, Lois Gosney report with gladness that a number of their winter guests have now joined Beth Emanuel's Day Programs, focussed on addiction recovery, faith discovery, and readiness for living in stable housing.

Rev. Canon Keith Nethery and Peggy Roffey

Sacred icons (and a little mystery)



From left: Rev. Stephen Berryman (St. John's), Susan Bagshaw, Canon David Bowyer(Trinity)

By Susan Bagshaw

Recently, I was asked by Canon David Bowyer to speak at Trinity Church in Cambridge following an evening service about Iconography as part of their Lenten program.

I must admit the request caught me off guard as I hadn't had much time lately to devote to this form of written art and I certainly didn't consider myself to be any sort of expert in the field. I said 'yes' and immediately got to work pulling

2012. It was truly a blessing to share some information about it with the people of Trinity Church and was all fired up to get back at it again - this summer - I promised myself!

When I arrived home that evening a card was waiting for me in the mail. My husband asked who I knew from Thornhill? My response was 'nobody' but when I opened the envelope inside was the card I had created on my computer of the icon of St. George Slaying the Dragon I had written along with a cheque I had made out



St. George Slaying the Dragon

What does it take to send children to camp?

On Sunday, June 23rd Rev. Canon Dr. Lorne Mitchell blessed five backpacks at St. James, Stratford's 10:30 am service. These backpacks along with five sleeping bags were taken to Romeo School, Stratford to be given to the five students, four boys and one girl, that St. James is supporting to attend Huron Church Camp (HCC).

This ministry was proposed to St. James a year and a half ago. It was embraced by the Outreach Committee and planning began immediately for the outreach lunches that would fund this project. Last year, thanks to the grace and generosity of St. James' parishioners with the proceeds from two Outreach Lunches, the annual Bean Lunch and parishioners and community members at the monthly Men's Breakfasts sufficient funds were raised to send three students to camp. This year all of the preceding raised enough to send five students to camp.

Kate Lusk, Principal of Romeo School, also embraced the idea and was visibly moved that St. James wanted to offer some of her students an opportunity to attend a summer camp. We discussed the items that the children are required to bring to camp and together we identified those items that might be a stretch for the families to afford. Back at St. James the Outreach Committee offered that we should not only provide the items but also backpacks to put them in.

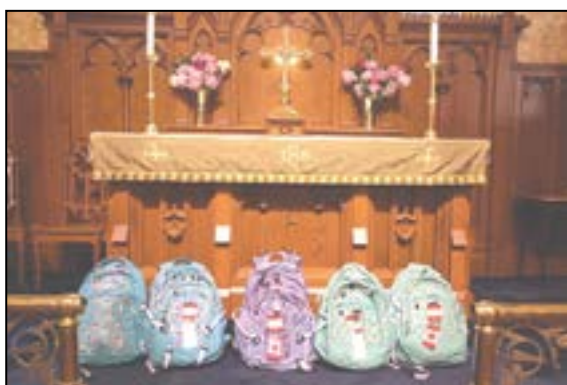
Three gently used backpacks were scooped from St. James Annual Variety Sale and thanks to a generous discount of 55% given by Canadian

Tire in Exeter, three quality sleeping bags were purchased.

This year we were able to get the same bags, again marked down 55%, with the owner of Canadian Tire deeply discounting the items for the backpacks, which were donated by Samsonite in Stratford.

With the joyful reception of this ministry by Kate Lusk and Romeo School and the kids, the St. James Outreach Committee and parishioners who threw their loving and wholehearted support behind it and the wider community who stepped in we have partnered to make a difference in the lives of some children. This ministry is a wonderful way to support both HCC and children and families in our neighbourhoods.

Stephanie Donaldson, Outreach Committee, St. James, Stratford



something together to present. I contacted a few people for whom I had given icons to in the past as a parting gift or to commemorate an occasion or event and asked permission to take three off the panels at my home church (St. John's, Cambridge) for the evening to show a glimpse of the diversity of images that iconography can depict.

During the process, I was reminded of how much I enjoyed learning about the imagery, symbolism, meaning of colour and about the lives of the saints themselves as I worked on a piece and this was a perfect opportunity to reacquaint myself with my paint, brushes, wood panels and gold leaf again. It seemed ironic that I had first taken a class in the subject at Trinity church in 2008 that started it all. I followed that up with a class from Master Iconographer Valentin Streltsov in

to Valentin for supplies for that iconography workshop I had attended in 2012. His widow had come across it in his things and he had never cashed it. Valentin had passed away in December. It was returned to me with the card all these years later on the same day I did the presentation and had to look up his name to include in my speech. It is perhaps ironic that the cheque that came back was for the same amount of money that I gave to a person who came in off the street in need of money during that workshop with Master Sveltsov. 'George' also happens to be Canon Bowyer's middle name and for whom I wrote the icon of St. George. Coincidences? I don't believe in them. God's power working in the world. That I believe in.

Susan Bagshaw is a parishioner of St. John's Parish Church, Cambridge.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

ACW of St. James' Stratford and their best social of the year

Every year ACW of St. James', Stratford adopts a new motto for our work in the church.

Over the past four years we have embraced "Changes", decided to "Go With The Flow", and have accepted that "It Is What It Is". For 2018-2019 our motto was "With God's Help We Can Do This", a mantra that served us very well.

With an aging membership, fewer able bodied workers, and a need to raise funds for the operation of our beloved St. James', this motto certainly fit the bill.

The ACW organize and run two major fundraisers, the Annual Variety Sale in May and the Mistletoe Market in November. Each event is amazing.

Called our "Best Social Event of the Year", the Annual Variety Sale is over 60 years old so planning it really does not take much of our time, however it does take a good deal of preparation. During the month of April we accept donations from both members of our congregation and from the community at large. By the end of April our Sunday-School staging area is jammed full of... EVERYTHING.

Next comes "Sorting Sunday". Following our regular 10:30 a.m. Church Service at the end



of April, everyone is invited to help move tables, carry shelves up to the upper hall, shift furniture out of areas that will be department locations, generally set things up and finally enjoy pizza together.

Then starting on Monday our ACW women work their magic. In Ladies Wear they unpack hundreds of boxes and bags of clothing; sort, & fold all of the donated garments; arrange purses and hats; and make sure that the Boutique offers name brand apparel. In Men's Wear the shirts, pants, ties, coats, and vests are hung and sweaters are arranged in neat piles on the shelves; while

in Toys and Games, and Children's Wear the countless items are spread out on tables, hung on racks, and displayed along the floor. Workers in Treasures and Jewellery lay out their valuable wares; the Art Gallery hangs and displays an amazing selection of art; the Music Department meticulously exhibits music CD's and Records; and the Book Dept. shelves hundreds of books. The Linen Ladies measure and label sheets & towels, bedding, curtains, and sewing goods; the Housewares Dept does the same for their many kitchen items and appliances and the Furniture is stacked for immediate purchase.

Last but not least, the Yard Sale presents everything from sports equipment to tools, from flower arrangements to Christmas arrangements, from electronics to office goods and from perfume to candles.

It takes us all four days to complete this miracle, and during those four days we work, laugh, joke, help, and visit, while the dedicated kitchen crew supply us with tea, snacks and amazing lunches. We shake our heads... where does all of this stuff come from, and remind ourselves - With God's Help We Can Do This.

The doors open and our customers rush in. Sales are amazing as the money is collected and counted throughout the sale by our competent Treasurer and her helpers. The crowds enjoy their time with us, and after three separate sale times in two days, we close our doors, re-sort things to be donated to other charitable entities within Stratford, or packed in bales for the north, and start our clean up. We breathlessly await the final tally to be announced on Sunday. \$14,208.10.

Did I mention aging membership? Why do we continue to do it?

Well at our last ACW meeting after raising the above two questions we decided to carry on our sale. The reasons:

- 1) it is one of our best social times together... working with one accord for the benefit of our Parish;
- 2) it is a form of outreach and fulfills a need within the community - we serve a population of people who, because of finances, or disabilities, relies on our sale for what they need/want/can afford - that is not to say that we don't have all kinds of economic families who participate or shop, but we are pleased that our outreach is appreciated;
- 3) the ACW donates \$12,500 annually to our Parish Council and church budget - a needed gift in these days of the necessity of a balanced budget to remain an active church within our Diocese;
- 4) because we know that With God's Help We Can Do This.

Our next effort is our Mistletoe Market, November 16, 2019.

We will have a new motto by then but our efforts, our enjoyment, and our members are already looking forward to once again working together to make St. James' a great parish.

Karen Haslam, President St. James' ACW, Stratford

Celebrating our retirees



An opportunity to meet old friends



Behind the scenes - thank you to the Ascension team

On June 27, the diocese held its annual barbeque for retirees: retired diocesan clergy, clergy spouses, surviving spouses and retired church house staff.

As in previous years, the event was hosted by the Church of the Ascension in London.

The tradition goes back to the times of the 11th Bishop of Huron, Rt. Rev. Bruce Howe who organized the first barbeque for diocesan retirees 19 years ago.

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Life as Pilgrimage: Franciscan Spirituality Perspective on the Prayer Journey

with
The Rev'd Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell, Tssf

Please join us for a day as we explore prayer as
pilgrimage through life, through creation, using
our whole body and soul, guided by
a Rule of Life

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019
ST ANNE'S BYRON
1344 COMMISSIONERS ROAD WEST
10am to 2pm

To register:
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kimmetelka@diohuron.org
or by calling or texting info
to 519-980-4545



The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Huron)
is pleased to present the Fall Gathering 2019



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PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

Appointments

Bishop Nicholls appointed the Rev'd Rosalyn Elm as the Diocesan Animator for Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries and Rector of the Parish of Six Nations effective June 1, 2019.

Bishop Nicholls appointed the Rev'd Glenda Fisher as the Deacon of St. Matthew's, Windsor effective May 15, 2019.

Ordination to the Priesthood

The Bishop of Huron ordained the Reverend David Hyatt to the Priesthood at a service of Ordination held on the Feast of St. Barnabas, Tuesday, June 11, at Grace Church, Brantford.

General Synod

GENERAL SYNOD 2019 was held from Wednesday, July 10th to Tuesday, July 16th. The delegates that accompanied Bishop Linda Nicholls to General Synod were as follows:

Clergy: The Rev'd Canon Dr. Todd Townshend; The Ven. Dr.



Rev. David Hyatt with the Bishop of Huron, June 11, 2019

Tim Dobbin; The Ven. Tanya Phibbs; The Rev'd Rosalyn Elm.

Lay: Canon Paul Rathbone; Mr. Paul Townshend; Ms. Pam Walters; Ms. Marilyn Malton.

Youth: Ms. Sydney Brouillard-Coyle.

The proposed change to Canon XXI on Marriage to permit the marriage of same-sex partners narrowly passed the required majorities at General Synod in 2016. However, the amendment itself failed at its second reading at this year's

General Synod. It reached the 2/3's majority required in the clergy and laity but not in the House of Bishops.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, formerly bishop of Huron, was elected as 14th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada on Saturday, July 13. She was installed as the new Primate on Tuesday, July 16. The Most Rev'd Nicholls was also the first woman to serve as the Bishop of Huron. She was elected Bishop of Huron in February 2016 and installed in November 2016.

Ministry Transition

Bishop Nicholls accepted the resignation of the Rev'd Meghan Nicholls as the rector of St. James', Ingersoll effective July 31, 2019. Meghan has accepted an appointment as a chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Bishop Nicholls accepted the resignation of the Rev'd Dan-

iel Bowyer as the rector of St. Paul's, Stratford effective October 3, 2019 with his last Sunday in the parish being September 15, 2019. Dan has accepted the position of Chaplain at Trinity Village Care Centre & Studios in Kitchener.

Rest in Peace

The Reverend Canon Arthur Gerald (Gerry) Fairhead who passed away in July. Canon Gerry was ordained a deacon in May 1956 and priested in May 1957. The Funeral Service was held on July 23, 2019 at 11am at St. Bride's Anglican Church, Mississauga.

The Reverend James (Jim) Carr died Thursday, July 4th at University Hospital. Jim was ordained a deacon on May 16, 1996 and priested on November 28, 1996. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, July 9th at St. James Church, Ingersoll. The Rt Rev'd Terry Dance presided.

A good round of golf for a great cause

Diocesan Golf Tournament for Outreach: over the course of the last 10 years, over \$100,000 has been raised and has been directed to food banks, community gardens, suicide awareness programs, youth programs...

Golf great, Ben Hogan is quoted as saying, "A good round of golf is if you can hit about three shots that turnout exactly as you planned them." Your Diocesan Golf Tournament committee is challenging you to come and try to improve on Hogan's insight on Saturday, September 7 at the scenic Ironwood Golf Course in Exeter, Ontario.

This year's event will be the 11th annual tournament and once again, proceeds raised will benefit Outreach ministries around the Diocese. Over the course of the last 10 years, over \$100,000 has been raised and has been directed to food banks, community gardens, suicide awareness programs, youth programs and many others.

The committee is thankful for the on-going support of all of our sponsors and for their generosity in helping us to help our Church make a difference in the lives of those in our communities who are in need. If you can't make it to golf, perhaps you can help us with a sponsorship, or perhaps join us for dinner and fellowship following the golf.

Registration forms and sponsorship information are available on the diocesan website, as well as by contacting the registrar, the Rev. Daniel Bowyer at hurongolf@gmail.com or 519-301-9873.

Diocesan Golf Tournament Committee



"The Crayolas": The best dressed team at the last year's tournament

**Diocese of Huron
2019 Golf Tournament**

Saturday, September 7th 2019
Ironwood Golf Club, Exeter ON

\$140 registration fee* includes:

- 18 Holes of golf (with electric cart)
- Lunch (pre-golf)
- Dinner (post-golf)
- Silent Auction
- Prizes to win
- Tax Receipt (\$25)
- Fun!

*Dinner-only option available for \$40.

To register or volunteer, contact Rev. Daniel Bowyer by phone (519 301 9873) or by email (hurongolf@gmail.com).

All proceeds go to the Faith in Action trust fund for outreach missions throughout the Huron Diocese.

We are deeply loved and called to share that love

Sharing the testimonies of our lay leaders at 2019 Huron Synod



By Chuck Erion

When Bishop Linda asked me to do this, I presumed that it was because of an article about me in the January HCN and my woodworking project: an altar I built for the chapel at the national Church House in Toronto. The article mentioned some of the stages in my spiritual journey so I will not repeat them here.

There are three things I want to focus on here, which tie into the theme of this Synod, Sent into the World. They are

1. We are all loved by God unconditionally.
2. We are called to ministry.
3. Ministry requires discernment.

These three topics were for me part of the Ignatian Exercises

which I undertook in 2012 and 2013 with Rev. Julia Gill in Waterloo.

I found it hard to accept #1, that God loves me, regardless of everything I might put in the way of receiving that love. The stumbling block for me was what I called "The Big Ask." I had grown up the son of a minister and, though I did a year of theology, had not gone into the ordained ministry, but carried some guilt wondering if I should have. Saying No to that Big Ask left me unsure what else I was called to do, even though I remained active in church life. Could God really love me whether or not I was doing "his work?"

Through the help of my spiritual director, I came to accept that my calling wasn't just in the church. That I was called to be a good husband, a father, a bookseller, and later a grandfather. I am called to be aware of those around me, to notice, and to empathize with neighbours, friends and strangers. As a bookseller, I was called to put the right book into the customer's hands that could change that person's life. AND I was called to work in the church as well but I needed to develop

the skill of discernment to find these callings and clarify which ones were working and which were ego-driven.

I took over our church newsletter and began profiling a different member of the parish in each issue. From the first or second profile, I saw benefits – people were talking to them at coffee hour on a deeper level, knowing more about their stories.

I started a monthly Dinner & a Movie night. It is now entering its fourth year and draws between 22 and 50 people, mostly parishioners but not all are. The age range includes young parents and the elderly – many of whom eat alone the rest of the month. People contribute \$5 for the food and enjoy the fellowship. I have a co-leader who chooses the movies and leads a brief discussion afterwards. I still get a buzz from it each time. Feeding and hosting that many people is way beyond my safety zone; I'm normally not gregarious. But it's a thrill to see folks connecting over a shared meal, an informal Eucharist.

Back to discernment: Before D&M I tried to start an Education in Ministry group at my

church. I did a weekend training as a group leader and joined a group in Woodstock, but I was unable to rouse interest in such a group at my church. If there's no uptake, obviously this was not the call that fit for them or me. It has to meet the needs of those you're trying to reach.

And third, I started a men's group for seven young dads in our parish. This came to me on the 25th anniversary of two men's groups I started in 1990. I felt it was time to Pay It Forward – to share the benefits of male fellowship I'd depended on when I was their age. I was also inspired after profiling two of these men for the newsletter. The group meets monthly to share a beer and compare experiences as new dads, and in their careers and partnerships. The initial seven reduced to four and I grew pessimistic. But after two years I was also ready to hand over leading the group, and it was my D&M co-leader who decided to carry it on. He added four new members. I'll be hosting them at my cottage work for a weekend this September.

Again, discerning where is the uptake, and recognizing that it's never just up to me.

That I needed to balance my commitments. As Julia Gill, my spiritual director, would ask: What are you going to give up if you start some new ministry?

And through this time I was also called to use my woodworking skills to build an altar, which was dedicated by our Primate last September. Since then I've built a lectern which will also go into the chapel at church house. I felt truly blessed to be able to do these projects, and leave a legacy of my handiwork.

Again: We are deeply loved. We are called to share that love. And we must discern what that calling is, and when to let go if it's not working.

Chuck Erion is a parishioner at Holy Saviour Church, Waterloo.



How a missional coaching workshop made my Saturday

By Kristen Hunkin

Growth. It seems like congregations everywhere are concerned about their growth.

Some are worried about attracting new parishioners. Others may be wondering how to expand their programming to include new ways for their flock to have encounters with God. Some may be wondering how to keep children and youth invested in their spiritual development and relationship with God and their church.

On Saturday April 6, 2019 representatives from 12 churches throughout the diocese gathered at St. Jude's in London to take part in the second day of a two-part Missional Coaching Workshop. The goal of which was to help bring new ideas and approaches to help us grow our ministry. These representatives were split into 3 smaller groups, "Children & Youth Ministry" led by Tiffany Robinson, "Sharing of Faith" led by Bruce Smith and "Missional Small Groups" which was led by Sean Davidson.

Coming from a smaller parish and a last-minute addition to our church's group of representatives, I was not quite sure what I had signed up for when my Pastor asked me if I'd like to join them for the workshop.

I ended up in the Child & Youth Ministry workshop and was immediately struck by just how enthusiastic everyone in the room was about this topic. We began by assessing how many children/youths were in each congregation and what brought them into the church and what kind of programming was currently being offered. It was clear that each



church was in a different position from each other. Some with very few children/youths, others with varying attendance and others with generally stable attendance base. Part of this session included reviewing some of our programming, spaces, and resources and determining strengths and weaknesses. What works? What doesn't work?

One of the most important things we discussed was core values. This was an interesting concept. In order to help focus our churches and resources, the church should come up with values, maybe 4 or 5, that are truly important to their community. Then, with those values in mind, evaluate programming or events and determine if they still fit within those parameters.

At lunch we all gathered together and shared a delicious meal. I sought out my fellow representatives and everyone was simply glowing and bursting with details about their experiences in their own groups. It seemed everyone was enjoying their time and really trying to soak in the information the leaders were presenting.

After lunch we returned to our groups and did some scripture study. Ours related to Mark 10: 13-16 and Deuteronomy 6: 4-7. Tiffany did a wonderful job of choosing scripture which really encompassed the importance of children in our ministries.

To end the smaller group session, we revisited our core values to try to refine them and then come up with actions which we could implement within four time frames; immediately, in two months, in six months and in one year. These actions could be anything from starting a new program, stopping an old program that is no longer working, or shifting resources based on the core values identified.

After our closing sing a long and prayer, the drive home was anything but quiet. We all had learned so much throughout the day and were eager to continue sharing. We were tired but our souls nourished and excited to spread this ministry.

This workshop taught me so much that I can't possibly list it all but here are a few tidbits:

– When coming to a workshop like this, be OPEN to learning. Nothing is perfect. No parish has the patent on the perfect way to shepherd children in their encounters with God. What works for some does not work for all and that is OK!

– Success should no longer be about numbers but quality ministry. Historically we view success as being associated with numbers. The number of people in the pews. The number in the church's account to keep the lights on. How many programs are being run. We need

to shift our thinking towards providing people with meaningful encounters with God, whether they choose to attend church or not. We should be stewards in our communities, any ministries we provide to our communities in turn provide us with our own personal encounters with God. And isn't that the point?

– Make time to re-evaluate your church's core values, programming, and focuses regularly. Sometimes we get stuck in a mindset of "it's been working for 10 years, so why change it?". Ultimately that's a flawed way of thinking. Maybe that program continues to be a success after 20 years. Great! But maybe it no longer attracts enough people to warrant all the work. Work and volunteer time that could be used in another, newer program that is generating a lot of interest. Times change. Technology advances. There's no telling how society will continue to evolve and surprise us in the future and we need to be flexible.

Having been a child, youth and now an adult in my church, I have seen it go through many changes and challenges. Right now, growth is one of those challenges.

We need to push boundaries, try new things and evolve if we're going to continue to be integral parts of our communities. No one is going to do it for us. It's going to take hard work, change, and courage to move forward.

Workshops like these are going to be a cornerstone in helping our communities grow and prosper and I'm so glad I took part.

Kristen Hunkin is a Christ Church Markdale parishioner.

Enriching your personal prayer life through imagination

By Rev. Mary Farmer

Imagination...hardly the first word that springs to mind when one thinks of the ongoing expression of prayer in the Anglican tradition. Yet that was the theme for the annual Bishop's Prayer Conference in May 2019.

More than eighty people gathered at St. Jude's in London to explore the role of imagination in our prayer lives. Bishop Linda began the day by sharing her personal experience within the Ignatian tradition, and how that has shaped her practices. We were invited to explore scripture in a different way... by putting ourselves right in the middle, as a participant.

We were then asked to let our imaginations take over and to see where we ended up.

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

That meant taking note of the surroundings and to imagine being a part of the reading and then to unleash our imaginations, to see where that took us.

Several people shared how a well-known passage revealed something new, or became a place they could move into what might be a different unfolding of a familiar story. If you were unable to join in that day or would like more information, you can look into *The Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola* as a place to experience that yourself.



Following the sharing of Eucharist and lunch, Marilyn Malton led the group in a self-directed exploration of icons as a way to draw closer to Christ. Marilyn shared her personal experience of producing an icon, and how that impacted and enriches her prayer life.

Using that as a starting point, participants were able to put their own imaginations to work, as we cycled through three short workshops, each exposing us to new ways to stretch the imagination. The use of light and dark, explora-

tion of the meaning of the colours used in iconography, and the chance to make a personal prayer basket were opportunities to practice stretching the imagination.

At the end of the day, we each came away encouraged to engage more intimately and perhaps differently with scripture, and with new ideas and ways to enrich our personal prayer lives using the gifts and abilities we each are given.

The use of prayer bowls to gather our personal prayers carried over into our annual synod this year. For the past few years, the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer has provided a prayer wall to encourage synod participants to share their thanksgivings and prayer requests during this time together as the leaders of Huron

This year, there was a basket placed on each table along with post-it notes to encourage people to share their requests. These were then gathered on a regular basis, and added to the wall, which was re-located to a prominent place at the exit nearest the dais.

As the summer comes to a close, please consider being part of the AFP Fall Gathering, planned for Saturday October 5th, 2019 at St. Anne's, Byron. Please consider joining us as we explore *Life as Pilgrimage: Franciscan Spirituality Perspective on the Prayer Journey*. Details are available on the Diocesan announcements or by contacting your AFP parish representative. No parish rep? Perhaps that might be you!

Rev. Mary Farmer is AFP Huron Executive.

The life and training of a mentor

By Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

Just what is involved in being an Education for Ministry (EfM) Mentor?

Here in Huron we have a number of active EfM groups that again this September will begin to meet regularly. In each of them are mentors who offer their time and attention to facilitate these gatherings and create safe spaces in which conversations are nurtured.

Mentors offer themselves for this work not as teacher, lecturer, or expert, but as someone wishing to assist the group in study and in the process of living into their faith in every



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.

aspect of daily living.

This past June, often a time when many of us are winding down parish activities in anticipation of the slower more relaxed days of summer, seven current mentors and mentor-hopefuls gathered at St

Jude's in London for mandatory training from long-time trainer Annette Cowan. Ms. Cowan coming to us from British Columbia brought with her, in addition to a myriad of handouts, her extensive EfM knowledge and enthusiasm for the program.

Over the course of these three days, we would spend 18-class hours together getting to know one another and our faith stories, reviewing materials provided, engaging in learning exercises, and practicing a wide variety of theological reflection styles. Who knew there were so many!

With mentors required to refresh their training every 12 to 18 months, in addition to the weekly group preparation time, mentors make themselves available for this ongoing learning experience every year with the goal of bringing back to their groups what they have heard and experienced to enrich the

group's worship, discussions, reflections and sense of community.

As you read this, it is still not too late to be a part of an Education for Ministry (EfM) program.

If you are interested in journeying with a group committed to growing in their faith and in their knowledge of their faith, don't hesitate, please be in touch with either Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or myself Val Kenyon at EFM@huron.anglican.ca. You'll be glad you did!

Rev. Canon Val Kenyon is EFM Animator in Huron.

Giving with intention

By Rev. Matthew Kieswetter

I have a vague childhood memory of my mom instructing me to collect and arrange some old plastic food containers. We always had lots on hand, I think from my grandmother, who was always eating some sort of liquidy cheese that we purchased at the farmers' market; I suspect it was a Mennonite thing. (If you happen to know the name, please remind me.) The sight of this molasses-consistency cheese repulsed me, so I'm sure we washed the containers thoroughly.

What started out as a fun crafting activity ended up revealing itself to be an exercise in money management. The idea was that these differently-labelled containers would help me to divide up my allowance between short, medium, and long-term savings, as well as charitable givings. And the



allocation of the money was to occur before I had the chance to spend most of it on candy at the corner store!

Looking back on this, I can see it as a really worthwhile strategy. Unfortunately, I think impulsiveness won out, and I didn't stick with this for very long, especially after I fell in love with comic books and music. My wife Leslie was taught to follow a similar system, though she stuck with it better than I did. This explains why, to this day, she's a saver and I'm a spender.

This memory of mine connects with our practices around faith-based giving. A word

that, for many, is even more off-putting than the "s" word ("stewardship") is the "t" word ("tithing"). Sometimes the 10% figure of the Biblical tithe seems too titanic a number to consider. For others, the idea seems overly formulaic and forced.

For myself, a more helpful approach is to not fixate on a specific figure, but to appreciate the principles and themes underlying the idea of the tithe: namely, thanksgiving to God and intentionality in our giving. "The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and

with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me" (Deuteronomy 26:8-10).

Here, and in other places in scripture, we find a concept that is perhaps less intimidating and ultimately more helpful than beginning with a numerical tithe: the idea of offering God not our leftovers, but our first-fruits. This is what my mom was trying to instil in me with all of the repurposed cheese containers: handling money in an intentional, rather than in a haphazard way.

So, might that help reorient our thinking around our support of the Church and other worthwhile organizations and causes? Can we free ourselves from being intimidated by numbers, and instead work on

fostering purposeful, generous hearts? Can a proportion-based figure be approached as a symbol of our intentional discipleship, rather than as an intimidating or guilt-inducing goal? Are we mindful of how our congregational and diocesan ministries (impossible without our support) are touching and changing lives, both for people within and beyond our Church? And are we being changed as we seek to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, offering our lives as a living sacrifice to our Creator?

"Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him" (Eucharistic Prayer 5, BAS p. 205).

Rev. Matthew Kieswetter is a member of the diocesan Stewardship Committee.

Church is an ideal place to engage with climate change

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



This summer has been hot. It has often felt as though there were more days when Environment Canada issued “heat advisories” than there were days without. How much of our time was spent indoors with windows closed and air conditioners on? How little was spent enjoying the outdoors because the heat was stifling?

By mid-July, NASA and Europe’s Copernicus satellite monitoring system had confirmed that this year was the hottest June on record. It is expected that July will be the hottest month ever recorded in human history! (see <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/16/july-on-course-to-be-hottest-month-ever-say-climate-scientists>). While we have struggled with temperatures and humidity, the heat we have experienced in Southern Ontario pales in comparison to the heat experienced in parts of Europe and Africa.

Our world is getting hotter with deadly consequences! According to the Centers for Disease Control, heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths over the last 30 years! (see <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicolefisher/2019/07/28/killer-heat-waves-what-to-know-to-stay-safe-as-records-break-around-the-world/#34ce65e91cb3>)

Across the diocese we are also impacted by record highs in the lakes that surround us.

Farmers struggled to get crops in on time due to the extremely wet spring. Weather is impacting our lives in profound and problematic ways and yet, how much do we really talk about this in our Churches? To what extent have we named climate change and its human sources an issue to be discussed and addressed?

We are called in our Baptismal Covenant and the Marks of Mission to strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s Creation

and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Motions at our Diocesan Synod and General Synod challenge us to reduce (and eventually eliminate) single use plastics as one way to live this out. General Synod also included motions to recognise the climate emergency and celebrate the Season of Creation (Sept. 1 to Oct. 4) as a time of prayer, reflection and action. A further motion was referred to the Council of General Synod calling us to political engagement regarding the climate emergency especially as we move towards the coming Federal Election.

Churches are an ideal place to engage with climate change as, at our foundation, we are concerned with human flourishing within the context of a loving relationship with God our Creator.

The tools for the Season of Creation (see <https://www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/season-of-creation/>) and the virtual program offered through Respect Justice Camp (see Facebook: Respect Justice Camp

and Twitter: @CampRespect for links) can provide resources with which to engage in prayerful reflection and action.

The challenges and changes of the climate crisis are daunting. We are only beginning to see the impacts of our consumption practices over the last 30 years. If we don’t make significant changes, it will only get worse and our grandchildren may well be an endangered species. It is time for people of faith to speak and act in meaningful and hopeful ways in the midst of this challenge.

We have the tools. We have a God who has loved Creation into being and called us to care for it. We have a responsibility to live authentically the faith we proclaim.

What more will you and your congregation do to strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle is the Social and Ecological Justice Huron chair.

chrisbrouillardcoyle@diohuron.org



18th Annual Holy Cross Lecture

Dr. Tracy Lemos

Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible, Huron

Genocide and Human Rights: What the Bible Can & Cannot Tell Us
Monday, September 16, 2019, 7 pm, Great Hall

For more details & parking info

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The virtue of patience: the moment is not just about what's happening

Notes on relational chaos (Part 2)

"Life doesn't get easier. You just get better at being able to handle it."



AS I SEE IT

REV. JIM INNES



Iva Rajovic/Unsplash

Stuff happens! It is a theme that I have drummed out in many articles. Just when we think we got it clear, a cloud rolls over, quite unrepentantly, and it storms big time.

In part 1 of this article, I wrote particularly of how such storm creates physical, mental and emotional health problems. I also suggested that PTSD easily results. And that all these effects, from minor to major, can create secondary storms that heavily layer our issues.

Making our return to 'normalcy' somewhat complicated.

In addressing some of this healing process, I quoted last month Timber Hawkeye, a Buddhist writer, "You can't calm the storm so stop trying. What you can do is calm yourself and the storm will pass."

This personal work means learning to self-soothe, developing healthy distractions, and in extreme cases, seeking professional support; including drug therapy and/or body centered treatments.

A storm, and the chaos it can create, may often feel frighteningly unrelenting. But storms don't last forever. And what might develop with conscious attention, and, over time, is a sense that the moment is not just about what's happening, but about how we behave while it is happening. Such behaviour is best built upon the virtue of Patience.

What does such patience look like?

In my mind, it looks like we believe life has direction, and within it we have purpose. It is the attitude of optimism, confidence, persistence, and even prayer. It comes from the heart and cannot be faked. It is what underlies this ageless text: "suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope" (Romans 5: 3-4).

Someone once said, "Patience with others is love. Patience with self is hope. Patience with God is faith." It is my belief that developing and practicing patience, particularly a patience with Life itself, is a journey worth taking. And it may not be a journey we necessarily choose to take. It may be a journey that we can't avoid... like Alice in Wonderland, or Dorothy in Oz.

I find that patience integrates both having, and not having control. The 'having' control is about choosing to hold on and hope. The 'not having' control is about chaos being an uncontrollable reality. Integrating

these leads to an acceptance of adversity, and a deep trust that life needs time to work itself out.

Patience can't change what happened, but it can make a big difference in what will happen next. Without it we too often react in an emotional 'scene' that is counter-productive. Patience enables the dust to settle. I was once told, as perhaps many of us have, to never make any big decision when in the midst of a crisis. Time is a healing support.

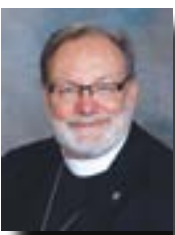
As I see it, learning to trust that life has, and will, treat us right, no matter the chaos of storm, is a mindset developed with the wisdom of experience. We eventually manage the storm by moving through it, over and again. Each time breathing deeper and longer, while the rubbish flies about our head.

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Removing visible signs of our faith: what should we do?

During the summer months various stories are shared about special places which have been visited and enjoyed. Days filled with either high adventure or peaceful reflection have ended with an opportunity to enjoy dazzling sunsets and restful nights.



A VIEW FROM THE BACK PEW

REV. CANON CHRISTOPHER B. J. PRATT



Hugues de Buyer-Mimmeure/Unsplash

The whole concept of any moment of our lives being given over to a time of recreation allows for the opportunity for the "re-creation" and the healthy renewal of our minds, our bodies, our spirit and our faith.

While some have been able to benefit from the experience of seeking those special places for renewal this summer, life has moved at its usual rapid pace around us.

Those who followed the experience of General Synod saw our community of faith dealing with essential pastoral concerns which will have an impact on our lives as we move into the future together.

Decisions reached regarding church leadership and how we as Anglicans respond to the opportunity given to us to be mutually responsible and

interdependent members of the Body of Christ will shape the ministry offered in our diocese and will influence the conversations in our congregations for the foreseeable future.

Our thoughts and prayers need to be with Archbishop Nicholls, as she moves into a new ministry. Serving as the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada will renew her awareness of the diversity of our national denomination. At the same time, our church community has a place within the wider Anglican Communion as a catalyst for dialog and as a model of how the experience of striving for reconciliation may not only serve as a focus for ministry, but may also serve to energize and renew the ministry and the life of the wider church.

As the church grapples with significant issues of ministry,

this summer, the world in which we live has not been idle when it comes to dealing with matters of faith. One of the most profound photographs which appeared in a newspaper in July, showed a member of the staff of the National Assembly of Quebec, climbing a ladder, wearing white gloves, and removing the crucifix which has been hanging on the wall of the Salon Bleu for more than 80 years.

The act of removing the crucifix from the wall was mandated by a section of the newly passed secularism law. One of the other elements of the law prohibits those who work in Quebec's public sector from wearing religious symbols at work.

Some readers of this article may be moved to ask the question, "What does that have to do with me?"

Much of the history of Canada has been impacted, for good and for ill, because decisions reached by individuals, institutions and even governments, over the years have been made as a reflection of the interpretation of core values of belief and faith. The thread of faith and the thread of governmental action have in the past been so inextricably interwoven that it may be prove difficult to delineate and define the difference. Now, it would appear that there is a concerted effort being made in many quarters to turn away from and disavow any connection between faith and action which may have an impact on our community life.

Staying engaged with the community at large is an essential function, I believe, of any community of faith and each of its members. As individuals, we do have the option of not investing ourselves in the conversations taking place around us.

On the other hand, speaking out regarding the important priority of justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being, is not simply one of the statements included in our Baptismal Covenant, it is a rallying cry for a witness of personal and shared ministry.

In our global village there are individuals who share the Christian faith we profess with our lips, who suffer persecution and daily put their lives on the line as they are publicly identified as followers of Jesus. The

motivation for us to make a difference and enhance the life of our community, wherever we are, is to be found in the guidance given to us by Jesus to "love one another, as I have loved you". (John 15:12)

If laws change around us, and wearing outward and visible signs of our faith is not an option, then let the love, and care that we have for this world and all the people in it, be the outward and visible sign of the faith which we claim shapes our lives.

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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Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell presented the Reverend Canon Christopher Pratt with a Silver Bar, representing his 22 years of volunteer service with The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (St. John Ambulance).

The presentation took place during the provincial Investiture ceremony which was held at Queen's Park on June 8, 2019.

Canon Pratt also serves as the Provincial Chaplain of Ontario for St. John Ambulance.

Marriage Canon debate: a look at what got lost in the shuffle

Given that I was on holidays for the entirety of General Synod, I chose to read, watch and listen rather than making a lot of social media comment.



**MOSTLY ABOUT
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON
KEITH
NETHERY**

I have seen comments, opinions and reactions that I completely agreed with and some that I thought were off base. As I now share my own thoughts about General Synod, I'm sure the reaction of those reading will cover the broad spectrum of my own reactions to the Vancouver proceedings.

Two things to begin. First, I am completely in support of equal marriage. Second, my background is in broadcast media, so my journalistic spidey-sense is always tingling as I consider our governmental procedures.

Watching from afar how the process on same-sex marriage rolled out at General Synod, one would be hard pressed to think that there wasn't some wide ranging discussion, comment, and a little pre-agreement in place. We exit Vancouver with a strong opinion that those in same-sex relationships who want to be married in the Anglican Church of Canada will be able to do so thanks to the document "A Word To The Church" which was approved before the vote on the Marriage



Photo: Milos Tosic

We should be proud that we have stood for this element of justice

Canon but seemingly few understood what it meant in the immediate "painful" aftermath of the vote.

From the other direction, post Vancouver, marriage at the national level, is still defined as between a man and a woman. That means the debate is not finished, and to me this is a big problem. As long as equal marriage is a major subject of discussion there will be continued pain and we not be able to move to other issues that as equally pressing.

The Anglican Church of Canada has now been defined by media at all levels as a church which has but one important subject to share – whether or not to allow people of the same gender to be married in our churches. This has been so in the secular media for nearly two decades, a fact that I can attest to given my time doing media relations in Huron and having worked in the media centre at a General Synod.

There was a time that an Anglican General Synod would have been staffed by multiple

national media outlets and the opinions of Anglican leadership on a wide range of issues would have been given prominence. This is no longer true and increasingly (and perhaps with definitive finality) the Anglican Church is confined to comment on matters of sexuality. It is no longer secular media that carries this banner, but more and more those in faith based journalism, traditional and social media, seem to lean the same way.

It took three days before any local media announced that the Bishop of Huron had been elevated to the position of Primate. As of the end of General Synod, the Episcopal Cafe, a liberal leaning Episcopal Church blog site and the conservative Anglican Ink had not carried a single word of the story of the second female Primate in the Anglican Communion and the first in the Anglican Church of Canada, despite multiple headlines about the "vote." In a world that talks about the continued inequality of men and women in the work place, rampant

gender discrimination and even the "Me too" movement, the media can't seem to spare a single line, one little story about a glass ceiling being shattered at yet another level after decades of debate and discussion.

Having declared myself on day one as supporting women's ordination and believing that the church is much the beneficiary of the gifts of hundreds and now thousands of women in ordained ministry, I believe passionately that the story of Linda Nicholls should have been placed in significant prominence at the very least and that we as Anglicans should be most vocal in our belief that a woman should be the Primate of an Anglican Church and push the fringes by suggesting it time that the a female Archbishop of Canterbury should be on the horizon.

While same gender marriage deserves to be a major headline of our General Synod, look at what got lost in the shuffle. My own best guess is that only a small minority of Anglicans will have taken the time to actually research what was done and not many more will read extensive reports on the national church website or the Anglican Journal.

That means that the historic decision to create a self-governing Indigenous church with its own Archbishop, Mark McDonald, within the structure of the Anglican Church of Canada, will trundle in the background. The emotional, heartfelt and bluntly honest apology by our outgoing Primate, Fred Hiltz to our indigenous brothers and sisters for

the real, deep and searing pain we have caused them, will be just a footnote. The emotional and humble acceptance of that apology by Indigenous Elders, couched with a real understanding of just how much that pain continues to burn and how many will require more time to trust that apology because of their own situations, is something that all Canadian Anglicans need to hear and understand.

There are many more front page stories that have been buried well behind the media spotlight placed on same gender marriage, by media both secular and church based and we as Anglicans seem to be okay with that. This Anglican is not.

Many have expressed their opinions freely and I will do the same. The struggle for same gender marriage is an important issue for all people, and especially for Anglican Christians. While it is not the clearly defined, be all and end all decision that we might have liked (I'm not sure that kind of a decision is ever possible), we have achieved the opportunity for equal marriage. We should be proud that we have stood for this element of justice. I grieve however, that it has come at the expense of other areas of our life and ministry that deserve significant focus and much visibility as part of our broad and important work in the area of justice!

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

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Let people feel their engagement is making a difference



**MEDIA
BYTES**

**REV. MARTY
LEVESQUE**

peer-to-peer relationships that make social media so powerful.

The idea is simple. Run polls asking simple questions like, for Lent, do you give something up? Or take something on? Advent, blue or purple?

The natural extension of running these polls is translating the data that you collecting on your congregation from social media to everyday life. For instance, you might have a parish dinner in your calendar. This is a good opportunity to run a poll, or to ask the simple

question, what is your favourite pie? The responses will provide you with data about the type of pie people who will attend your dinner prefer. During the parish announcements on Sunday morning when advertising the upcoming parish dinner mention the poll and that you will have said kind of pie for dessert. If you employ a screen for announcements, include a screenshot. Nothing builds relationships better, faster and deeper than people feeling heard, even if it is just about pie.

This same technique can be expanded beyond silly questions about food. Asking your congregation about their favourite bible verse will give you great data to build up future bible studies. Asking people to name their favourite hymn or song makes music planning throughout the seasons that much easier. Asking people about their hidden talent can lead to discovering all kinds of skills in the parish to further the kingdom of God.

Moving from social to real life is a great way to continue to

build engagement on your social media platforms. And nothing makes people valued and will drive traffic back to your social media platforms than people feeling as their engagement is making a difference in the life of the church.

"Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear." (Matt 13:16)

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

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