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# HURON CHURCH NEWS

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## Listening, discerning and looking to rebuild

2018 Synod Popular Report

By Brittany Cartwright

The Anglican Cathedral in London, Ontario was buzzing with friendly faces and conversation as synod attendees arrived and registered for the 177th Synod of the Diocese of Huron with The Rt. Rev'd Linda Nicholls welcoming us all from across the diocese.

Of particular note was the excitement and honor felt at having the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, preside over the opening worship and attend the whole of Synod as an honored guest.

Listening, discerning, and looking to rebuild were themes echoed throughout Bishop Linda's

homily, prayers, and all of synod proceedings as she envisioned the Church mirroring the life of St. Francis and St. Clare, these figures of particular potency with her recent time spent in Assisi.

She also drew upon the Celtic imagery of "thin places," indicating their power for renewal but also as an aspirational goal of the Church to create. Echoing the call of St. Francis to "rebuild my church" throughout her homily, Bishop Linda noted that we are all apprentices, a more modern term for disciple, living with, practicing, and watching the master that we are in lifelong service with.

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**'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord': leaving the sanctuary and facing the world. Are we equipped for the challenge?**

Photo: M.J. Idzerda

## Combating fear and anxiety with faith and love

Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Bishop Linda Nicholls addressed major concerns expressed during townhall meetings on the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon organized throughout the diocese between two Huron synods. The questions at this year's Synod were prepared by diocesan Marriage Canon Task Force.

Regardless of the outcome of the vote on changes to the Marriage Canon at next year's General Synod, the time after the vote will be the time of conversations and consultations, stated Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Bishop Linda Nicholls during Huron Synod sessions on May 28 and May 29 at the London Convention Centre.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz was clear in his message that this conversation is one containing inherent fear and anxiety, but also hope.

Pain will be felt regardless of the direction it goes, said the Archbishop adding that it is important to preserve a strong desire to walk together in order to help those who fear whether they can reconcile the 2019 decision with their values.

The time between General Synod 2019 and any possible implementation in January 2020 will be a space necessary to combat fear and anxiety with

faith and love, said the Primate.

Bishop Nicholls agreed that pastoral response is going to be critical because "there will always be others who are feeling the pain".

"Whether the answer is 'yes' or 'no', that period of time between the end of General Synod and January 2020 will be the time of needing some consultation. If the answer is 'yes', the way the Canon is currently structured requires the diocesan bishop to say whether that canon will be exercised within this diocese. So I would need to discern if this is the way this diocese will move forward", explained Bishop Linda.

If the answer is "no", there still needs to be consultations and conversation about what that means for this diocese. We will need to consider our pastoral response in our differences, warned Bishop of Huron.

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**The importance of pastoral response: it is crucial to preserve a strong desire to walk together, regardless of the vote at General Synod in 2019.**

Photo: M.J. Idzerda

177<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Huron  
London, Ontario, May 27-29, 2018



# Synod 2018: in focus



## Huron Church Camp

Huron Church Camp Synod presentation always creates lot of excitement in the audience. This year we heard from several young people who have attended the camp since their childhood and now are ready to step into the role of a leader:

"For me church camp was the perfect place to grow as a person and to grow in my faith. It has taught me so much about respecting each other, ourselves and God's creation." (Zach Shields)

"Before Huron Church Camp, I wasn't a particularly outgoing kid. I spent most of my time indoors, staring at a computer screen or nose deep into some teen dystopian fiction. It took me a long time to warm up to others, and talking to someone that hadn't been introduced to me first was absolutely out of the question. Camp was a safe space for me to test out the waters, both literally and metaphorically. The only time I had ever really had to initiate conversation prior to camp was with my classmates." (Bree-Anna Green)

"The final turn into the camp grounds is like coming home, it's the culmination of memories and experiences and knowing that I've arrived at a special place. And it's more than the physical place, it's more than the forests and more than being on Lake Huron; it's knowing that the people I love are there." (Maggie Ryan)

## Have you eaten today?

The Bridge Builders, Social and Ecological Justice, the Huron Hunger Fund, PWRDF, the College of Deacons, Congregational Coaches, Refugee Committee, Monica Place – so many Huron ministries and activities are committed to making a change in our society and transforming it for better.

The things we take for granted are not within everyone's reach. The message on Rev. Greg Smith's PWRDF shirt says: Have you eaten today? The answer to this question may surprise us.

These activities have enormous support in Huron, and that was proven again at this year's Synod. The offering for PWRDF from the Synod service was \$34,371.56.



## Telling our story

Diocesan Communications Committee had its first presentation at Synod. Keeping up with the challenges of digital age, organizing workshops throughout deaneries, learning how social media can help us to be more effective in telling our story – these are the tasks set by the Committee. But most importantly, there is a need to re-establish awareness that our story matters, that storytelling is the foundation of Christian ministry.

At the presentation we heard that we need to remind ourselves that our Lord walked among his disciples and talked to his disciples. That His mission on this earth consisted mostly of storytelling. And that abiding in God's word also means reaffirming and recreating that word. Or, simply, telling our story.

## Thank you Jane Kirkpatrick!

Another friendly and familiar face will be leaving us soon. After many years of service in different roles with St. James, Stratford, Jane Kirkpatrick is moving to Kingston, to be closer to her family.

Jane served as a warden and has been St. James' lay delegate at Synod since 2008. She served as the lay secretary to Synod, but she will probably be best remembered as a verger.

Jane was honoured at the Synod banquet and presented with a symbolic gift: a hat with diocesan crest.

Thank you Jane, Huron will miss you.



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## Editor

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

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The Right Reverend  
 Linda Nicholls  
 Bishop of Huron  
 Diocese of Huron  
 Huron Church House  
 190 Queens Avenue  
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# Abiding in God's Word - abiding in holy friendship

## From Page 1

After reconvening promptly at 9am on Monday May 28, the Diocese of Huron listened attentively to the Bishop Linda Nicholls as she gave her charge and vision for the diocese in the coming year. In the theme of this year's Synod, "Abiding in God's Word," Bishop Linda reminded the diocese of the importance of daily practices, how 15 minutes of reflection on progress every day can turn into habits that strengthen the church and its members. Regarding the five marks of mission she noted that our diocese is very accomplished with the last three, and that should continue, but we need increased attention and resource paid to the first two (proclaim good news, teach/ nurture believers). She also encouraged those who live near Indigenous churches to visit them, observe and listen to the stories and worship they have to offer. Bishop Linda continues to be committed to reconciliation as a long, sometimes uncomfortable, journey. As a running dialogue amongst most, if not all of her vision, the need for patience, listening, and discernment in community was reinforced. Synod was very happy to hear of the strong surplus in this year's budget which brought our overall deficit down to approximately \$94,000.

Some conversation and presentation regarding the Marriage Canon was brought in, bookended by prayer. Delegates and observers alike did express feeling rushed in this discussion, some being confused as



to the purpose of this year's dialogue over the previous year. It is conceivable that this confusion was intensified amongst those who were not present at the 176th Synod.

Bishop Linda Nicholls and Archbishop Fred Hiltz were clear in their message that this conversation is one containing inherent fear and anxiety, but also hope. Pain will be felt regardless of the direction it goes – stated both Archbishop Hiltz and Bishop Nicholls – but it is important to preserve a strong desire to walk together in order to help those who fear whether they can reconcile the 2019 decision with their values. The time between General Synod 2019 and any possible implementation in January 2020 will be a space necessary to combat fear and anxiety with faith and love.

Archbishop Hiltz also commented on the likelihood of there being "consequences" handed down from the Anglican Communion should

Canada move forward with the proposed changes. In his individual address to Synod, Archbishop Fred had a resounding anthem of "I love you, en Christo (in Christ), always" that has become his hope about how the Anglican Church needs to communicate in times of distress and controversy. Abiding in God's Word, becomes abiding in holy friendship, this is the approach he prays for on all matters confronting the church.

The Youth of Huron got Synod moving and grooving to oldie tunes with dance moves like the mash potato mambo, the twist, and swing dancing.

Throughout the afternoon presentations were heard from Huron, Renison, and Canterbury Colleges. The Bridge Builders, in particular Roslyn Elm, spoke passionately about systematic oppression and the difference between survival and living. EnviroAction announced that they would be formally merging with the Social Justice committees to create the Committee for Social and Ecological Justice, commonly known as the Justice League of Huron. There were moving videos regarding clean water initiatives immediately prior to Motion 9 calling for continued Indigenous and Biblical education around resource stewardship "in and with, not over Creation."

On stewardship, we received a presentation about broadening the definition of what constitutes a gift: time and talent are amongst the non-financial ways of giving but other key factors in stewardship are

increased awareness of financial state, and expressing gratitude.

After much anticipation the youth presented moving testimonials about their reactions to the suicide tragedies of Attawapiskat, and offering up information about Indigenous Mental Health initiatives. They also announced their challenge to the Diocese, fundraising for CLAY, in the form of a game. To help finance their trip to Thunder Bay a game was setup at the side of the banquet hall where deaneries could purchase rolls of the dice in order to move their buses on the game-board. The twist was they could also purchase obstacles for other deaneries. Finally, the night was wrapped up with laughter and affectionate stories about the retirees and with Archbishop Fred Hiltz speaking about his time as Primate – the rejoicing and the struggles.

Refreshed after an evening of good food, fellowship, and youth-driven competition, Synod reconvened once again Tuesday morning. Synod dived into Bible study with The Rt. Rev'd Terry Dance who provided insight into the history of Israel and why it is so important in understanding the story of Christ.

The Companion Diocese Committee announced that a small group from the Diocese of Amazonia is coming to Huron! Each deanery is being asked to consider hosting and "touring" the Brazilians through the sacred land they call home.

Feedback was heard from Monday's discussion on the Marriage Canon. Bishop Linda

responded to the summary asking the Church not to expect General Synod elected members to be able to represent all voices since that is impossible. Instead we elect them on the basis that we see these people as trusted, faithful individuals who will listen, pray, discern, and vote with the Spirit in their heart, said Bishop Linda. In terms of the points of discouragement, Bishop Linda responded with understanding of the frustration but remaining true to the canonical process of the church. The Bishop assured those who were concerned about each diocesan bishop's right to "say no even if the vote is yes" that she, along with every other Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada, takes their responsibility of their position with the utmost seriousness and attention to what is best for their diocese.

We heard from the Huron Hunger Fund, PWRDF, the College of Deacons, Congregational Coaches, Refugee Committee, and Monica Place – all reflecting upon the work they have been doing in the past year and their hopes and plans for the future. Synod was wrapped up with the only new business arising being an impassioned plea from a delegate to get to know refugee families – a task stressful work but joyfully so.

Synod concluded with a familiar prayer to most Anglicans – the doxology. Glory and thanks be to God!

*Brittany Cartwright is a postulant in the Diocese of Huron.*

## SYNOD SNAPSHOT



Many young faces at Huron Synod, from Sunday's barbecue (left) to an entertaining way to raise funds to support our youth representatives' CLAY participation later this year. All deaneries, and also Church House, competed for the CLAY Cup. The winner was Huron/Perth (right).



Archbishop Hiltz and Bishop Nicholls with the newly appointed servers at St. Paul's Cathedral (left).

Synod honoured diocesan retirees Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston, Rev. Ross Gill, Rev. Julia Gill, Rev. Canon Georgina Foster-Haig, Mr. Charles Mungar, Rev. Paul Woolley, Rev. Marjorie Reid, Ven. Janet Griffith-Clarke, Rev. Bill White. (right, with their spouses)



# Rebuild your Church, o Lord – and let it begin with me!

## Bishop's Charge to 177<sup>th</sup> Synod

By Bishop Linda Nicholls

Let me begin with some reflections on the past year. I have now been in the diocese for just over two years. In that time I have shared in parish worship in 81 congregational visits in 67 parishes apart from parish events, deanery confirmations. I did say it would likely take me at least three years to be in every parish so I am hopeful that will happen in the next eighteen months.

recycled two – the Ven. Janet Griffith-Clarke (Delaware/Oxford) and Bishop Terry Dance (Lambton/Kent). Thank you to the Ven. Janet Griffith-Clarke for her ministry in Brant/Norfolk/Oxford and for the Ven. Allan Livingstone (Huron/Perth) for their commitment as archdeacons! I am deeply aware of the responsibilities the archdeacons carry in addition to their ministries as parish priests and want to thank their parishes for sharing in the life of the whole

over many years – and know that the seeds of faith planted in the lives of their parishioners live on in the wider church. We held celebrations of their ministry as they were deconsecrated over the past year.

- Church of the Good Shepherd, Woodstock, amalgamated with Christ Church, Huntingford;

- St. Stephen's, Courtright;

- St. George's, Windsor;

- St. Thomas, Owen Sound – amalgamated with St. George's Owen Sound;

- Holy Trinity, London – amalgamated with St. Stephen's, London.

### Abide in the Word

Last year I encouraged everyone to engage in discipleship and grow in faith. Discipleship is a commitment – a commitment to a way of living that reflects our identity as followers of Jesus.

When you want to learn a new way of living – healthier or fitter – you have to practice new habits – 15 minutes a day of walking or running; choosing healthier foods; shopping for food in new ways. Training our hearts in the ways of the gospel takes practice – one of the habits is spending time in God's Word – the Bible is our primary source for the Word. The Bible is a rich and sometimes complex source for knowing God and God's ways. Each of us needs to know its stories, history and ask how it touches and changes us. Many recently engaged in 'Thy Kingdom Come' or the Gospel of John study in Lent.

I want to say a particular word of thanks to Bishop Terry Dance for the deanery contextual bible studies he has been offering in Advent and Lent around the diocese. It is a sign of encouragement when 40-80 people turn out to study the scriptures!!

I also want to thank Huron, Renison and Canterbury Colleges for the licentiate courses offered around the diocese that deepen faith and understanding. A particular shout out to The Saugeens Theology Series at St. George's, Blue Mountain for making courses available in the Saugeens!

### Indigenous Ministry & Reconciliation

Thank you for the participation of so many in Blanket Exercises around the diocese and to Bridge Builders and others who have faithfully provided the leadership for them.

Our continued education in the legacy of our relationship with Indigenous people is critical to our ongoing work of reconciliation. Participating in a blanket exercise is just a first step.

I encourage parishes, deaneries and every Anglican to continue our education. Our

journey in reconciliation is a long one.

- Visit one of our own indigenous parishes – to sit and listen and

- Read a book ... There are many books written by indigenous authors that open our eyes. I recently read and recommend – 21 things you may not know about the Indian Act by Bob Joseph – the policies of our government continue to stand in the way of fuller reconciliation and many of those policies we do not know. This book gives us a glimpse.

- Watch one or more of the videos of our national Anglican Sacred Circles – all of the videos are on the ca website to know the longings and desires of Anglican Indigenous people across Canada. Some continue to work for a self-determining indigenous Anglican Church within the Anglican Church of Canada.

- Listen to an indigenous radio program such as CBC's UNRESERVED with Rosanna Deerchild to hear the richness and diversity of Indigenous life in Canada. Interviews with Indigenous writers, artists, musicians, Indigenous leaders, lawyers that inspire and challenge!

### Huron Church Camp

Every summer I look forward to visiting Huron Church Camp! It is a great gift in our diocese – the Camp for youth and youth leaders.

The Camp faces three immediate challenges: a need for new washrooms; filling the camp with more campers; and endowing chaplain's ministry. If you or your parish or family have benefitted from Huron Church Camp – consider how you can help the camp continue to share that good news – Hold a fund raiser; sponsor a camper; have a parish event and invite Gerry and a camper to tell you the wonderful stories of Camp. They are the best advertisements imaginable.

Our Camp property is a gift to others as well. Camp Wendake – for people who are HIV positive and their families shares the camp in late August. Last summer I visited Camp Wendake – and was moved as I was repeatedly told how important this camp is to those who come. There is a waiting list and a lottery to choose those who will attend. It is the highlight of the year for many and a rare gift of solidarity for those for whom their illness can still be a stigma.

The Camp property is a beautiful gift in our midst that is used extensively in the summer months but not the rest of the year. We need to explore how this gift might be used in other ways that will connect people with God through the wonders of God's creation. We need to

dream of possibilities and seek partnerships that will allow us to build those dreams – but always keeping the core use of the Camp in the summer for youth and young adults. A small group has begun to wonder – dream and consider what might be possible.

### FUTURE

Last night in my homily I spoke about my recent time in Assisi and being deeply struck by the call to St. Francis to 'rebuild my church' which he did – both the church at San Damiano and later realizing that God also meant rebuilding the life of God's people – the living stones of the Church. That is our call as Christians – to live as disciples (as apprentices) in the way of Jesus so that God's Church – the people of God living as the Creator intended – in love, forgiveness, compassion and justice – is built.

Thank you for the hard work leading into vestry meetings on your mission & ministry plans. It is helpful to step back and look at all aspects of the life of our parishes – to be encouraged by the breadth of activities, especially in local outreach.

As I have read some of the plans I see many faithfully living into the last three Marks of Mission. And I see the struggle we have to live the first two: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom; and to teach, baptize, and nurture new believers.

We need to focus on telling the Good News – expecting people to come and join the Good News and nurture them and ourselves in it.

In 2018-2019 we are piloting a program in partnership with the Institute of Evangelism at Wycliffe College in missional coaching. We have invited a number of parishes to participate in the pilot, along with our congregational coaches. The program will assist parishes to think about key areas of parish life through the lens of those who are not currently part of the church. Too often we are so embedded in seeing the church as we always have that we cannot imagine how foreign and strange we may be – or realize that we need to express ourselves in new ways. This pilot will help a parish team of clergy and laity to consider their life in new ways and reach out to tell our story in Christ. We hope this pilot will become available to more parishes next year!

At the end of 2017 we set aside a portion of the Huron Development Fund set aside as JUBILEE GRANTS – grants of up to \$5000 that can assist a parish to create Christ centered community with those they have not served before. This is another task towards Goals 1 & 2 of the 5



I have enjoyed getting to know the uniqueness and diversity of the different deaneries and areas of our diocese, especially through the Bishop's Friends dinners. Each area has its own flavor through its history and the unique silent auctions that have provided me with craft apple cider; a refinished organ bench; a specially designed paddle and several opportunities to cook Indian dinners for winning bidders!

Over the past year TEAM HURON has been hard at work! The new Stewardship Committee has offered workshops in several deaneries and been available for consultation to parishes. I have heard good news in response to their work.

The Congregational Coaches continue to support selection committees, NCD and strategic planning.

The archdeacons have walked closely with many parishes through particular challenges of building renovations, congregational planning, and proposals for new ministry ideas. I meet regularly with the archdeacons, individually and together, to ensure that all our parishes and clergy are supported as needed.

Our staff work hard to ensure that you and your Wardens have the support they need for the daily operations of your church, safe church and personnel issues. We are a TEAM together.

The team of archdeacons has changed in the past year with the appointment of the Ven. Tim Dobbin (Brant/Norfolk) – and the Ven. Kim Van Allen (Huron/Perth) – and we have

diocese through the gift of time of their priest.

We rejoiced with the Rev. Jeff Kischak and the Rev. Ann Vevara-Divinski as they were ordained as deacons and then as priests. Ann is our first Priest for Specialized Ministry, working in partnership the Rev. Carrie Irwin. The opportunity to have an ordination to the priesthood for Jeff and Ann at St. George's, Owen Sound, in the area they serve, was deeply appreciated by the parishes of the Saugeens – and the joy in the full church was a delight. We welcome the Rev. Jenny Sharp who has returned to Huron from the East; and tonight we will honour retiring clergy.

Last October we shared in grief with the Lutheran Anglican Ministry of the Bruce Peninsula when their priest, the Rev. Chad Honneyman, was tragically killed in an accident. It was a gift to share in ministry in that time with Bishop Michael Pryse, of the ELCIC, as we walked with Chad's wife, Kim, and the whole parish through that tragedy. Most poignant was the immediate recognition within that parish of the need to pray for the young man who had caused the accident – knowing that his life too had been shattered. That is Christian witness – compassion for others in the midst of your own pain.

We continued to see some churches reach the point where sustaining the congregation in the present way was not possible. Several chose to disestablish. We give thanks for the life and witness of these congregations

Marks of Mission.

A small committee worked with me to establish the criteria, receive applications and hear their pitches in person. We were delighted to receive 14 applications – though the total grants requested were double what we had available. We look forward to hearing more from these fresh ideas for ministry as they are implemented. I am hoping that Diocesan Council will consider future grants as we are able. Watch the Huron Church News for stories about the grants!

Living the 5 Marks of Mission is the apprenticeship of being a disciple. I suspect a few may think 'Phew....that Mission & Ministry plan is done and can go on the shelf!' ....Not so!!

Working on the plan is just the start – the next step is to come back to it every year and ask 'How are we doing?' What worked well? What did not? – What do we need to stop doing? What are we missing? What is God calling us to now? This Mission & Ministry Plan must be revisited annually – by parish council, by the wardens, by every parishioner – to celebrate what is helping you to be God's people and to set new goals for the coming year – and to ask what do we need to learn. What do we need to change? Watch for more information in the Fall!!

**Wider Church**

Later this morning we will continue our consideration of the Marriage Canon. Thank you to all who participated in deanery opportunities to share your perspectives on the proposed change that passed first reading in 2016.

The Canon will return to Gen-



eral Synod in 2019 for a second vote. Our consideration will be forwarded to General Synod as part of the ongoing discernment. Please remember the whole church in your prayers as we listen for God's Spirit in the midst of diversity on this issue. I especially want to thank the Ven. Greg Jenkins, Marilyn Malton and the Rev. Dr. Stephen McClatchie for their assistance in our conversations.

It was a great privilege to visit our companion diocese – the Diocese of Amazonia with the Dean and his wife for the consecration of their new bishop, the first woman bishop in Brazil, Bishop Marinez Bassette. Although the visit was short, I was struck by how much our partnership with them is appreciated.

Amazonia is a fledgling mission diocese seeking to become sustainable. Our support and prayers are critical for them. We are planning a visit of Bishop Marinez and the Dean, Claudio di Miranda and diocesan assistant, Joseane da Silva in September this year – September 10-28th • The Companion

Diocese Committee will say more later about plans. I trust that as many as possible will share in meeting them, assuring them of our prayers and listening to the challenges of Anglican life in a new diocese. Other plans for building our relationship will be shared by the Companion Committee.

Please remember our wider Church here in Canada too in the coming year as there are transitions ahead. Our Metropolitan, Archbishop Colin Johnson will be retiring at the end of December. At our Provincial Synod in October we will elect a new Metropolitan for the Province. The new Metropolitan also automatically becomes the Bishop of Moosonee as that diocese now is a mission of the Province.

**Theme**

As we move into our Synod discernment and consider our life let the key words and phrases of our theme bubble up and through all that we do – Discipleship .... Abide in the Word..... Here I am send me..... Rebuild my Church!

We have been sent by our baptismal promises – sent to LIVE as disciples of God by following Jesus Christ. We are asked: Will you pray – will you study – will you be at Eucharist – will you repent & return – will you proclaim – will you love – will you seek justice and peace – will you care for God's creation? We have said – I will with God's help! When we are discouraged at the state of the church – lack of young people; low attendance; low resources; we look for what is wrong – and ask how to fix it. We hope it is an easy fix – like discovering a problem with a motor and deciding it just needs some oil or a tune up. Sometimes it needs to be stripped down – cleaning all the parts – making sure each works as it is intended to – is focused on its purpose.

Sometimes we too need to step back and ask – if it is not working what is the one and only part I can change? That part is ME!... We can only start with ourselves and invite others to do the same. Does everything we (I) do reflect what we have been called to? The people who are the most attractive as Christians are those who live what they believe – Nurture their spiritual life regularly – Think about their life and actions in relations to Jesus and the gospel – Love neighbor as self.

When people outside the church – including our children/grandchildren – see us what do they see?

We live in a world of story-telling where others want to know what is YOUR story! Why does your way of living make a difference? They want to listen and assess its truthfulness based

on your experience and whether your words and actions match the values you proclaim. It is not about telling someone else's story – even just telling Jesus' story. It is about telling the story of how your life is changed, transformed by joining Jesus' story.

What do we want to be known for? If we were to stop someone on the street – and ask them what they think of the Diocese of Huron or of your parish what would they say? What do we want them to say or hope they will say?

We are apprentices in the work of rebuilding God's Church -in learning to be disciples every day. Everything we do is to be rooted in God and our starting place is 'abiding in the Word' – the written word of scripture and living word of Jesus Christ.

For St. Francis rebuilding the church started with him – he literally stripped down – leaving all his wealth and even his clothes behind – and then spent time studying God's word, praying and starting to rebuild the church himself. In a world without the internet, the phone, the TV or radio, news of his actions and his commitment spread rapidly and others joined him, inspired by his example and teaching. What would happen if each of us in this room asked ourselves – What is Jesus calling me to do? To change? To Be? To live the Gospel. Imagine the Diocese of Huron with passionate, energetic disciples living every one of the Marks of Mission in their daily lives and in their parishes.

Rebuild your Church, o Lord – and let it begin with me!

# Conscience clause explained:

## "yes" and "no" vote – what does it mean for diocesan clergy

**From Page 1**

We really have side by side two theologically defensible and opposite understandings of the Sacrament of Marriage, said Bishop Linda. She emphasized that we are going to need to live together with both of those realities in our midst, "and that means making space for both, side by side."

Bishop Linda evoked the debates the Church had in the past in which what was seen as a faithful development of doctrine took time. She mentioned the ordination of women, but also discussions about the place of divorced persons in the Church. The very first conversations on this subject were held in the late 1800s, said the Bishop, and it took the Church until 1969 to come to a final decision that it could and would remarry divorced persons.

"That was 70 years of discernment of different stages and phases", argued Bishop Linda concluding that we need to remember that this kind of dis-

cernment takes time and that we need to move together with that difference in opinions.

The question of the position of clergy who disagree with the decision was also clarified for both scenarios.

"If the answer is 'yes' and I authorize same sex marriages in our diocese, the answer is simple. Any cleric currently and in an ongoing way has the right to say: 'For reasons of conscience I am not able to officiate this wedding.' And that applies to any marriage", explained Bishop Linda.

However, if the Bishop does not authorize same sex marriages, it does not work the other way.

"The clergy are under the vow of obedience to the diocesan bishop. And whether they like it or not, if the bishop has discerned that same sex marriages will not be permitted in the diocese, a cleric is not permitted to break that vow without being aware that there would be to be consequences to that", said Bishop Linda. In her opinion, this is

what it means to live together in those relationships of obedience and community, "where we are discerning together as a community, even if we individually disagree with what the community has said at that time."

This is why we have to take our pastoral responsibility seriously, said Bishop Nicholls.

"If a couple wants you to officiate and you are not able to, you still need to see what is possible, because you are still their pastor, you are still the person who will have to walk with them in the time following."

Archbishop Hiltz added that we have a variety of practices across the Church, and we have to consider that fact as a part of our pastoral response.

He also commented on the likelihood of there being "consequences" handed down from the Anglican Communion should Canada move forward with the proposed changes.

"Any decision which relates to doctrine of the Church has consequences", warned Archbishop Hiltz.

**BISHOP'S FRIENDS**

**A FUNDRAISING EVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Bishop's Friends North: September 20**

**Kitchener-Waterloo: October 23**

**London Area: November 14**

*Wednesday, April 25, Huron-Perth once again hosted Bishop's Friends at Mitchell Golf & Country Club, an evening of joyful companionship and conversation with Bishop Linda Nicholls. As always, the silent auction was a complete success, and Rev. Tim Elliott with his Phil Harmonics (Pert-Huron Interchurch Liberation Harmonics) provided a superb entertainment.*

## New vibrations, good vibrations: diocesan youth in action



They came again, straight from their conference (this time with Bishop Linda), to challenge Synod with their fresh ideas.

Diocesan youth was visible at Synod in different ways, including the engagement in the Communications Committee.

It was their idea for the Diocese to try to keep up with the dramatic changes in the world of communications in order to make our message more visible.

In 2015 the Diocesan Youth proposed a motion to Synod that the Bishop consider the for-

mal launch of a Diocese of Huron Communication Committee. Here they are, three years later, in a position to make the change.

Photo: Youth Conference, Huron Church Camp, May 2018.

## The future of diocesan newspapers: your opinion

*I am a staunch reader of your newspaper. I enjoy hearing of events and opinions in our diocese. This is really the only way one can learn all the news that is happening. I like reading the spiritual message written by the clergy and the Bishop. It keeps me informed about what other churches are doing. I would miss it terribly if it was discontinued.*

Sandra Menard, Christ Church in Amherstburg

*I would very much support the continuation of the print editions of the Huron Church News and the Anglican Journal. Both are very well done in terms of the articles in the papers, the writing and the value to the church of these papers. You are absolutely right where you state that these papers connect us across the diocese and across the national church.*

*I read most articles in both papers and would feel that without them the Church would be weakened. We need to be connected from parish to parish and diocese to diocese. We live in a time when the culture of society is not very cognizant of the presence of the Church in the world and these papers help counter that. The physical existence of the paper is important.*

Joseph Wooden, Grand Bend

*I would like to see this online rather than getting the paper. There is one problem though... I would imagine there are people who do not have a computer. I'm wondering if it would be possible to have a printed version by mail and also on line.*

Patricia Martin, St. Paul's, Stratford

*Further to your request for comments, mailing of publications is becoming as outdated as the horse and buggy. I personally discontinued door delivery of papers years ago in favor of online delivery. Possibly an option should be offered to continue mail delivery to those recipients – a small minority – who may not have computers but otherwise delivery should be online.*

Hilary Payne, Windsor (St James Roseland)

*Thank you for being our editor of a superb publication. I'm a retired cleric and since I'm "out of the loop" it's a vital CONNECTOR for our family.*

*I know the challenges of parish sustainability - been there as arch-deacon.*

*I so hope HCNews limps along some more. All I can do is offer to double my subscription.*

John Spencer, Stratford

## From the Anglican Editors' Conference

By Rev. Canon Keith Nethery

From May 24 to 26, historic Halifax was the setting for this year's conference of the Anglican editors, those charged with putting together diocesan newspapers.

As the editor of the Huron Church News, our communications officer, Davor Milicevic, was unable to attend, the Rev. Canon Keith Nethery represented our diocese in his role as chair of the Communications Committee.

The first thing one recognizes in attending this conference is that membership in the Editors Association, is in a state of flux. Fully half the people attending carry the title Communication Officer in their diocese and the newspaper is one of many things they are responsible for. Others in attendance were responsible solely for the production of their diocesan paper.

It is hardly surprising then that the main topic of the conference was the many changes in communication in the Anglican Church of Canada. First and foremost we listened to an update from Ian Alexander, representing a COGS (Council of



General Synod) working group on the future of the Anglican Journal. While this was an intermediate report and thus had no specific conclusions attached, it would be fair to say that change will continue to be a buzz word.

The group spent a very profitable time talking about social media and how important it is in our communication strategies of today. This will continue to be a main focus on all levels of the Anglican Church.

The final day of the conference saw a panel discussion on medical assistance in dying

("Maid"). With a hospital chaplain, a medical doctor, a parish priest and an ethics scholar, we were given a fulsome look at the many different parts of this complex issue which seems poised to garner attention from many segments of society as "maid" continues to increase numerically.

Immediately the conference turned to a practical exercise on the preceding subject with a lively discussion on how church newspapers might cover the issues around medical assistance in dying.

## New awards for HCN

Huron Church News won two awards from the Canadian Church Press (CCP) at an event held in Hamilton on May 4 to recognize the excellence among the members of the CCP for works published in 2017.

Huron Church News was recognized with a second place award in the interview category and a third place award for in-depth treatment of a news event. The second place prize was given for Sandra Coulson's interview with Bishop Linda Nicholls printed in the May edition. Huron Church News' coverage of the march against intolerance in London, Ontario, published in October 2017 won the third place award. The coverage includes texts by Sandra Coulson, Bishop Linda Nicholls and Rev. Marty Levesque.

One of our columnists, Rev. Canon Christopher Pratt, was also recognized at the convention for his article published in the New Brunswick Anglican which was a part of the winning collage in the category for in-depth treatment of a news event.

Huron Church News was awarded by the CCP for second year in a row. Last year, Huron Church News also won a third place award for in-depth treatment of a news event. More than 80 Canadian church publications – newspapers and magazines – are CCP members. CCP is regarded as one of the most active and broadly based ecumenical organizations in Canada.

Format of Tournament:  
Texas Scramble

Registration: 11:00 am. Lunch: 11:40  
a.m. Shotgun Start – 12:45 pm.  
Dinner and auction – 6:00 pm.

Included in Your Registration Fee  
of \$140:

18 holes of golf, with cart @ Pine  
Knot G.C.

Registration & Lunch, Dinner,  
Photos, Prizes & Silent Auction  
Golfer gifts and approx. \$25 tax  
receipt

## Diocesan 10th Annual Golf Tournament Saturday, September 8, 2018.

Pine Knot G.C., Dorchester, ON.

All proceeds raised go to the  
Faith-In-Action Trust Fund  
For Outreach Ministry in Huron

To register and for further information, or if you would like to help volunteer, contact:

Rev. Daniel Bowyer at 519-301-9873 or [hurongolf@gmail.com](mailto:hurongolf@gmail.com)

or

visit our Diocese of Huron website: [www.diohuron.org](http://www.diohuron.org)

Sponsorship Opportunities

Dinner Sponsor \$2,000

Lunch Sponsor \$1,500

Golf Cart Sponsor \$1,500

Prize Sponsor \$1,000

Hole Sponsors \$150

Other:

Platinum sponsor \$2,000

Gold sponsor \$1,500

Silver sponsor \$1,000

Bronze \$500

For more info contact: Paul

Rathbone 519-434-6893

(x240)

## PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

### Appointments

Bishop Linda Nicholls appoints the following as Chaplains to Retired Clergy and Spouses:

Brant/Norfolk and Oxford: Rev. Canon Bob Schroeder; Essex: Rev. Canon Dr. Don Hull; Huron/Perth: Rev. Glenda Meakin; Kent/Lambton: Ven. Dr. Gordon Simmons; London and Delaware: Rev. Canon Marian Haggerty; Saugeens: Ven. Judy Walton; Waterloo: Rev. Paul Kett.

Bishop Nicholls appoints Rev. Robert Henderson as rector of Holy Trinity St. Stephen's, London, effective August 1, 2018. Rob is currently the rector of St. James', (Roseland) Windsor.

Bishop Nicholls appoints Rev. Bradley Johnson as the rector of the Church of the Epiphany Woodstock, effective August 15, 2018. Brad is currently the rector of the Brant Regional Ministry (All Saints, Mount Pleasant; St. James', Brantford and Holy Trinity, Burford.)

### Church House Staff Announcement

With the upcoming retirement of Charlie Mungar, Financial Analyst for the Diocese of Huron, some of the position descriptions have been modified. Ms. Terri Ellison has accepted the newly created position of Accounting Coordinator at Church House. Her primary duties will include administration of the trust funds and accounts receivable and payable. Terri can be reached at [accounting@huron.anglican.ca](mailto:accounting@huron.anglican.ca) or 519-434-6893 xt 236. Ms. Hayley James remains the Payroll Clerk with the addition of the Preauthorized Givings to her responsibilities and a change to full-time hours. Hayley can be reached at [payroll@huron.anglican.ca](mailto:payroll@huron.anglican.ca) or 519-434-6893 xt 234. We wish Charlie all the best as he begins his retirement and both Terri and Hayley success with their new positions at church house.

### Retirement

Bishop Linda Nicholls has accepted the request to retire of Rev. Canon Vicars Hodge, effective December 31, 2018. Vicars was ordained a deacon on May 24, 1990 and a priest on November 29, 1990. He served the parishes of St. Stephen's Memorial, London; Christ Church, Glanworth; St. Paul's, Wingham and Trinity, Belgrave. He also served as Regional Dean of Huron from 1995 – 1999 and was appointed a Cathedral Canon December 1, 2012. He was a member of the Renew-al Committee for the Diocese from 2013. After spending some time in the Diocese of Fredericton, he returned to Huron as the rector of Trinity, Sarnia, the position from which he will retire. Canon Vicars was named the Diocesan Canon Missioner on May 26, 2013.

### Ministry Transition

Bishop Nicholls has accepted the request of Rev. Glenda Fisher to resign, effective May 6, 2018, from her ministry at All Saints' Windsor where she has served since her ordination to the diaconate.

### Deconsecration

A Service of Thanksgiving and Deconsecration for St. George's, Windsor was held on Thursday April 26th. The service included a celebration of their past ministry. Bishop Nicholls was preacher and celebrant.

### Bishop of Huron – Synod Appointments

The opening worship service of Synod took place today, Sunday, May 27th at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, London. At the service Bishop Linda Nicholls made the following appointments:

#### Servers Guild

Nancy Barwick, Brendon Bedford, Nigel Challen, Calvin Clark, Sophia Dencev, Isabella DiNino, Amanda DiNino, Deirdre DiNino, Richard Falshaw, Sharon Frank, Kyle Gascho, Donna Gingras, Donald Hastie, Christopher Hughesman, Carolyn Mastelotto, Lisa Mendler, Bill McKinstry, Stefan Nichol, Reagan Roberts, Karen Sunabacka, Michelle Viglianti and Don Walters

#### Regional Deans

Brant/Norfolk: Rev. Paul Sherwood  
Delaware: Rev. Canon Nick Wells  
Essex: Rev. Canon Rob Lemon

Huron/Perth: Rev. Matt Martin

Kent: Rev. John Maroney

Lambton: Rev. Kristen Aikman

London: Rev. Canon Bill Ward

Oxford: Rev. Meghan Nicholls

Saugeens: Rev. Carrie Irwin

Waterloo: Rev. Canon Linda Nixon

**To the Cathedral Chapter of Canons:**

Reverend Rob Lemon; Rev. Bill Ward.

**As Canon with title:** Rev. Dr. Lizette Larson-Miller, Canon Precentor

### Rest in Peace

Mary Uniacke Scovil (nee Bayly), widow of Rev. Canon George C. Coster Scovil died peacefully on April 23 in Toronto at the age of 101. Loving mother of Peter (Alma), David, Allen, Frances (Stephen Robson) and Patricia. Dear granny to Carol, Sharon (Jerome Neufeld), Donna (Lauren Matheson), Jonathan, Madeleine, Theodore, Mary (Jonathon Smith), Stephen, Christine (Lance Smith), Theresa (Kevin Hertwig), Katherine, Fiona, Susannah and Michael. Great granny to Cayley, Miles, Wendell, Lindsay, Anna, David, Jonathon, Paige and Ethan. Sister of the late George (Terk) Bayly (Fay), the late Jim Bayly (Jane) and Darby Spafford (Gordon). Mary had a deep abiding faith in God and with Canon Coster, spent many years in service with the Anglican Church. In Huron, Canon Coster served at: St. John's Strathroy, St. Anne's Adelaide, and St. George's, London. Coster predeceased Mary in 2008. The funeral service was held on May 11 at Church of the Redeemer in Toronto.

Mrs. Mary Lupton, widow of the Reverend Canon Sid Lupton died peacefully Monday May 14 in her 93rd year. She is survived by her children, William (Bill), Nancy, and Peter.

Mary was a "life member" of the Women's Auxilliary and served the diocese for many years as a member of the diocesan executive of the Anglican Church Women including as president from 1998 to 2000. She was a part of the parish communities of St. Mary's and Calvary, Pelee Island; St. Paul's Kerwood, St. Ann's Adelaide and Grace Warwick; Church of the Messiah Kincardine and St. Luke's Pine River; St. Hilda's and St. Luke's, St. Thomas; Holy Trinity and St. George's of-Forest-Hill, Kitchener; St. John's Tillsonburg and St. John's Culloden; Grace Ilderton and St. George's Middlesex Centre; and St. George's London where Sid served as a deacon and priest. Sid predeceased Mary in 2008.

Hanny Siecker (mother of the Rev'd JoAnn Todd (Hugh), passed away peacefully in her 88th year, on May 14, 2018 in Lucknow, 2 days short of a year after her husband John's passing. Caring mom of Rev'd JoAnn, John D. Siecker (Patti) of Orillia, Rob Siecker of Owen Sound. Loving Oma to 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Graveside Service with interment at Greenhill Cemetery Lucknow June 15.

Mrs. Elaine Myer, mother of the Reverend Kim Metelka died on May 14. Beloved wife of the late Rodney (2000). Dear mother of Lee (Edith) (and Rev'd Kim). Loving grandmother of Daniel (Kellie), Ellena (Ryan), the late Robert (2015), Jared, Arthur (Melissa), Brodie and great grandmother of Christian, Sophia, Bristol, and Killian. Dear companion of Bill Stein. Dear sister of Joyce Bastien (Don), the late Ray Brackenbury (Ev), the late Ron Brackenbury (Bette), and the late Bill Brackenbury. Dear mother-in-law of Pete Metelka. The funeral service took place on May 18 at the United Church in Ruthven.

Rev. Sonjie Edith Pearson died on April 25, 2018 in her 83rd year, after a lifetime of loving service. Sonjie is survived by brothers Edward and Eugene and families. After her retirement in 2000, Rev. Sonjie moved to the Waterloo area and served as Honorary Assistant at Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener until her death. Many in Huron will remember her compassionate pastoral care in the church, in nursing homes and at Monica Place. She was a treasured friend and will be missed. A funeral service and celebration of Sonjie's life was held at a later date.

## The Venerable Kim Van Allen collated as Archdeacon of Huron/Perth



Bishop Linda Nicholls collated the Ven. Kim Van Allen as Archdeacon of Huron/Perth on May 2, at St. George's Church, Goderich.

Kim is the rector of St. George's, Goderich and Christ Church, Port Albert. She was ordained in Huron in 1997 and appointed to the positions of lay assistant to the rector; assistant curate to the rector; and assistant to the rector (all of) New St. Paul's, Woodstock.

She became the rector of St. George's, London Township

and Grace Church, Ilderton in 2000 and served as Regional Dean of Medway for two years. In 2004, Kim was the rector of St. Alban the Martyr, London. She received the appointment of Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's, London in 2007 as well as serving as regional dean of Brough Deanery and the rector of All Saints, Windsor (from 2007 to 2015).

Kim was the archdeacon of Essex Deanery from 2010 to 2013.

## New chaplain of Huron University College

Huron University College announces the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Gary Thorne as the chaplain of Huron University College, for a three-year term, commencing July 1, 2018.

Gary comes to Huron from the University of King's College in Halifax N.S., where he has served as chaplain to both King's College and Dalhousie University for the past thirteen years.

Gary has a BA (Philosophy) from Acadia University and Aberdeen University, an M.A. (Philosophy) from Dalhousie University, an M.A. (Classics) from

Dalhousie University, an M.Div. from the Atlantic School of Theology, and a Ph.D. (Theology) from Durham University.

He is retired with the rank of lieutenant-colonel from the Canadian Armed Forces, having received several decorations as a result of his service, including a tour with the United Nations Observer Force in the Golan Heights. He is the recipient of three honorary doctorates as well as the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

## Ten years with the diocese



In 2008 Huron Church House welcomed Jennifer McLaughlin to assist in the Administration & Finance and Human Resources departments.

She quickly recognized her passion was for Human Re-

sources. She earned her C.H.R.P. designation and is now the Human Resources Officer for the diocese.

In April the Huron Church House celebrated ten years of Jennifer's employment.

# ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

## In Memory



### Oxford Deanery

**St. John's, Tillsonburg**  
 Beryl Elizabeth Kramer  
 Martha Annette Leighfield  
 Linda Rosalee Lewis  
 Elsie June Mann  
 Eileen Cissie Pratt

### Saugeen's Deanery

**St. John's, Port Elgin**  
 Greta Brown  
 Isobel Flippance  
 Joan MacKay  
 Bev Ryan

# Generous, as always...



**With the excellent management of its funds, held in trust by the Diocese, the ACW were able to donate \$150,000.00.**

**They presented cheques for \$50,000.00 to the Diocese of Huron, Huron Church Camp and The Council of the North (presented to the Primate).**

# September



An invitation to SAUGEENS DEANERY

### Altar & Chancel Guild Celebration

To be held at  
**ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
 Blue Mountains  
 166 Russell Street - Clarksburg, Ont

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

Registration 9:00 - 9:30  
 Meet & Greet - Coffee/Tea



Eucharist  
 Rev'd Grayhame Bowcott - Celebrant

Guest Speaker  
 Mr. Jim McLean

Lunch provided @ minimal cost



We look forward to welcoming you!  
 Contact Person: Frances Murray  
 519-538-3937 Email: [fmurray43@rogers.com](mailto:fmurray43@rogers.com)

RSVP by Friday 15 September 2018

# Finding your way to pray

## ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER



By Stephanie Donaldson

When you hear the word prayer what comes to mind? Kneeling by your bed as a small child whispering "Now I lay me down to sleep. . .", or a simple grace being offered at family gatherings? Does it go much deeper?

As I began to discern my diaconal calling I found that I was confused about prayer. In discernment one confronts ones deepest thoughts, doubts and fears, coming face to face with them. It is a part of ones' spiritual and emotional growth, without it there can be no growth.

I had once been told that the only true way to pray was to use centering or contemplative prayer. Both involve silence. Sadly as two concussions three weeks apart have left me with a permanent ringing in my ears, I have no silence.

How might this work for me? I did realize though that when I was in the forest behind and

to the north of my house, or sitting in the sand dunes in front of my house or walking on a deserted beach that I was having a conversation with God. Yes, there is ambient noise, the rustle of the leaves on the forest floor, the gentle lapping of the waves on the shore, but that is my silence.

Several years ago at the Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference I listened to Bishop Barry Clarke speak about Celtic prayer. I realized that was where I belonged. Celtic blood courses through my veins, I was home. Now a snowstorm in its majesty invites me to pray, the changing of the seasons, the buds emerging from their winter slumber, geese flying over head, as is God's creation, prayer is all around us.

It is how one talks to God, God is there. God listens. You just have to find your voice and wait for his reply.

Stephanie Donaldson, member of the Executive of the Anglican Fellowship of prayer.

*Wondering what it's all about?*

## Course for Lay People & FOR THE LICENTIATE IN THEOLOGY



**Feeling a little world-weary? Need time to renew, revive, re-group?**

### Spiritual Retreat

July 3-5, 2018, Holy Family Retreat House, Lake Erie.  
 Explore contemplative prayer. By engaging with these ancient traditions of prayer, you will find that your prayer life may become even more a source of strength, nourishment, and transformation. Led by the Rev. Dr. Lisa Wang. More details online.

*For more about the LTh, this course & to register:*

[www.huronuc.ca/LTh](http://www.huronuc.ca/LTh)

Faculty of Theology  
 Huron University College  
 1349 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1H3  
 519.438.7224, ext. 289; [janstead@uwo.ca](mailto:janstead@uwo.ca)



# A historic moment in the life of Amazonia

By Very Reverend Paul Millward

**N**os proclamamos que Marinez e bispana Igreja de Deus, em nome do Pai, do Filho e do Espirito Santo.

With these words, the Most Reverend Francisco de Assis da Silva, Primate of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil, proclaimed Marinez Rosa Bassotto a Bishop in the Church of God, a historic event in the life of our companion diocese of Amazonia.

Speaking moments after the service of consecration, held in Catedral de Santa Maria, Belem, on April 21, Archbishop da Silva stated "We certainly live in a special moment of our Province with the election of our first female bishop. A fresh wind is blowing through our church and this represents new times and a new way of exercising this special ministry. The Diocese of the Amazon and the IEAB are taking a decisive step towards gender equality and for this we are very happy."

Although it preceded the Church's celebration of Pente-



**Bishop Linda Nicholls and Bishop Marinez Rosa Bassotto**

cost by some three weeks, the power and presence of that "fresh wind", God's Holy Spirit was never more apparent than at the service of consecration held on the Saturday evening and the service of installation on the Sunday morning, installing Bishop Marinez as the second Bishop of the Diocese of Amazonia. Both liturgies were incredibly joy-filled and up-lifting, reflecting a thankfulness that found its expression in so many aspects parts of the worship: the music led by

a praise team of singers and instrumentalists, the proclamation of the gospel, led by three young women who danced down the aisle before offering John's gospel, to the passing of the peace, in which no one remained in his or her seat, truly a symbol of the importance of community among those who had gathered, many from neighbouring dioceses who spent hours on buses to arrive in Belem for the celebration of the new bishop.

As part of our on-going relationship with our companion diocese, it was an honour and privilege to be present at this historic and incredibly sacred event. Bishop Linda was invited to be the preacher for the Saturday evening service of consecration, held in an outdoor pavilion adjacent to the Cathedral. Those in attendance were pleasantly surprised when Bishop began her sermon in Portuguese, the native language of the Brazilian people. And while the balance of her sermon was in English, translated by one of the local clergy, there was great appreciation from those who had gathered for Bishop Linda's message, speaking on the role of a bishop, both in the Diocese and in the wider church.

From the moment of our arrival on the Friday afternoon, we were treated to the warmth and hospitality of our friends in Amazonia, including a half day tour with the Rev. Marcos Barros de Souza, one of the clergy in Belem who our Diocese had the privilege of welcoming in 2017.

Marcos took us on a half day tour of Belem, one of the largest cities in Brazil and acknowledged as one of the most impoverished and crime-ridden. We stopped at the church of St. Luke where Marcos is the rector, a church that has fallen victim to that crime, having been robbed of the praise team's instruments a few months earlier. The church community takes these moments in stride however, and don't allow them to dampen their enthusiasm for proclaiming the gospel in a way that invites all to hear the Good News, bit by bit, the instruments are being replaced. And while the walls and windows are plain and unadorned, it only takes a moment to know that this is sacred and holy space.

At the main entrance to the church, there is a beautiful baptismal font. It was actually a pile of stones on top of which

rested a very large pottery container that we were told was a funeral urn. Marcos placed another pottery pitcher over the edge of it, connected to an old washing machine motor, so that water flowed up through the pitcher into the funeral urn and down again...an image of life out of death. As a community whose reality is so different from ours, this font is a symbol of their hope in Jesus Christ, and there is much that we can learn and share about finding joy in our midst.

The Gospel passage from which Bishop Linda preached was taken from John 17, in which Jesus prays for the unity of the church, that all who believe would be sanctified in the truth. "I ask not only on behalf of these" Jesus prays, "But on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word..." Our brothers and sisters in our companion Diocese of Amazonia take these words to heart, embracing through their belief, the opportunity to share the Good News with those with whom they "live and move and have their being"... Thanks be to God.

Very Reverend Paul Millward is the Dean of Huron.



**Baptismal font at St. Luke's Church in Belem: an image of life out of death.**



**Gospel dance: Cathedral de Santa Maria, Belem, on April 21.**

## Susan Bell - the twelfth Bishop of Niagara

More than 600 people gathered to pray at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton to take part in the historic ordination: on Saturday, May 5, Susan Jennifer Anne Bell became the first woman ordained to serve as Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara.

Archbishop Colin Johnson, metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, presided and acted as the chief consecrator during the two-hour service. More than a dozen bishops, including the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, were in attendance.

Speaking to the people of the diocese, Bishop Linda Nicholls of the Diocese of Huron said, "Susan will be your shepherd and teacher... and will need your constant prayers." She added, "together you will continue to be and proclaim the good news in this part of the Anglican Church of Canada."

The clergy and people of the diocese elected Bishop Bell on the fifth ballot of an episcopal election that took place on March 3.

After a brief transition period, Bishop Bell succeeded Bishop Bird as diocesan bishop on June 1, 2018, becoming the twelfth Bishop of Niagara and first woman to hold this office.

(niagaraanglican.ca)

**Bishop Susan Bell of the Diocese of Niagara with Bishop Linda Nicholls after the service in Hamilton on May 5.**



Photo: Michael Hudson

# Bishop and Anglican Church fight slavery in India

By Rev. Kevin Dixon

Bishop Ashoke Biswas' face conveyed kindness as he considered my question: What is the biggest challenge to the Christian church in Kolkata?

Our conversation occurred in the bishop's office at the end of April, where a large wooden cross hangs above his desk, and walls adorned with memorabilia reflect the bishop's lifetime of community activism.

Ashoke Biswas is a "son of the soil". Born and raised in Kolkata – the "City of Joy" – he was nurtured from childhood in the Anglican tradition with its colonial roots and steeped from birth in Kolkata's complex mix of religion and culture.

As I waited for him to respond to what I had asked, I wondered if his answer might reflect concern for the survival of the institutional church in India. Then again, Kolkata is where Mother Teresa carried out her ministry among the "untouchables," and where the grind of poverty wears at the visitor's soul, and where concerns run much deeper than the wellbeing of institutions.

Finally, Bishop Biswas said, "a great challenge for the church is to overcome the injustices that rob life from so many millions here." The bishop raised an authoritative hand to emphasize his determination to battle the evil that surrounds him.

Askoke Biswas is one of the most respected Christian leaders in Kolkata. Throughout his ten years as bishop, he has applied considerable influence for the sake of justice. He stands in support of a church-run initiative, Cathedral Relief Services (CRS), which operates out of St. Paul's Cathedral in Kolkata. CRS provides economic empowerment to women who have escaped the sexual exploitation that profits countless brothel owners in Kolkata's red light districts. The largest of these, called the Sonagachi district, contains an estimated 10,000 sex workers within one square mile, many of whom are minor girls who were trafficked into a life of violence and slavery.

International Justice Mission (IJM), partners with local authorities to rescue these girls and works with local police to arrest and restrain suspected

perpetrators. Social workers along with organizations like CRS, private aftercare providers like Mahima Home, and government shelters like Sukanya Home, provide trauma-focused therapy for survivors to restore them to wholeness and strength. IJM's lawyers follow the criminal proceedings through the courts, representing survivors when possible. IJM's theory of change has proven that when laws are enforced and perpetrators held accountable, the prevalence of violent crime drops and the vulnerable poor are protected.

Countless examples of injustice serve as a backdrop to Bishop Biswas' ministry in Kolkata. At the beginning of April, a painful chapter was finally closed for two survivors of sex trafficking in Kolkata. Two teen girls were trafficked from Bangladesh and subjected to violent abuse and forced abortions in a brothel. When IJM and local police discovered the abuse and arrived to rescue the girls in January 2012, the girls shared stories of horrific violence, sexual assault and forced drug use. The brothel keeper who exploited them for sex was finally brought to justice and given 10 years in prison—the maximum sentence for her crimes.

On April 2 of this year, a judge sentenced the brothel keeper under multiple sections of India's penal code, including cross-border trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors. The judge also demanded a fine of 100,000 rupees (about \$2,000 Canadian) and recommended the local government compensate the victims for their experience. Officials helped the two survivors return home to Bangladesh in 2014 after their testimonies were complete. IJM



Left to right: Rig David, Executive Director of CRS; Jennifer Hill; Bishop Ashoke Biswas; Kevin Dixon; Rev. Abhir Adhikari, Vicar of St. Paul's Cathedral. (Photo: Diocese of Calcutta)

supported the girls' resettlement at home and supported them with two years of rehabilitation support as they healed.

Modern slavery is part of a multibillion-dollar industry. According to the 2017 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, more than 40 million people worldwide are trafficked into forced or bonded labour, commercial sexual exploitation, and forced or servile marriage. In 2016, Walk Free Foundation estimated 18.3 million slaves in India alone. American researchers Samuel H. Williamson and Lois P. Cain of Loyola University report that just before the start of the American Civil War the average real price of a slave in the United States was \$23,000 US in 2016 dollars, but several organizations such as Anti-Slavery International have found places today where slaves sell for as little as (or even less than) \$100 US!

Violent injustice like this, offset by the promise of restoration, motivates Bishop Biswas to lend his support to IJM's efforts. Last September, the Diocese of Kolkata participated

whole-heartedly in IJM's annual Freedom Sunday. Bishop Biswas led the congregation to take a ceremonial oath and commit to ending violence and slavery. White balloons were symbolically released to represent every trafficked victim. The ceremony repeated itself in more than 30 churches from different denominations throughout the city of Kolkata.

"I encourage my brothers and sisters in the church of Canada to stand with us and celebrate Freedom Sunday," said Bishop Biswas when we met in April. Slavery must end, and Christians must do their part by prayer and action. God led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. It begins and ends with God, but that doesn't mean we can stand by and do nothing.

Rev. Kevin Dixon is the former dean at St. Paul's Cathedral in the Diocese of Huron. Since 2015 he has served as vice president of Programs and Operations with International Justice Mission Canada. IJM's Canadian office is located in London, Ontario.



The streets of Kolkata are full of colour and life. (Photo: Kevin Dixon)

## Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to support Camp Wendake

A brave group of 14 people will be starting the trek of a lifetime on August 5 to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (Eastern Africa) to raise money and awareness for Camp Wendake, an outreach program of the Diocese of Huron, which provides a residential camping experience for those living with HIV and their immediate caregivers.

Camp Wendake has been operating as a program of the Diocese of Huron for 22 years, providing campers with social opportunities, physical nourishment, mental health supports and spiritual care and guidance.

Camp Wendake uses the Huron Church Camp location on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron, for one week at the

end of each summer to bring together 80 campers. This offers both respite and hope by providing a safe place where people are reminded that they are not alone. They are free from judgement, and welcomed in a place that embodies love, compassion and acceptance.

Camp Wendake does not receive funding from any sources other than the financial contributions from generous donors and fundraising events

that support our cause. It costs \$45,000 per year (for one week of camp) to run Camp Wendake using a volunteer base of staff of approximately 40 people.

The Governance Committee is always looking at creative ways to create more awareness about this incredible program and help share our message to the broader community. This is where the idea of climbing a mountain to raise funds took seed!

Tracey Jones, chair of the Governance Committee, states: "I was hopeful that I could find one other person that might be crazy enough to take on a challenge like this and climb a mountain with me to raise money to fund Camp Wendake! Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would find 13 other crazy people like myself!"

Most of the 14 people that are climbing in this group either volunteer with Camp Wendake or they have an affiliation with supporting HIV related causes that peaked their interest when the opportunity was presented.

The financial goal that was set by this group is a lofty one - \$20,000! This represents \$1 per foot up to the Uhuru peak at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing

mountain in the world. The summit is an impressive 19,341 ft high but the team felt optimistic and rounded the goal up to an even \$20,000!

"We are appealing to everyone in our Huron church communities and beyond to consider sponsoring our team and helping us to reach our goal before we set foot on the mountain on August 5th! Every dollar will go back into financially supporting Camp Wendake," says Jones asking the community to keep them motivated to reach the peak.

All donations that are \$20 and over will automatically receive a charitable tax receipt from the Diocese of Huron.

Tracey Jones & Rod Culham

To inquire about hosting an event in your parish to support the Kilimanjaro team, please contact Tracey Jones, chair of the Governance Committee for Camp Wendake at 519-280-4269 or by email at [info@campwendake.org](mailto:info@campwendake.org). Links to make a donation directly to the Kilimanjaro team:

<https://www.campwendake.org/kilimanjaroforwendake>  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/28474>

# 'Through the Ages': marking 170 years of Trinity Church, Simcoe



**By Rev. Paul Sherwood**

On the afternoon of Saturday, May 5, the parish hall at Trinity Church in Simcoe was a blaze of colour and couture, polish and panache as a parade of models showcased female fashions from the Victorian era to the present day.

A fashion show 'Through the Ages' was held at part of Trinity's 170th anniversary celebrations. Volunteer models from local high schools and the con-

gregation dressed up in outfits from 1848 to 2018.

From Victorian wedding dresses to 1950's Crimplene, 1960's flower power to 1980's shoulder pads, the audience was dazzled by a rich variety of colours, textures and styles. Many garments were provided by parishioners and some were on loan from the Waterford Old Town Hall Association.

Afterwards attendees were treated to light refreshments

and a chance to talk with the models.

The climax of the 170th celebrations will be an anniversary service of Choral Evensong at 4:00pm on Sunday, September 16, with Bishop Linda, followed by a formal dinner. Friends and former parishioners are encouraged to attend. Please call the parish office 519-426-0501 for more information.

*Rev. Paul Sherwood is the rector of Trinity Church, Simcoe.*

# 'Every member sharing their faith'

More than 50 people gathered together at Trinity Church in Simcoe on Saturday, April 21 for the Brant-Norfolk Deanery Evangelism workshop.

Led by The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Henderson, from the Wycliffe Theological College Institute of Evangelism and assisted by Wycliffe Divinity students, Craig Love, Erin Waller Roy and David Butorac, clergy and laity spent the day working on the idea of 'Every member sharing their faith'.

Starting with reflections on the current situation the church finds itself at this point in time in Canada, the day included exploring Biblical models of faith-sharing and the power of God in evangelism, as well as sharing personal stories.

The participants looked at how local churches can engage in their communities and parish groups considered practical ways of sharing the Christian faith with people from outside the church. Some suggestions included: summer services on the church lawn and 'Messy Church' for adults!

It was an extremely positive day with people from across the deanery getting to know one another better, sharing their experiences and coming up with creative ideas for sharing the Christian faith with others. Perhaps most importantly, everyone present went away knowing that 'Evangelism' is not a scary word but something all Christians, with the help of the Holy Spirit, are called to participate in: sharing the Good News. A free-will offering raised over \$350 for PWRDF.

Brant-Norfolk Deanery will be hosting another Evangelism workshop, 'Learning through Story', on Saturday, June 16 at Trinity Church Simcoe.

*Rev. Paul Sherwood*

# Musical evening at St. John's, Eastwood



Tuesday, April 17 was the date for the second Musical Evening at St. John's Anglican Church, Eastwood.

The evening was organized as part of an ongoing programme to involve and entertain members of the congregation and the local community by Rev. Derek Perry, Heather Garland and Peter Wright.

Over 20 performers from the Southern Ontario Ukulele Players (SOUP) group braved the bad weather to travel from London and further afield to treat us to a delightful evening of bright music and singing.

We related the dedication, friendship and commitment that was displayed between the members and their music, to our own relationships within our Church community. Narrating our own desire to reach out to bring the word of God to all through whatever means we have been blessed with.

Organiser Lynda had produced a songbook so that our members and guests could sing along to a programme of the well-known country, folk and gospel songs made famous by Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, Simon and Garfunkle, John Denver, CCR and other artists. Some of the favourite songs were: Sweet Caroline, Take Me Home Country Roads, Mrs. Robinson, I Believe In Music, Will The Circle Be Unbroken and I Saw The Light.

The evening showcased the versatility and warm sounds of the ukulele in skilled hands as well as the enthusiastic singing abilities of the audience.

Thanks to Lynda and her team from SOUP for a wonderful musical evening of fun and enjoyment.

*Peter J. Wright*

# A message of hope in Stratford



On April 13th, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Stratford hosted a benefit show in support of Stratford-Perth Shelterlink youth shelter.

The show featured five of the best indie bands in Ontario: Ever Elsewhere (Southern Ontario); Letdown (Oshawa); Gold Finch (Waterloo); Certainty (London Post) Hashtag Hope (Cambridge) and Romancer (Kitchener).

The highlight of the evening was Hashtag Hope's Nick Pegg's address in which this young Christian motivational speaker focused on the idea of hope in the life of youth.

There is a lot of outreach happening in mainstream areas of communities and the lot of

funding is going there, explains Pegg for the Huron Church News: "I am trying to reach into specific, maybe darker subcultures with a message of hope."

"In my life it has been a message of finding purpose and value from God, but that is not always where I start," admits Pegg stating that he looks for "a common ground that everyone in their life will have a need for hope."

The entire evening was an attempt to think outside the box about the ways to make known the Good news. As Rev. Rev. Dan Bowyer of St. Paul's pointed out, "it just made sense that something that is meant to engage youth - such as a con-

cert - be used as a good vehicle for something that supports youth".



Photos: Tommy Alison

# Pocket prayer squares for Humboldt Saskatchewan



The Prayer Shawl Group at St. John the Divine Anglican Church in Arva has been busy knitting pocket prayer squares for Humboldt Saskatchewan.

The 200 squares are in the colours of the Broncos team. Each square has a verse attached to it.

One example of a verse is: *Hope In Your Hand / We place in your hand this symbol of comfort and hope / a pocket prayer shawl / a little hug from God to carry you through your day.*

We thank The Rev. Wendy Mencil, our minister who always provides support. In this knitting project we thank Muriel Vincent and Cindy Nicholson for their initiative. Thank you to Rev. Matteo Carboni of St. Andrew's Anglican Church who will distribute the prayer squares to the Humboldt community.

Heather Mills

Photo: Melanie Prosser

# Christ Church, Oxford Centre: a tribute to the Broncos



On Sunday April 22 Christ Church, Oxford Centre included in their service a memorial tribute to the Humboldt Broncos.

Outside the church hockey sticks with green and yellow bows lined the ramp into the church. The altar and organ had green and yellow flowers on them.

Parishioners also wore green and yellow ribbons to pay respect the Humboldt Broncos.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all friends and families of the Humboldt Broncos.

Geoff Innes

# People of all faiths are stronger together

On Saturday, April 28, people of all ages and faiths gathered in Harmony Square in Brantford to remember those killed after a driver ran down numerous pedestrians in Toronto.

Ven. Tim Dobbin, the archdeacon of Brant/Norfolk and the rector of St. Mark's, Brantford, along with Imam Abu Noman Tarek, director of religious affairs for the Muslim Association of Brantford; Naser Hamed, the association's vice-president and Rev. Barbara Fullerton, of St. Paul's United Church in Paris, gathered for a prayer service for the victims killed in the Toronto van attack last week.

They were joined by Brantford Mayor Chris Friel, Ward 5 councillor, David Neumann and Will Bouma, a Brant County councillor and the Progressive Conservative candidate in the Brantford-Brant Riding.

The interfaith service was organized by the Muslim Association.

+++

On May 10, the Rector of St. John the Evangelist in Leamington Rev. Andrew Wilson accepted on behalf of the entire parish the "Friend of the Muslim Community Award" at the annual Appreciation Gala of the Windsor Islamic Council (WIC).



This was the seventh annual Appreciation Gala of the Windsor Islamic Council. The awards are to celebrate both the service within the Muslim community, but also members of the wider community.

In attendance were the Mayor, MP, MPP, Police Chief and many other dignitaries. The keynote speaker was filmmaker Jawaad Abdul Rahman from Unity Productions Foundation (UPF) ([www.upf.tv](http://www.upf.tv)). The mission of UPF is to counter bigotry and create peace through the media. Jawaad spoke of their work which included consulting for the medical drama "Grey's Anatomy."

A film which caught people's attention was "The Sultan and the Saint," a film about Mus-

lim-Christian peace featuring St. Francis of Assisi.

**Above: Participants of inter-faith service in Brantford.**  
**Below: Rev. Wilson with his hosts at the WIC appreciation gala.**



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Session 6	August 19-25	Even to This Day

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Contact us at [huronchurchcamp@gmail.com](mailto:huronchurchcamp@gmail.com)  
519-434-6893 ext 217

See the heavenly image above?

Believe it or not, it was photographed over HCC by our friends from the Kitchener-Waterloo Royal Astronomical Society, who last fall came to marvel at our starry night sky! It is called the Veil Nebula and it is found in the constellation Cygnus, 1470 light years from Earth. What a wonder to behold! Many and great are God's works!

See the sandy beach below?

For over 70 years campers have dipped their toes into the sparkling waters of Lake Huron, gathered to live and work and pray and play together. What a wonder to remember those who have gone before us, walking together, companions in Jesus' name.

Here we are at the beginning of a new camp season, a new adventure, a new chapter in the never ending story of God's love for us, a story as old as the stars above us and the sands beneath our feet, a

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**Come, be part of the story!**



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# 'Lights for Learning': from Huron to Tanzania

By Rev. Dr. William L. Crosby

This past 2018 Lenten season, the community of St. Augustine (Windsor) raised funds to help the development of a children's learning centre in Tanzania.

Through a series of chance encounters, and standing upon a previously successful Lenten partnership with the CWF organization (Canadian World Education Foundation; Tanzania Chapter), the parish became aware of an initiative to develop children's Learning Centre in Boma N'Gome, Tanzania. This initiative, spear-headed by individuals in Windsor and elsewhere, identified the lack of available electricity supply as a major obstacle to the education of young students in rural Tanzania. Plagued with high costs together with regular and lengthy interruptions, out-of-class study and preparation is neither affordable nor available to the majority of eager students.

Earlier in 2017, the CWF had identified renewable solar power as a high priority to empowering these learning communities. There occurred later a chance discussion between representatives of the CWF/Tanzania (Rick and Wendy

Caron) and outreach representatives of the Parish. A local priority and foundational need was identified, and a Lenten project was born.

Our objective was as simple as it was critical: to raise the funds required to install a renewable, locally-procured solar-panel and power storage/distribution system in support of the soon-to-be-constructed 'Learning Centre', dedicated to support childhood education in Boma N'Gome. The project is being overseen by SASCO (Saini Agricultural and Social Cooperation Organization; Mr. Timothy Massawe), who partnered with CWF and the parish to successfully procure and install agricultural storage bins in 2015.

With the help of a few inventive teens in the parish (thank you Aaron & lads), a visible replica and symbol of the project in the form of an 'illuminated' Learning Centre model was constructed and placed before the congregation. The model was accompanied by a recipe for participation through financial contributions, both large or small.

No sooner was the 'visible' model in place, than a second parish in the area (All Saints Church, Windsor) noticed the

structure, recognized the purpose behind it and themselves became involved in supporting the initiative. Armed with a clear understanding of purpose, a dynamic 'visual' reminder of the end-goal and confidence in the project delivery, the combined parishes were generous in their support. In the end, over \$4,300 was raised for the initiative – sufficient to provide the necessary infrastructure to make the Learning Centre a functional reality.

Teachers and students in that Centre can now walk to a switch and have light, in the same way that you and I can. They are now empowered to study and to learn over extended hours and to vision for a better future, in the same way that you and I can. When they reach for that switch, be assured they will think about a community far away in Canada who walked with them quite literally from darkness into light. They will have experienced what the God-given gift of love can do, and they won't take it for granted. The same way that you and I can.

Rev. Dr. William L. Crosby is the deacon at St. Augustine, Windsor.



An "illuminated" Learning Centre model was placed before the congregation.



Over \$4,300.00 was raised for the initiative.

# Transforming the unjust structures of society

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

She had been in ICU for more than a week. As she healed she was transferred to the 'step down' side of the ward.

Like most in hospital, she was ready to go home. Who doesn't long to have the comfort of their own bed and the quality of food typically provided at home? Unfortunately, her home wasn't ready for her. She had new needs to be accommodated, new risks to be assessed. Still the hospital needed the bed and with great struggle, her family was left to figure it all out on the fly.

As he neared the end of his life, it would seem his pain increased. He was placed in palliative care in the nursing home where he had been living and instructions were given to provide pain medication regularly and as needed. An overworked staff and the absence of key trained individuals complicated the journey. Loved ones watched in horror as he spent too many of his final hours gasping, struggling, and writhing in pain.

These kinds of stories are becoming all too common. People are falling through the cracks of our health care system. Hospitals don't have enough beds. Some are being

## SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



Edwin Andrade, Unsplash

taken up by seniors who need to go to nursing homes, but there are not enough spaces. Poor staffing in both make it difficult for dedicated nurses and other health care workers to provide the vital support that is so needed for those who are sick and failing.

It makes sense that there is a need for balanced budgets. People don't like tax increases. We want 'our' money spent well. As a result, politicians are left with the task of trying to balance competing priorities of maintaining reasonable levels of taxation and meeting needs.

Personal experiences and priorities influence the extent to which any one person perceives whether or not the elected political party has been successful in this task. For better or worse, we hold governments accountable based on our understanding of what is important.

What would happen then, if we, as Christians, applied our understanding of the Gospel imperatives to our assessment of the role of government in providing for the needs of the most vulnerable in our society? What impact does the Gospel message have on our priorities?

Society teaches us that success is defined by what we own and yet the Gospel teaches us that success is defined by how we love. What, then, would it take for us to be willing to accept the financial consequences associated with the need to properly fund the health care system to reduce the possibility that our sisters and brothers might fall through the cracks?

This is not to say that there aren't places where waste happens. While it is important to hold the system accountable for such waste, we shouldn't use waste as an excuse to limit the resources available to ensure that those who are vulnerable are able to get the help they need.

Transforming the unjust structures of society, the fourth of our Marks of Mission, invites us to engage in the conversation in ways that call us to personal transformation as we challenge those places in our social systems and cultures which leave people vulnerable. We need to consider our contributions to the process, our willingness, implicitly and explicitly, to support and enable injustices to continue. Sometimes that means we need to serve as a voice for the voiceless and stand with those who have fallen through the cracks in an effort to reduce the likelihood it might happen again.

This is an election year. There are abundant opportunities for us to engage governments, challenging the ways in which they are failing to meet the needs of those who are vulnerable. May we do so recognising that we too play a role in this process, we too can contribute to injustice and contribute to the transformation of injustice based on our own decisions and priorities.

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

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# AFC: supporting excellence in music

By Andrew Keegan Mackriell

The Three Cathedrals Choral Festival (TCCF) held its inaugural festival on the first weekend of May, 2013 and presenting choral music, art, history, and heritage related to London's oldest church and the surrounding community.

The Festival brings together the choirs and musicians from three cathedrals, all dedicated to St Paul, and located in Buffalo, NY; Detroit MI; and



London, ON; recent academic research has determined that not only is this a truly international event, but it is unique in the world, a first for Canada.

Right from the outset in 2013, the Anglican Foundation has enthusiastically support-

ed the Festival – the vision of the Festival is to celebrate the beauty and tradition of liturgical choral music, offering something for everyone to enjoy, and this falls fully within the Mission and Values of the Foundation.



The Three Cathedrals Choral Festival participants in front of St. Paul's London in 2015.

Cathedrals worldwide have a long tradition of being centres for excellence in music, the Arts, heritage and culture, so the mandate of the Three Cathedrals Choral Festival is to preserve and enhance that tradition and bring a unique multi-day international Festival of this kind to Canadian audiences. Our three Cathedrals have, in each of their respective communities, been supporting and improving arts and culture offerings, drawing people to the downtown city core, and allowing their social programs to benefit through increased exposure.

TCCF provides a completely new and unique musical offering for the already-engaged

arts audience in South Western Ontario.

TCCF is deeply grateful for the support of the Anglican Foundation of Canada and is proud to consider the Foundation as TCCF sponsoring partners. Congratulations to the Foundation on its celebration of 60 years of generosity and support of innovative ministries in the Anglican Church of Canada!

Andrew Keegan Mackriell is the director of Music & Cathedral Organist at The Cathedral Church of St Paul in London, Ontario. This article was included in "Imagine", a book published by the Anglican Foundation in honour of their 60th anniversary.



St. John the Evangelist in London ON received a grant of \$10,000 from the Anglican Foundation as part of their capital improvement project. Pictured here are The Rev. Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell rector, The Rev. Dr. Stephen McClatchie priest assistant, and lay delegates Jennifer Roy and Bruce Tuck.

## EfM from inside out: theological reflection... time well spent

by Rev. Val Kenyon

Several weeks ago a number of us from Huron gathered at St. Jude's in London, for three days of intensive mentor training for Education for Ministry Training (EfM).

The group contained both experienced and novice mentors. Our trainer, with more than 30 years of experience developing mentors, spent a great deal of the time helping us cultivate the fine art of theological reflection which is so central in the EfM experience. While there are other components to participating in an EfM group, it is this habit of reflecting



**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.**

theologically that serves as an effective tool in bringing together so much of what is being considered in the sessions, with what group members are experiencing in their everyday lives.

As we in the church discern what it is to be church in our day and age, experts in change theory suggest that while it is a natural tendency to apply tried-

and-true solutions to challenges that may come along, the truth is that we are in a time where previous fixes no longer are as effective as they once were. What is needed instead is a willingness and an ability to adapt to our environment.

This is not to say that the core of our Gospel message is lost in any way, but rather that in our

mission and in our ministry we are always looking for the best ways to share the Gospel. To that end, the habit of reflection and in particular theological reflection becomes key in this process.

As we look ahead to EfM sessions beginning in September we are pleased to say that in addition to several London

groups that are accepting new participants, new groups are also forming in the Windsor, Lucan and Kitchener regions

For more information please contact Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or Val Kenyon at EFM@huron.anglican.ca

Rev. Val Kenyon is EfM Animator in Huron.

## Making sure we are speaking an accessible language

Language is one of humanity's most important inventions. It allows us to clearly communicate and work together. But more

For instance, in the life of the diocese, we are embarking on a project to utilize cloud-based communications techniques to facilitate superior inter-organizational dialogue. Or, to put it another way, we are getting a new email system.

Insider language often prevents clear understanding. This is not just something that occurs in tech-speak but occurs throughout church land. With our websites and social media accounts being the first point of contact with seekers in today's digital world, it is incumbent upon us to make sure we are speaking an accessible language.

And while insider language can be taught once part of a community, our outwardly facing language needs to be in the vernacular of the greater society. To that end, we must be conscious of insider language when communicating outwardly.

Posting to Facebook about an upcoming Youth Group meeting is clear, open and inviting to a newcomer. Referencing S.A.L.T. will meet next Thursday is not.

The same is true for words that we may take for granted as being in the common lexicon. 'Eucharist', 'collect' and 'doxology' are common words that appear on many church websites.

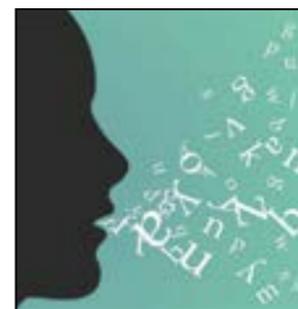
Yet, for the vast majority of the population, they are words that are unknown.

Using accessible language like Communion, Prayer and Sending Prayer allows outsiders to access the information and the stories we wish to share. Once part of the community, the educational process can begin and the insider language can then be taught.

With Pentecost just behind us, we are reminded of the power of language, of being understood and when understood how the message of Christ promulgates itself. Let us, therefore, be intentional about our choice of language to

always live in Pentecost and not return the Tower of Babel and the scattering God's children.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the diocesan social media officer and Rector of All Saints' in Waterloo.  
marty.r.levesque@gmail.com



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**REV. MARTY LEVESQUE**

importantly, it allows us to understand the "other". Needless to say this only occurs when we speak the same language.

# The subtleties of bullying

I am helping my son shop for his first car. The decision making process is a balancing act between its actual cost and the chances of ongoing repairs. It is also a balancing



AS I SEE IT

REV. JIM INNES

act between his pleasure and my practicality (although he is more realistic than I was when buying my first car).

These balancing acts require thoughtfulness... as do so many of our choices. Because my choices (or lack of) can make or break a good experience for my son. I can either create an atmosphere of anticipation and excitement, or an atmosphere full of stress and conflict.

To make our car shopping a good experience demands a



Christian Newman, Unsplash

patience in which I must calmly consider his opinion. And this can only be done as I pull back the 'dad knows best' attitude (even though it's true).

The thing about used car shopping is that I've never owned a new one and so have become somewhat competent at getting a good deal. Consequently, the shopping can become about how smart I am and not about helping my son

to shop wisely. My experience can heavily cloud his keenness.

At times we feel we know more than the others around (and we just might). Sometimes we may almost regretfully feel like we know too much! These perspectives can create a closed mind – an unapproachability that leads to argument. This 'I know I'm right' attitude is best managed by asking ourselves what is most important; to do it

right, or do it right by the ones we care for.

To do it right by the ones we care for means stepping back and trying to see the situation through their eyes... wishing only for good upon them! And not just wishing for it, but curbing our reactions to care for them kindly (even though we think we see the situation more fully).

Einstein was quoted as saying, "the more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know." This well-worn cliché speaks of how solving one mystery inevitably reveals more mysteries... more to learn. In that manner I have come to appreciate how my well-earned wisdom (that I rightly or wrongly think should be passed on), has opened lots more to learn. Particularly, for me, about relating effectively.

I've noticed, for example, how when I am supposedly dispensing my 'great wisdom', I'm not listening to what people are saying. In fact, like many of us, I can become quite grumpy

and argumentative when I think I'm not being listened to (which really means that we're upset because we're not having our way of things).

Reacting with a warm regard and patient gentleness is far more important (in the long run) than arguing for what we think is right. In fact, such arguing borders on an intimidation. And it backs people away. Truth is, people don't listen to you because your right, they listen to you because they feel you have their best interest at heart.

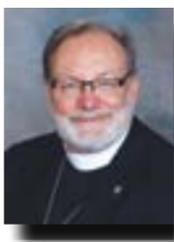
As I see it, whether it be a father shopping with his son for a car, or being a pastor, mate or friend, our wisdom (or knowing what is right) is best expressed not so much in leading others to do it 'right', but about using what we know to further the feeling of right within the people we're around.

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

Rev.Jiminnes@gmail.com

## "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

When Jesus asked that question of those who gathered around him (Matthew 11:7), the reflection he offered centered around the ministry of John the Baptist.



A VIEW FROM THE BACK PEW

REV. CANON CHRISTOPHER B. J. PRATT

John offered a prophetic ministry calling people to enter into the experience of repentance and a new relationship with God.

John did not hesitate to challenge the people who came to listen to him. His ministry had as its focus the act of baptism which was offered as an outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual reality of washing away of sin.

He also spoke to those who occupied positions of power in the religious institution of his time with a God – given spiritual authority. He told them that they could not hide behind any claim of inheritance as assurance of their relationship with God, but rather, by confessing their sins, and through the act of baptism begin life anew with an awareness of God's love and forgiveness.



Grant Whitty, Unsplash

"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"

St. George's Chapel, within the precinct of Windsor Castle is not the wilderness. Yet in that setting, the sermon offered during the recent Royal Wedding offered many challenges to a world-wide audience. Bishop Curry's sermon was not spiritual pabulum, fed to a congregation eager to move to the Wedding Lunch and evening party. The Bishop had a message meant not only for the bride and groom, but for all who were listening in every corner of this global village. In the words of one commentator,

"Not only did he take nearly three times his allotted five minutes, but you would never hear this sort of thing from your average C of E cleric in a month of Windsor Sundays". (Daily Mail, May 20, 2018). My question is, simply, "Why not?"

**When next you have the opportunity to hear a sermon, listen well as God's calls you to a life of ministry and service.**

As the cameras panned across the faces of his listeners, royal and commoners alike, the style of the preacher may have caused a few smiles in St George's Chapel, but the energy of his message certainly left a profound impression. To make the link between the power of love and the transformation of the world when humanity learned how to harness the power of fire was a message which was accessible to everyone.

The ministry of a preacher, at any time and in any liturgical experience, is to provide food for the spiritual journey of their listener. Preaching is an experience which draws together all those who are engaged in worship. There are those who take their responsibility as listeners seriously. Then there are those

who do not. I recall a number of Sundays, where one of the members of the congregation I served as rector, (I hasten to add, not during my years of ministry in the Diocese of Huron!), invariably sat, with his arm resting on the back of his pew, with his wristwatch clearly visible. He saw it as his personal mission, as he shook my hand, at the end of the service, to let me know how long the sermon had been!

Sermons are intended to educate, motivate and equip the saints for the work and ministry of the church. The preacher draws on a wealth of resources to offer a message with a purpose. At the ordination of a bishop, the question is asked, "Will you boldly proclaim and interpret the Gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people?" The response to that question is, "I will, in the power of the Spirit." (BAS pg. 637) That same framework and expectation has an application attached to every sermon, offered by any preacher, as that ministry is being offered at a gathering of a faith community.

For those whose expectation of a sermon is linked with the hope that feathers will not be ruffled and calm will be the emotional result of the preacher's efforts, I refer you, once again, to the message of the Presiding Bishop. Bishop Curry

looked to Charles Marsh, a religious studies professor at the University of Virginia, whose book, "The Beloved Community", contained this thought: "Jesus began the most revolutionary movement in human history, a movement built on the unconditional love of God for the world and the mandate to live that love."

Boldly proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, interpreting the Gospel of Christ for our time and in our context, enlightening the minds of those who are attentive and open to the power and presence of God's Spirit in the moment, are all essential elements of the experience of a sermon.

When next you have the opportunity to hear a sermon, listen well as God's calls you to a life of ministry and service. Be attentive to God's call as you live out your love for your Lord and touch the lives of others by a faithful witness of discipleship. Be prepared to be open to how God's Spirit moving through your words and actions will enable you to share in the revolutionary experience which is the Christian faith alive in God's world.

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

prattcbj@gmail.com

# Remembering those who ride...

By now, most of us will have taken our hockey sticks off the front porch, stopped “googling” to get an update on those injured in the horrific bus crash on a prairie highway. Humboldt strong, morphed into Toronto strong and I pray that in the interval



**MOSTLY ABOUT  
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON  
KEITH  
NETHERY**

between the time I write this and you read it, strong has not been attached to another community name.

When the pain of things like the crash that shocked the small community of Humboldt and set the hockey community into mourning, are real and fresh, we think we will carry them forever. But for most of us, life has returned to normal, other events occupy the headlines and while we will think of Humboldt and the people lost in the accident from time to time, for us, life's path has taken us to different places.

But I wanted to add a few final thoughts, a final tribute to the fallen, the injured, the grieving and those for whom this pain remains incredibly real. A long time ago, I rode a few of those buses, and knew a tremendous number of people who did so. As a radio sportscaster, most hockey playoff seasons would see me on a bus or two going to play off games. I spent some time in radio in Saskatoon and remember well several grads of the Broncos, who made the jump to the Saskatoon Blades. I knew people who worked at the radio station in Humboldt and many other small prairie cities. If you watched the Humboldt vigil, Roger Millions who was one of the hosts, was for many years the play by play voice of the Blades, and like all Western League announcers, they cringed when it came time for the “west coast” trip which saw you on a bus for seeming endless hours over seeming endless days from the prairies to Vancouver Island and south into Washington and Oregon. Bob Ridley, a legendary play by play man of the Medicine Hat Tigers, was also the team's bus driver.

What I learned riding the buses and talking to others who saw much more blacktop than I, was an amazing sense of community. These teams formed families and everyone had their place. The veterans usually had the best seats, in the back, and each would have a rookie to torment, but more importantly take care of. Somewhere in the middle of the bus, was a magic line. Players only behind that line, unless you had a reason. The coaches, trainers, officials and broadcasters always sat at the front. There was a chain of command to decide who picked the music, who picked the restaurant, who talked to the coach when there was a team issue.

It is a long, lonely life to ride the buses in Canadian hockey. The players usually only for three maybe four years at the Junior level. Coaches, trainers, drivers, broadcasters, some of them spend much of their lives on the road. You can be sure that the Humboldt Broncos will never be forgotten by those who still ride.

Some thoughts about the vigil itself. If you think coming from small town Ontario is the same as small town Saskatchewan, or

Alberta, or Manitoba, try again. The communities are small, isolated, with miles and miles of open land between sparse houses outside the town. Everybody drives, or owns a pick up truck. There is a connection in these towns that I didn't know growing up in Ontario, and I'm not sure I can put my finger on exactly what it is. I can tell you without asking that virtually everyone in Humboldt was at the vigil. Everyone in Humboldt knew a player, or two, a host family or all of them. Much has been made about the incredible Go Fund Me campaign that has raised millions. From what I know of small town Saskatchewan, you can be sure of the acts of kindness that happened person to person, family to family, that nobody will ever know about, would take your breath away.

And a final thought, about the clergy who organized and lead that Vigil. We should thank them Humboldt strong and beyond. There is no where that one is trained to lead a vigil in which every person in town shows up. They were not prepared to stand before the Prime Minister, Premier, other dignitaries and a nation wide

television audience. Most of the clergy in Humboldt are likely at the start of their ministry careers, trying to figure out how to care for people one at a time. And suddenly the entire town was in need, the entire town was asking for help and the clergy shone brightly.

Yes, we go on with life after tragedies. It is part of life. But let us remember that the grief goes on. When fall comes, hundreds of young men will board the hockey buses for the first time, parents will fret as their son moves provinces away to chase the hockey life They'll be on a bus on a cold highway, with a new kind of family, a dream and lurking danger. It's part of being Canadian. Those young men will learn about life, most will have their dream shattered, some will become stars. Many will continue to ride the buses so these young men can pursue the dream. When we think of Humboldt from time to time, we should offer up a prayer for life, and dreams, and family, and danger and remember those who ride.

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

# Water, air, fire, earth

One of my favourite saints is St. Francis of Assisi. You can see him loitering in a lot of gardens in his most pleasing cement garments.



**LAUREL  
PATTENDEN**

He is that kindly and humble looking man statue. Easily identifiable in pictures with his troop of birds and bunnies surrounding him.

Along with St. Francis is another favourite of mine, Hildegard of Bingen. Actually, in my list she is in a tie with the man of Assisi for her love and writings on creation.

The majority of Canadians also love creation especially from June to September. (I think we are perhaps a tad less loving in the winter.) Swimming in our multitude of lakes, BBQ-ing and marshmallow

roasting over open fires, sailing on cottage lakes and tending our gardens. We rely on these gifts of creation for our summer pleasure.

We also rely on them for our own human sustainability. We could not live without water, air, fire and earth. Things that we take so easily for granted, we would perish without.

Hildegard wrote: God created the world out of its elements to the glory of the divine name. God strengthened it with the wind, connected it to the stars and enlightened it by them, and filled it with all manner of creatures. God then surrounded and fulfilled humankind in the world with all things and gave them a tremendous power, so that all creation would support them in all things. The whole nature should serve them, so that they can live with it, because humankind cannot live or survive without nature.

The Hebrew scripture and the New Testament are full of stories involving these four elements. The flood, the burning bush, baptism in the

Jordan, Pentecost with wind and fire. When we celebrate the Eucharist the priest raises the two elements, bread and wine representing Christ, heavenward. These two elements are from the earth. The parables of Jesus all have connections to the earth. St. Francis expressed our close relationship with the four elements by referring to them as Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire and Sister Earth. As kin. Familial.

This summer I was thinking maybe I could try to be a little more mindful when experiencing these four elements. Praise God for water, air, fire and earth. Would you like to join me? We can't use the excuse that we are not in contact with them. Let's face it, if you are reading this, you are breathing the air. So that takes care of one element of the four. We are off to a good start. Maybe, at another time, we could look into each of the four elements singularly. Anyways, for now, we could enhance our way with reading some poetry of Wendall Berry or Mary Oliver.

Inventory the quotes referring to nature found in Scripture. Which would be surprisingly lengthy. Or you could just sit on the earth, near the shore, feeling

the wind on your skin, looking out into the blue sky and say “Thank You, God, Thank You, for Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, Sister Earth”.



Marc Szeglat, Unsplash

*All praise be Yours, my God, through Brothers Wind and Air,  
And fair and stormy, all the weather's moods,  
By which You cherish all that You have made.*

*All praise be Yours, my God, through Sister Water,  
So useful, humble, precious, and pure.*

*All praise be Yours, my God, through Brother Fire,  
Through whom You brighten up the night.  
How beautiful he is, how gay!  
Full of power and strength.*

*All praise be Yours, my God, through Sister Earth, our mother,  
Who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces  
Various fruits and coloured flowers and herbs.*

St. Francis of Assisi

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