



WHAT DOES YOUR RULE OF LIFE LOOK LIKE?

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LENTEN CALENDAR

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HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • FEBRUARY 2018



Conversations on the Marriage Canon

The Diocese of Huron is in the midst of a consultation about the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon. The first of these consultations have taken place and several more are planned throughout the diocese.

As the diocesan Marriage Canon Task Force reports in this HCN edition, a question raised at some of the first deanery gatherings was, "Does our input matter?", and related to that question there were comments such as, "It feels like the decision has already been made."

The short answer given by the Task Force is, yes: your input matters and is an important part of the process. It will form the basis of a report to the Diocese of Huron Synod in May 2018.

For more information on the entire process leading to the vote at General Synod 2019, go to Page 4.

At the crossroads. Deanery conversations that have been taking place since November 2017 show that "we are not of one mind in our Diocese about whether or not there should be changes to the Marriage Canon to allow for same-sex marriages."

Photo: M. J. Idzerda

(taken at the Seating of Bishop Linda Nicholls, November 2016)

Singing a joyful sound unto the Lord...

By Marg Alyea

And sing we did at Christ Church Oxford Centre on December 10, as the congregation celebrated the Grand Finale service in a year-long agenda of special events to commemorate our 150 years!

The Gee Gees, a group of four Moms who love to play, sing and laugh, provided welcoming music and led our congregation in music and song at the Service of Morning Prayer officiated by Rev. Derek Perry. Sylvia, one of the Gee Gees, is from Switzerland and she sang acapella in a Swiss yodel mid-way through the service.

The hymns chosen for the service were all upbeat and the congregation certainly did their share of "Making a joyful sound unto the Lord!"

In his sermon Rev. Perry reminded all that "the Advent message is really necessary for the world to continue to exist. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love - if we don't spread the message, no one else is going to."

This church has been around for a long time, said Rev. Perry, "because the Lord has granted prosperity of spirit and

increased the yield of Faith to those who believed in Him and followed His path."

Following the service we proceeded downstairs to the Candlelit Parish Hall where we enjoyed refreshments while watching a slide show of the highlights of our Sesquicentennial year.

A large cake featuring our logo was officially cut by members of the 150th anniversary. A meaningful rendition of "Happy Birthday" was joyfully sang by all, with a resounding "Hip, Hip, Hooray" led by our eldest member, Ken Sherman.

Displays depicting our founders travelling from their log cabins via horse and sleighs to arrive at the village church to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, were set out for all to view.

The candle lit guest tables were adorned with red poinsettias - awards for the winners of the various Trivia questions which appeared on each table the history of Christ Church Oxford Centre. A souvenir decorative Christmas ball was available to all which displayed our 150th Anniversary logo and the words: "A faithful past,



Happy 150th birthday. From left to right: Karen Odell, Lizzie Odell, Carol Walton, Rev. Derek Perry, Denise Shiell, Marg Alyea, Pat Simmons, Melanie Carter.

a hopeful future, the journey continues."

This has been a very exciting year for Christ Church with the highlight of the year being the visit of Bishop Linda at our main anniversary service in September. Each monthly event

has been very well attended and has focused on a different aspects of our journey here at Christ Church.

Over the course of the year we have reached out to many and old and new friendships continue to be enjoyed.

It has been good to remember the past and at the same time look to the future and adapt to what meets today's needs.

Marg Alyea is 150th Anniversary Committee Chairperson

The season of Lent: time to consider your Rule of Life

Each of us inherits gifts from our parents. One of the greatest gifts in my life has been my mother's love of music. Although circumstances prevented her from developing her own musical talents she ensured that I would have the opportunity through playing the piano.



**BISHOP
LINDA
NICHOLLS**

Like many children I seem to recall complaining about the need to practice. Yet the longer I was encouraged to persevere and make practicing a part of my daily routine the more I came to enjoy my capacity to make music and that turned into a lifelong passion. Through my life the gift of being able to play has allowed me to delight in everything from Broadway musicals to Bach, solo accompaniment to church services!

The key was a daily perseverance and practice of the skills needed. This is equally true of relationships. Whether with a friend or a spouse, good relationships require the gift of time and intentional

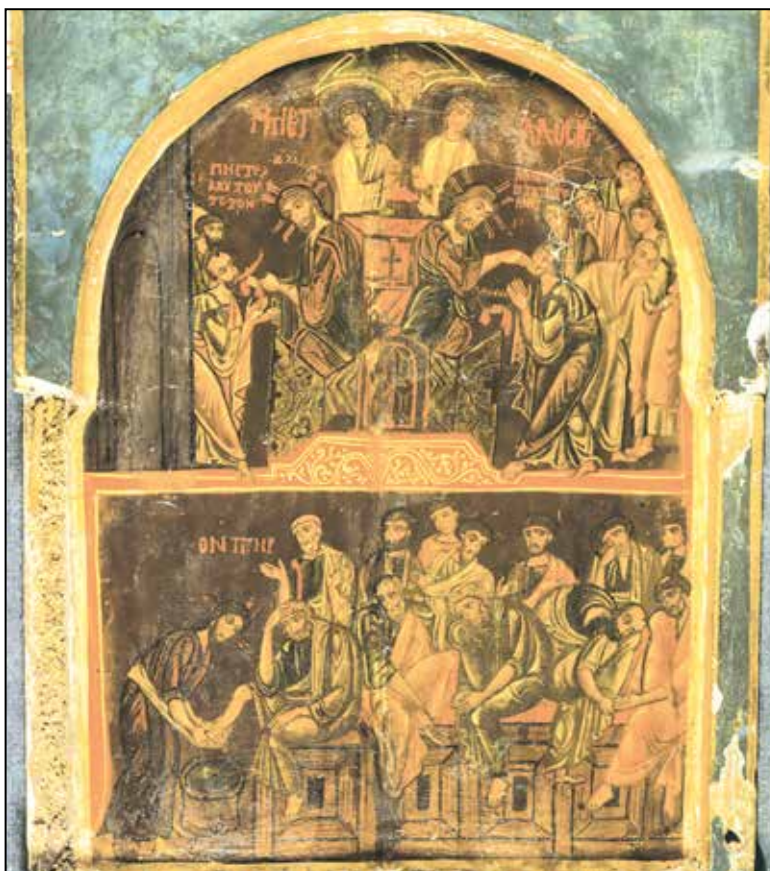
commitment – growing and learning together through a daily time spent together with the intention of deepening the relationship.

That is why Christians throughout the centuries have developed practices that build our capacity to follow Jesus, to live as Christians in the world in relationship with God. These practices take time and intention and need to be regularly renewed and strengthened.

Lent is the season where we take stock of our practices and are invited to renew them. The Book of Common Prayer invites us to set a Rule of Life (page 555) that includes regular attendance at worship; prayer, Bible reading and self-discipline; following Christ in daily life; bold spoken witness of our faith; service to Church and community and financial support for the work of the Church locally and globally.

What does your Rule of Life look like?

Mine includes a daily time of prayer, including Morning Prayer; reading of scripture; an annual silent retreat. Although my vocation keeps me in worship and witness, I practice self-examination for all of the human weaknesses that keep me from reflecting Christ in my daily life. A financial commitment of tithing to the church



Communion of the Apostles and the Washing of the Feet

and community has been part of my life since I was a student.

As we enter into this season of Lent – take time to consider your Rule of Life – where does it need to be strengthened? Where is it working well? What one change will you practice in these 40 days of Lent to deepen your relationship with God?

Almighty God, whose Son

fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+Linda

Breathe on me breath of God

By Rev. Val Kenyon

No doubt we have all heard this hymn written by Edwin Hatch, who was an Anglican priest and scholar both in England and here in Canada.

While written many years ago, it is a timeless meditation on the Gospel reading from John 3:3-8, where Jesus addresses the questions of Nicodemus, a Pharisee who has come to him wanting to learn more. At its essence Jesus sets out that the way into the kingdom of God is through water and the Spirit.

In response to this, Rev'd Hatch's song is an appeal to that very same Spirit asking that as we pause to come before God we may be filled, renewed, able to reorder priorities, purified, and directed in all that we do. How appropriate this appeal seems for us as we enter this season of Lent, a time in which we are also called to intentionally pause to remember and to prepare for the celebration of our redemption through the death and

resurrection of Christ.

So, breathe on us breath of God, fill us with life anew, that we may love what you love, and do what you would do. As we give ourselves to prayer in this season, may that be our prayer, our hope and our anticipation.

To support you in your prayer, as in previous years, you are again invited to follow the Lent 2018: 15 Minutes With God in Prayer in booklet form at:

<http://diohuron.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Breathe-on-Me-Lent-2018-Resource-Booklet.pdf>

Or in scroll down version at:

<http://diohuron.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Breathe-on-me-Breath-of-God-Scroll-down-1.pdf>

Copies have also been distributed to parishes in Huron. Please speak to your rector if you would like one.

Rev. Val Kenyon is AFP Diocesan representative.

**Visit of Nicodemus to Christ,
John La Farge (1880).
Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.**

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER



**HURON
CHURCH
NEWS**

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Brant Deanery shower for Monica Place



**Helping mothers and children:
Monica Place fills a great need in Huron.**

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 29, a shower was hosted by Holy Trinity ACW,

St. George for the young mothers and children at St. Monica's House, Waterloo, Ontario.

Rev. Sharla Malliff opened the gathering with prayer and a warm welcome to all. Mildred Markle led the games and the fun began. Pot luck sweet treats and tea/coffee were enjoyed. The combined effort of the ladies of Holy Trinity created a memorable event for all who attended.

One could tell the gifts were given with support, love, and care, for the folks at Monica Place by the attendance, enthusiasm and extra-ordinary packages that the ladies brought.

It is hoped that this type of event will become a tradition in the coming years in Brant Deanery to help the mothers and children. Monica Place fills a great need in Huron.

If you are interested in learning more about Monica Place, its history and purpose, you can google it at www.monicaplace.ca.

*Marion Bailey,
Grace Anglican, Brantford*

Christmas snapshots from Paris



A Christmas tradition continues at St. James' Anglican Church in Paris, as the Mitten Tree collects mittens, scarfs and hats for the kids in need.



The weather co-operated for the Paris Santa Clause parade on Saturday December 2. St. James' Anglican Church float was the only church float in the parade. Thanks to Bob and Helen Darby and all who worked so hard decorating.

Deacons' outreach project: helping children in need

The Deacons Outreach Project in 2017 supported communities in Northern Ontario and Children's Aid Society.

Thanks to the generous donations at Synod, 186 backpacks were collected for Operation Point North in the support of the community of Kingfisher Lake, Ontario, in the Diocese of Mishamikow-eesh.

The backpacks were then

filled with much of the items the deanery had collected.

The Deanery of Essex started Operation Point North in 2016 and 2017's initiative realized about 4000 lbs. of supplies. Part of these supplies went to support the Waninitawingaang Memorial School breakfast program in Kejick Bay.

The second Deacons project supported the Children's Aid

Society. This included ten offices throughout the Diocese.

Approximately 120 backpacks were filled with donated school items and toiletries for children in their care. One congregation was so inspired they have made it an ongoing project to support their local Children's Aid.

*Rev. Jane Piercy Ballard,
Church of the Epiphany*

I wish it could talk: Bishop Cronyn's chair



It is a little known fact (but one that the parishioners of St. John's Arva are quite proud of) that our first Bishop Benjamin Cronyn was also the first rector of St. John the Divine, Arva. We were considered a mission

church (although I have heard that we were the Cathedral of the north!)

Our parish has a stained glass window dedicated to his ministry and members of the family throughout the last two centu-

ries have been associated with our parish.

I had the great privilege of knowing Ann Cronyn and visiting her on her farm on Medway Road. I enjoyed hearing the family stories about the Cronyn ancestors. Upon her death, I was fortunate to meet her two daughters who asked me if I would like the "Bishop's" chair.

It was a chair that belonged to the Bishop and was handed down through the generations. It has been recovered and refinished along the way. As I drove away with this incredible piece of history in my van, I thought it might look nice at St. John's, but I knew it belonged at Church House.

It now sits in the Cronyn room, a modest chair and ottoman... I wish it could talk... I am sure there are some interesting stories to tell!

*Rev. Wendy Mencil
St. John the Divine Church,
Arva*



What to do with leftover unsold Christmas trees? At St. James', a bunch of the guys loaded them into a truck donated by Lanca Contracting Co. and had them delivered to Frog Hollow Farm. This is a sanctuary farm that takes in unwanted farm animals and treats them with the same kindness as one would do for a pet.

Dave Gabriel

Lighting the Advent candle



David Ford lights the fourth candle of Advent as St. Mary's Church, Windsor on December 24. The Sunday School students took part eagerly in lighting the candles each Sunday of the pre-Christmas season.

Your input matters: deanery conversations on the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon

From Page 1

As we reported in the fall, the Diocese of Huron is in the midst of a consultation about the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon. The first of these consultations have taken place and several more are planned throughout the diocese. Thank you to those who have participated. If you have not already attended a deanery conversation we encourage you to do so.

We are not of one mind in our Diocese about whether or not there should be changes to the Marriage Canon to allow for same-sex marriages. The Marriage Canon Task Force is collecting all of your input and it will form the basis of a report to the Diocese of Huron Synod in May 2018.

A question raised at some of the first deanery gatherings was, "Does our input matter?", and related to that question there were comments such as, "It feels like the decision has already been made."

The short answer is, yes, your input matters and is an important part of the process.

The Marriage Canon, and the proposed changes to it, is the responsibility of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

A motion passed at General 2016 to change the Marriage Canon; the changes need to be approved at a second reading at General Synod 2019 in order for them to come into effect.



Conversations on the proposed changes started in group discussions at Synod 2017.

- Input from people across the Anglican Church of Canada, including the Diocese of Huron, will be considered by General Synod before the members vote in 2019.

- Who will be voting at General Synod? All bishops and archbishops of the Anglican Church of Canada are members of General Synod. There are also clergy and lay delegates who are elected from each Diocese, as well as the Canadian Forces and the religious orders.

- The clergy and lay delegates from the Diocese of Huron will be elected by members of our Diocese of Huron Synod. These

There will not be a vote in the diocese but input from people across Huron will be considered by General Synod before the vote in 2019.

clergy and lay delegates are the only people from the Diocese of Huron who will have a vote at General Synod 2019.

- There will not be a vote at Di-

ocese of Huron Synod about making changes to the Marriage Canon.

There have also been requests for resource materials. We remind you that we have gathered and created resource materials and posted them on the diocesan website at diohuron.org/huron-task-group-on-the-marriage-canon/.

Thank you to those who have checked out these resources to enrich our conversations. If you cannot access the website please ask your rector for assistance. Resources include:

- This Holy Estate, report from the National Marriage Commission prepared for General Synod.

- A Summary of Theological and Scriptural Issues

- Questions for Deanery Conversations

- Video for Deanery Conversations

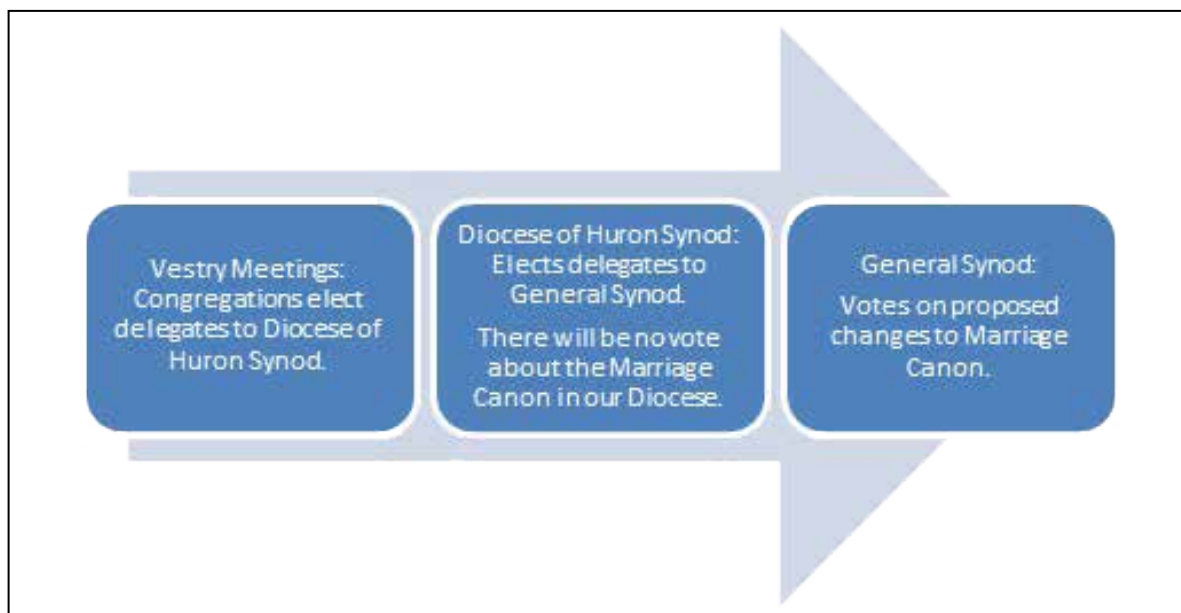
We pray the Holy Spirit will guide us as we learn to how to continue to be in relationship in spite of the difficult conversations that face us. In a world that is often polarized over a number of issues, may we set an example of how to be loving even when we are not of like-mind.

The Marriage Canon Task Force:

The Ven. Greg Jenkins

The Rev'd Dr. Stephen McClatchie

Canon Marilyn Malton



Untangling Tangleville: walking the Christian talk

By Thomas F. Smith

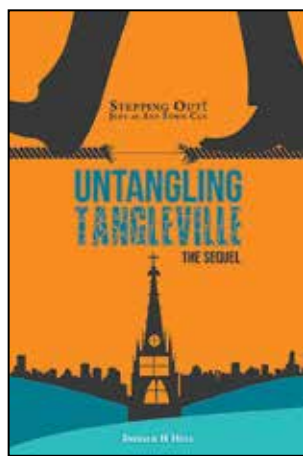
Untangling Tangleville: Stepping Out, by Rev. Canon Dr. Don Hull was launched at Windsor's Anglican Church of the Ascension on December 16.

The new Hull's book is the sequel to his first published novel *Tangleville: Just About Any Town Anywhere*, printed in 2016.

With a large crowd in attendance, the former church rector met the excited readers with a book reading.

So, what is this excitement all about?

In our modern age, Christianity and secularism have increasingly become estranged. As Christian denominations individually attempt to promote the survival of moral and ethical



standards of the past, it seems David is facing the giant Goliath... a supposedly losing battle.

However, the followers of Christ in Tangleville discover that working together as a

Christian Coalition, the giant is not quite so formidable as first thought.

In the wake of the wild success of Harry Sting's show on AM KNOW, he and an Anglican priest, Canon Dr. Barclay Stedmore, 'walk their talk' of uniting the many Christian communities of Tangleville from their disparate factions.

By 'Stepping Out' together rather than going it alone, the Christian denominations make swift progress on the road to collaboration and unity. Secularism's once-accepted standard of normality is usurped.

It all began in the first novel, which stirred up the need of co-operation amongst believers. This sequel picks up the



Rev. Canon Donald Hull at the promotion of his novel on December 16. The event was hosted by Windsor's Anglican Church of the Ascension

whys, the hows, and the victory of winning... Stepping Out! Just as Any Town Can. Some of the town's residents were not amused!

Back in Windsor, on December 16, there was exuberance in the book signings; with complimentary refreshments coordinated by Faye Baker Hull.

Grants for new projects across Canada: AFC November cycle of awards

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) has announced \$303,000 in grants in support of new projects across Canada in its November cycle of awards.

Combined with those awarded in May, disbursements for an increasingly diverse range of creative projects total \$707,000 in 2017, the AFC's 60th anniversary year, states the AFC press release issued on December 11.



sary year, states the AFC press release issued on December 11.

"The Anglican church is alive and well. Great things are happening from coast to coast," said the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, the AFC's executive director. "Thanks to the generosity of Canadian Anglicans for making this possible!"

Besides traditional infrastructure and restoration grants of \$240,000, the AFC provided \$71,000 for innovative ministry and \$52,000 for theological projects. It also disbursed \$60,000 for special anniversary-year projects for the transformation of parish ministry.

This category included a lectionary-based curriculum for children's spiritual formation, a liturgical resource for trauma-sensitive congregations, revitalization of rural ministry, and outdoor skateboarding facilities for youth.

"We've developed a strategic plan to include engaging and creative projects that faith communities are undertaking to help grow the church," Canon Rois said.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada seeks to foster Anglican presence by providing abundant resources for innovative ministry and diverse infrastructure projects and theological formation throughout the Canadian church.

Leading the way in resourceful ministry since 1957, AFC has benefitted dioceses, hundreds of parishes, and thousands of Canadian Anglicans with the provision of financial support from coast to coast to coast.

Applications for the May 2018 award cycle must be submitted by April 1, 2018.



There are more creative and tax-efficient ways to give than simply writing a cheque!

- appreciated shares
- gift annuity
- life insurance policy

Contact us for more information about how you can give generously and also receive a significant tax benefit.

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WINTER 2017-18 COURSES

\$300 for credit toward LTh, or \$150 to audit

Big Thinkers with Big Thoughts*

Intro to Christian Theology
March 17, 18, 2018, St. George's

Is Religion Dangerous?

Wednesdays, April 11-May 16, 2018, 6:30-9:30 pm, at Huron

Systematic Theology II* (2 location options)

April 14, 2018, at Canterbury College, Windsor
or April 20 & 21, 2018, at St. George's*

Church History*

May 19 & 20, 2018, at St. George's

More online at Huron, at Renison University College, and at Canterbury College!

The Saugeens Theology Series!

Courses hosted by St. George's, Clarksburg, The Blue Mountains, that stand alone or which can be used toward the Licentiate in Theology certificate. Billets available.

Courses offered at St. George's are marked above with "*".



For more about the LTh, courses & to register:

www.huronuc.ca/LTh

Faculty of Theology
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519.438.7224, ext. 289; janstead@uwo.ca



Theology Open House

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

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ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

In Memory



Lambton Deanery
St. James Church, Parkhill
Kathleen Gilber
St. John in the Wilderness,
Bright's Grove
Charlotte Berry

Zacchaeus was a wee little man...

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he; He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see!

How many of you remember singing this in Sunday school and hearing the story of this dishonest tax collector?

Not only did he collect exorbitant amounts for the Roman government but he also keep a large portion for his own personal coffers. But besides being corrupt he was very curious so when he heard this man Jesus was in town, he wanted to see what all the fuss was about.

So he climbed the tree for a better look and Jesus spotted him, told him to come down from the tree as He was going to Zacchaeus' house for dinner.

As the Bible tells us, many were appalled that Jesus would consort with the likes of Zacchaeus. After talking with Jesus, Zacchaeus repented of his sins, gave half his money to the poor and repaid those he had cheated. For this, Jesus offered everlasting life.

Could it really be that easy?

Take your cares, your troubles, your sins to the Lord and you will be cleansed. If

He could absolve a man like Zacchaeus there is certainly hope for all.

Faithfully,
Brenda Clingersmith,
ACW President



ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF HURON

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

St. Paul's Cathedral
 London, Ontario
 Saturday 28 April 2018

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

Guest Speaker
 Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski
 "Prance" Therapeutic Riding Centre

"The Love of Jesus Calls us"

Holy Eucharist - 2:00 P.M.
 Celebrant
 The Right Reverend Linda C. Nicholls
 Bishop of Huron

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN'S ANNUAL Saturday 28th April 2018 Held @ St. Paul's Cathedral, London

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

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

The cost of the lunch is \$10.00 - per person
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

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

NAME: _____ Home Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone Number _____

Church/Deanery: _____

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

Number of luncheon tickets ordered _____ Paid by Cheque _____
 Money Order _____

Gluten free sandwiches & salads are available if requested (indicate number of Gluten free lunches)
of Gluten free _____

RSVP for lunch order no later than 12th April 2018. Thank you.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN Diocese of Huron

PROPOSED Budget for 2019

INCOME	
Donations: Fairshare	\$20,000.00
Thankoffering	11,000.00
Interest from Investments	33,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	400.00
Total Income	\$64,400.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Outreach	
Diocese of Huron - Fairshare	\$20,000.00
Huron Church Camp	5,000.00
Monica Place	4,500.00
College Chapels (3 X \$1,500.00)	4,500.00
Canterbury, Huron, Renison	
D o H, Children & Youth Ministries	2,000.00 - Funds to be directed to CLAY
Mission to Seafarers	500.00
Henry Budd College for Ministry	500.00
Dr. Graham's Homes - Child Sponsorship	600.00
Donation to Huron Church News	5,000.00
Total Outreach	\$42,600.00
General & Administration	
Office Rent & Administration	\$ 4,000.00
Council Lay Training	4,000.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	2,000.00
Salary & Benefits	6,800.00
Council Expenses, Travel, etc.	3,500.00
Audit	1,100.00
Special Requests	400.00
Total General & Administration	21,800.00
Total Expenses	\$64,400.00

PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

Celebration of New Ministry

Archdeacon Sam Thomas presided at the Celebration of New Ministry of The Very Rev'd Paul Millward as Rector of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's, London on Sunday, January 14th, 2018 @ 4:00 pm. The preacher was the Rev'd Canon Greg Smith.

Retirement

Bishop Nicholls has accepted the request to retire of the Rev'd Sandra Clark effective December 31, 2017. Sandra was ordained

Deacon on February 22, 2008 and has served since that time as the Deacon with Special Responsibility for Outreach at St. John's, Brussels in the Parish of New Beginnings. Sandra will be honored with the other retirees at Synod 2018.

Deconsecration

On Sunday, January 21st, 2018 @ 3:00 pm a Deconsecration Service for St. Paul's, Chatham took place which included a celebration of their past ministry. Bishop Linda Nicholls was the preacher and celebrant.

Rest in Peace

Reverend Jean Woon died on December 29. Jean was predeceased by her husband Ted Woon (2017). Jean had her Degree in Zoology, but later in life went back to school to get her Bachelor Degree and ended up receiving it with distinction for Theology. Jean was ordained a deacon on May 5, 2016 and served the parish of Trinity, Port Burwell and St. Luke's, Vienna. A Memorial Service took place at Trinity Anglican Church, Port Burwell on Saturday, January 6. Bishop Linda Nicholls presided.

News from Huron Church House

Our new staff member

Hayley James started working in Huron Church House after Joan Perrin had retired back in May 2017.

Hayley assumed a part of Joan's duties as a Payroll Administrator. It is currently a part time position and it seems that this was one of the reasons she applied for the job.

"I guess it was flexibility that I liked the most", says Hayley. "It just spoke to me when I saw the ad."

Hayley did payroll for hospitals and public housing, but this position with the Diocese brings new challenges.

"Monthly payroll is something new for me, something different. And also clergy payroll with its specific requirements. But I like challenge and it is good to be here", says Hayley.

She likes the environment and enjoys working with people at the Church House.



Bishop Linda congratulates Sarah Chase for her 20 years with the Diocese of Huron.

Twenty years of dedicated service

The year was 1997, the Diocesan Bishop was Archbishop Percy O'Driscoll and Bishop Robert Townshend was Suffragan Bishop... The Diocese of Huron welcomed Sarah Chase to join its support staff.

Over the next 20 years, Sarah served in the departments of Administration and Finance, Bishops' Office and Parish Services.

On December 7, Huron Church House staff honoured Sarah for her dedicated service.



TALE
AS
OLD
AS
TIME

Veil Nebula, in the constellation Cygnus, 1740 light years from Earth. Photographed over the camp by a member of the Kitchener-Waterloo Royal Astronomical Society.

Huron Church Camp 2018

come be part of God's neverending love story ...

Register online January 18, 2018 at 6 pm
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Education for Ministry from the inside out: Reflections of an EfM mentor

by Rev. Val Kenyon

As well as coordinating many of the aspects of EfM in Huron, Libi Clifford has been co-mentoring an EfM group for the last three years. Having encountered and participated in an EfM group while living in British Columbia, Libi brings with her great enthusiasm and knowledge of the EfM experience.

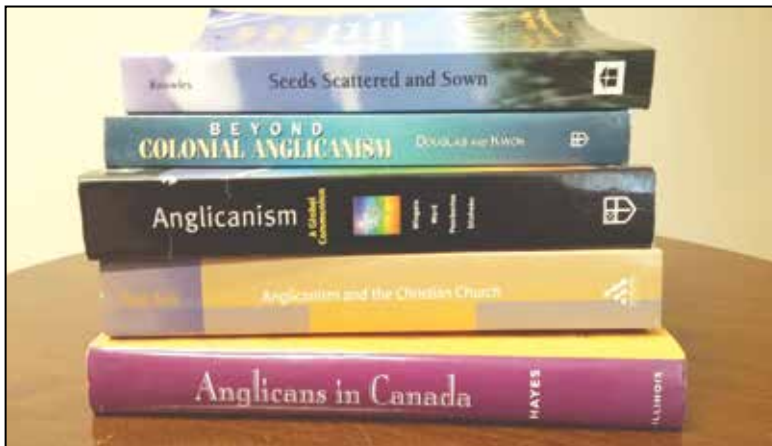
In a recent conversation with Libi I asked her about her time as an EfM mentor and what it was about it, that stood out for her especially when facilitating a group.

As well as finding the role of mentor enriching and expansive to her own faith, Libi went on to say, it is the dynamics of the group process that is fascinating to watch, as everyone brings their own perspective to what they have read and



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.

understood. This wondering together frequently creates something new, something as yet unexplored for many. This opens a door for participants to broaden their faith and knowledge, giving practice in the integration of Scripture with daily life, all together bringing fresh moments of awareness, insight and realization.



While each group establishes the timing that works best for them, within each group there are moments for review of Scriptural and other readings, discussion and reflecting theologically, worship, fellowship and refreshments.

All of these are woven together to create an atmosphere where participants are encouraged to ask questions, express

concerns, share experiences and understandings. Working together the process unfolds and provides a vehicle where life and faith are connected and explored for each participant.

For more information on EfM and how you might become involved, please contact Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or

myself Val Kenyon at EFM@huron.anglican.ca

Rev. Val Kenyon is EfM Animator in Huron

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Be mindful of the inspiration of the Spirit

By Rev. Matthew Kieswetter

In recent months I've been seeking to connect my study of the twentieth century Anglican thinker William Stringfellow with my work on the Diocesan Stewardship Committee. One story from Stringfellow's life comes to mind. (Actually, several do, but this one is the least controversial!)

In the latter part of his life, Stringfellow lived on an island, where, many years earlier, the Episcopal church had been destroyed by a hurricane (an 'act of God?' he would semi-seriously ask). Decades passed, and eventually some island residents began to gather regularly for the offices of morning and evening prayer, for Bible study, and for discussion on world events.



This group grew and eventually took steps to change its status from that of an informal house church to, instead, a mission church of the Diocese of Rhode Island. A success story in one sense.

But Stringfellow, something of a prophet, found the new situation to be inadequate. Because as the congregation settled into its new 'official' status, regular prayer ceased, Bible study ceased, and conversations on the state of the world ceased. Fundraising and congregational activities became preoccupied

with improving the social lives of the Episcopalians on the island.

In looking at his situation, Stringfellow found that when the church changed configurations it lost sight of its original spirit (or, Spirit). His warning to us is that, big or small, we need to be mindful of the movement and inspiration of the Spirit in our churches.

If you explore the excellent new stewardship resources on the national Church's website (www.anglican.ca/gtp), you'll note that the various suggested

practices fall into three categories: inspire, invite, and thank.

Stringfellow, in the story I've recounted, was concerned most of all with inspiration. You can organize, schedule, and bureaucratize inviting and thanking. But inspiration? Not so much.

For those who find themselves in churches that can no longer sustain their old way of being, they might find comfort — and inspiration — in remembering that the Holy Spirit is still active, and calling people to faith. The question is: how can we represent and honour Christ's presence in a different way? Remember that one of the great Anglican figures of the last century yearned for such a congregational context.

For those who continue on in their inherited church buildings, Stringfellow challenges

us to rediscover and present an inspirational vision.

When we unite our congregational life with a bold vision, we might actually find that stewardship — even financial stewardship — becomes less of a slog. Because our enthusiasm will be genuine, and contagious. Because our repairs and renovations won't be done for their own sake, but to facilitate the life of a Gospel-inspired community.

How might this change our approach to fundraising, caring for (and discerning the future of) our buildings, and presenting yearly budgets?

Rev. Matthew Kieswetter is a member of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee, and Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's Memorial Church, Kitchener.



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2018 Lenten Calendar

**SOCIAL JUSTICE
HURON**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This year's calendar focuses on the Five Marks of Mission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom 2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers 3. To respond to human need by loving service 4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth 			<p>Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Jeremiah 31:10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away.</p> <p>How will we share our hope, our love, and our lives by sharing the Gospel this season? Make a commitment to God today.</p>	<p>Feb 15 The Baptismal Covenant asks: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? How are you already doing this? What could you do better?</p>	<p>Feb 16 Let us pray: The wind blows where it wishes, and the sun shines where it will, and the waves and tides are directed by forces beyond this earth. While we may not fully know where such energies come from, we trust in the Spirit who reveals their potential to us. May we use this trust to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL.</p>	<p>Feb 17 The World Sustainable Development Summit ends today in New Delhi. Search for news on this. What has been learned? How can we continue to make a difference? Check out http://wsds.teriin.org</p>
<p>Feb 18 Psalm 51:6 You desire truth in the inmost being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.</p> <p>What does it mean to be students of wisdom? How is this reflected in our lives?</p>	<p>Feb 19 The Baptismal Covenant asks: Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? How are you already doing this? What could you do better?</p>	<p>Feb 20 World Day of Social Justice – explore ways in which you can help promote poverty eradication, full employment and social integration for all.</p>	<p>Feb 21 Do you know where someone in need can go for help? Get a list of local resources, be prepared to share this with those you may see in your travels.</p>	<p>Feb 22 As if you need a reason: Did you know studies show that dishwashers use less water than hand washing dishes? Fill it up as much as possible then hit start. Explore other ways to save water in your home.</p>	<p>Feb 23 Let us pray: Gracious God, you made us all in your image, yet we find and create ways to discriminate. Help us to see beyond the divisions of social, economic, and political exclusion, and REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES, delighting in the great variety you create from your perfect love.</p>	<p>Feb 24 Coldest Night of the Year: join people across Canada as we raise money and awareness for hungry, homeless and hurting individuals and families across Canada. Check out www.cnoy.org for more information.</p>
<p>Feb 25 Psalm 103:2,3 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits – who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.</p> <p>Forgiveness and healing freely given. What a message to be shared!</p>	<p>Feb 26 The Baptismal Covenant asks: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ? How are you already doing this? What could you do better?</p>	<p>Feb 27 Who has been a sign of God's love for you? How does the Good News shape the way they live? Reach out to that person and say thank you for the way they proclaim the Good News for you.</p>	<p>Feb 28 March is National Nutrition Month in Canada. Knowing how important proper nutrition is to health, ask your local food bank what you can do to help ensure those who require food support can get nutritious food.</p>	<p>March 1 Zero Discrimination Day Discrimination continues to undermine efforts to achieve a more equitable world and causes pain and suffering for many. Make an effort to challenge discrimination today wherever it occurs.</p>	<p>March 2 Let us pray: God of healing, you are the great physician, promising spiritual health. As your Son taught his disciples to heal, may we use our gifts of memory, reason, and skill to ensure HEALTHY LIVES and promote well-being for all ages. May our work in research, development, and provision reflect your compassion for everyone, everywhere, to overcome those realities of our world which threaten our health.</p>	<p>March 3 World Wildlife Day Celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild flora and fauna and let others know the benefits of conservation! For more information check out www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday</p>
<p>March 4 2 Corinthians 5:20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.</p> <p>Sent out as representatives of God; do we live with this awareness?</p>	<p>March 5 The Baptismal Covenant asks: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? How are you already doing this? What could you do better?</p>	<p>March 6 Long before Europeans claimed ownership of the land in Canada, First Nations roamed the region. It is important to remember and honour this history. Determine the territorial acknowledgment for the area that includes your church. Ask that this be used regularly.</p>	<p>March 7 The #metoo movement in 2017 highlighted that many (perhaps all) women have been sexually harassed and/or assaulted. Pray about what we can do to change the conversation and hold accountable those who think it is appropriate to impose their sexual impulses on others.</p>	<p>March 8 International Women's Day Continue the conversation through social media #PressforProgress as we continue to seek equality. See www.internationalwomensday.com for more information.</p>	<p>March 9 Let us pray: God of love, you have made us in your image. Male and female, You created us; yet we continue to discriminate against half of your children. We pray, O God of equality, that we may help create societies where gender does not initiate rejection, violence, and injustice. May our hearts yearn and inspire to achieve GENDER EQUALITY and empower all women and girls.</p>	<p>March 10 Living wage is calculated as the minimum wage needed to pay for the basic necessities of life – food, housing, and clothing. It varies from community to community and is still more than minimum wage (even with the recent increase). Ask if all employees of your church are paid a living wage.</p>
<p>March 11 Matthew 5:43-44 You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.</p> <p>Jesus teaches a new perspective. Can we take up this challenge?</p>	<p>March 12 The Baptismal Covenant asks: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? How are you already doing this? What could you do better?</p>	<p>March 13 Do you have a special place where you feel at one with God and nature? In a field, by a pond, near a garden? Try to go there today and spend some quiet time with God? Remember that God creates and give thanks for the beauty of that creation.</p>	<p>March 14 Read the news today. Highlight those positive news stories remembering that we are created for goodness. Share these stories with those around, especially those who need a reminder that God's love surrounds us.</p>	<p>March 15 There are over 100 Friendship Centres across Canada which offer programming for and about First Nations communities. Find out where the closest Friendship Centre is to you and what programs are offered. Consider making a visit in the near future.</p>	<p>March 16 Let us pray: God of learning, in our baptism we ask to receive the gift of an inquiring and discerning heart. We are privileged to be nourished and encouraged by education as a "pervasive life experience." May our grateful response be to work to ensure INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</p>	<p>March 17 Gen 1:9-10 "Part of the work of creation is to set apart, bring together and to name. With a name comes identity, purpose and relationship- and in the case of human beings responsibility and accountability." Barry Beisner (For the Beauty of the Earth - Forward Movement) What more can we do to show our responsibility and accountability to all of God's creation?</p>
<p>March 18 Jeremiah 17:7-8 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.</p> <p>Nourished and rooted in God? Can our hearts be open to trust?</p>	<p>March 19 Family Day Spend some time today volunteering and help to make a difference for families near and/or far.</p>	<p>March 20 International Day of Happiness Yes this is a thing! Make someone happy today by doing a random act of kindness – buy someone coffee, donate to a local food bank, spend time with someone who is lonely.</p>	<p>March 21 International Day for the elimination of Racial discrimination We are all created in the image and likeness of God. Learn about communities who continue to seem foreign and different to you. How does what you have learned affect your perspectives?</p>	<p>March 22 The Baptismal Covenant asks: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth? How are you already doing this? What could you do better?</p>	<p>March 23 Let us pray: Holy One, help us to recognize our position of (relative) abundance. May we be inspired and empowered to support people, frameworks, and resources to END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE, that all your children may know the abundant life your Son came to deliver.</p>	<p>March 24 Earth Hour – Join the millions around the globe: switch off your lights from 8:30-9:30pm and show your concern for the impacts of climate change via social media. Go to www.earthhour.org for more information.</p>
<p>March 25 Palm Sunday Isaiah 43:18 Do not remember the former things or the things of old. New beginnings, new understandings, looking forward. Where has your Lenten journey led you? How is it changing you?</p>	<p>March 26 As you buy chocolate to fill up Easter baskets, consider how that chocolate is harvested and made. Buying fair trade ensures products come from businesses that are sustainable and meet high work standards. Look for the logo: </p>	<p>March 27 Where do you see God working in your community? What is God doing? How can you contribute? Pick one new activity to do this week.</p>	<p>March 28 Jesus spends time in prayer in a garden. Identify where you can go to obtain native seeds and plants to create a garden where you can go for prayer and know God's presence in the beauty around you as you support local birds, bees and butterflies</p>	<p>March 29 Maundy Thursday Jesus feeds us through the Eucharist. Help feed others through a donation to a food bank, soup kitchen or school breakfast program.</p>	<p>March 30 Good Friday Today is a traditional day for fasting. If your health permits, consider skipping one meal today. Pray for the many communities in Canada who lack consistent access to food, especially in the North.</p>	<p>March 31 Holy Saturday Jesus died to take away our sins, not our minds. Select one of the activities from this calendar and live it out the rest of the year.</p>

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

Note: References to the Baptismal Covenant are taken from BAS p. 159. Friday prayers are taken from Brief prayers for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by the Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz, AFP Canada Executive

Seasonal reflections (in the rear view mirror)

It is a quiet mind that handles the stress of organizing holidays (and all those other family commitments we manage through the year). Our loving



As I See It

REV. JIM INNES

those of you still reeling in the rush, good luck keeping this season a joyful one. The best I can suggest is stay tuned to your best intention; which is to grace the places of those you love (for as long as possible), stick to your priorities, and keep the peace of the season close to your heart. Perhaps even using the car time to listen to good music, a good audio book, or where possible, having good conversation with your travel partner.

This 'running' issue is not just around the big holidays. Our weekends (and occasional family commitments) aren't much easier to organize into our hectic lives; especially when things pop up like birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, sudden sickness, and, God bless, memorials and funerals.

I think the worst of the running problems are felt by those who are in the sandwich generation with children (and

all their activities) on one end, and their ageing parents (and the increasing care of them) on the other. Not to mention the 2 career home life (and the expectations of work) that keeps every day already hopping in its own intricate dance.

It's a quiet mind that handles these stressors; stressors not only of organizing and travel, but often too, the stressors accompanying the family function around which we are called to accommodate (and the baggage that may accompany the occasion).

In other words, there is often as much going on under the surface (like the emotional 'stuff') as there is on the top (the pragmatic 'stuff'). In these busy moments we become intensely connected to, though not necessarily conscious of, both the joy and conflict of familial life.

Difficult times can surround a 'visit' when we are from a

divorced home, or a troubled family, or we believe we are the 'black sheep'...or...or...or! And, as many ponder, what is a "quiet mind" in these situations? Too often it is a grin and bear it situation.

I offer this, a quote from a quote; such quiet does not mean to avoid being in a place where there is no stress (either pragmatically or emotionally). We cannot avoid the familial pulls and obligations anyway. A quiet mind means to be in the midst of all those things, and still be calm in your heart.

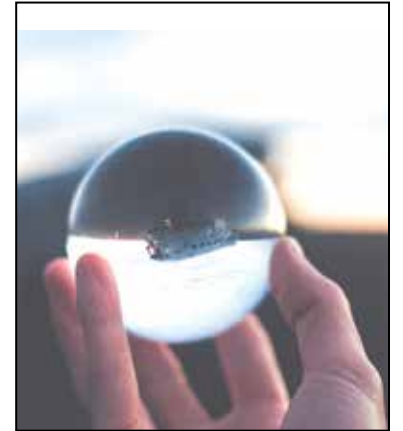
As I see it, when we look outwardly to for quiet, we are looking in the wrong direction. We become the quiet when we can still our beating hearts, and become the quiet we want externally. For some of us, and I know this too be so very true, we spin away from our own center when stressed. We look outside ourselves for the assist, but most times, the raging

waves that threaten, are too often of our own making.

A last thought...perhaps the quiet mind is what others are hoping to get from us. As those who bring it with them, are regularly sought out for their company.

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

Rev.Jiminnes@gmail.com



Dardan Mu, Unsplash

connection moves us to accommodate, but sometimes that adapting is difficult to manage.

Christmas day is (was) a day of running for many people. Families are spread out, and with an increasing number of 2 parent homes, extended family functions have become next to impossible to organize.

This is more than a Christmas/New Years issue, but for

Love is in the air: the month of Cupid

The month of "Cupid" is so strategically timed that when our Christmas stash of chocolate has finally dwindled



LAUREL PATTENDEN

the year. We could certainly use more love.

Anyways, do you remember the children's song/game that goes like this: "I wrote a letter to my love and on the way I dropped it. A little doggy picked it up and put it in his pocket." It has a catchy little tune and you will be humming it the rest of the day. But I think perhaps there is much more to this song.

When we sing this song, the majority of us take for granted the idea that we are loved so much that we would reciprocate that love back. It makes me think of the saying by Mother Teresa, "The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread". So what about the unloved? Who

do they write their letter to or do they just not play in the game? This is an unsettling thought because the fact that being unloved can be so invisible to the common eye.

The song continues with the letter being dropped. How could they be so clumsy? But it can be so much more than clumsiness if we don't make another effort for our love. I will call this "dropped love". Many things can cause dropped love. In fact, it can become epidemic. Having a mind full of, meaningful or not, pursuits can get in our way of communicating love.

But luckily, in this case, the dropped letter or dropped love gets picked up by the hero and puts it in his pocket

to deliver. Then, in the game, we tap someone on the head and they chase us around the circle to the empty spot. Which depending on the size of the game circle can be very hard on your ankles. DO NOT play this game if you are over the age of seven!

Franciscan nun Ilia Delio says that we belong to each other because we have the same source of love. As it is also written in 1 John 7, 8: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love".

So this is where the little doggy comes in. I would much prefer it was a little cat but

then again little cat's don't have pockets. So the little doggy gets 1 John 7,8 and delivers the dropped love. So this is when this simple song becomes perhaps more. We all claim to love God but we drop love all the time. Everywhere. I need to meditate on this. I need to become the little doggy. We need to fill our pockets full of dropped love that we can then deliver. But who to? Who are the unloved?

The Scottish poet, Kathleen Raine, writes that unless you see a thing in the light of love, you do not see it at all. So if we love God, the source of love, we will see in the light of love. That's how you get pockets of love and know how to deliver it.

and we have kicked the sugar cravings, along come those brightly wrapped (red and pink this time) chocolate delights again.

This is the month of "love is in the air". It is unfortunate that it is also the shortest month of

Private and public: where is the line?

There is a very fine line between public and private and on Social Media which can be razor thin.



MEDIA BYTES

REV. MARTY LEVESQUE

articulate that the content we post and the individual user controls who has access to that content.

However, when social media is used for professional purposes, the line between personal and professional can be blurred. When using "private" accounts to promote the churches and institutions to which we belong, that which may have been considered private becomes public.

Once that line has been crossed, we cease to be private individuals expressing opinions. Our private opinions and accounts become extensions of

the church or institution that we represent -- for good or for ill.

Many professional clergy and church leaders use personal accounts to help further the overall reach of church's message. It is a great way of living the Great Commission and being a visible sign of Christ. And I would encourage people to continue to live as outward visible signs of God's reconciliation with the world.

But acting this way also needs to come with a caution.

If you use your personal account for church business - or any business for that matter

- actions in your personal life can have consequences for the church or institution you represent. You cease to be just an individual, but a representative. This is important to keep in mind when you delete, censor, debate or silence comments you don't like.

If you blend your personal and public lives, your actions no longer just represent you, but they represent your specific parish, and the church in general.

It is always best to take a step back from the keyboard or device before posting something in the heat of the moment and

ask how your words reflect the church. Am I living and posting in a way that reflects the image of Christ? Is the Kingdom of God served by this tweet or comment?

As we head towards the season of Lent, now more than ever is a good time to reflect upon our social media practices, how we engage with colleagues, parishioners and the wider world.

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

marty.r.levesque@gmail.com

Many of us have signed up to Facebook, Twitter or other platforms as private individuals. The terms of service of those platforms also clearly

A personal note on spiritual discipline

Given the nature of publishing and deadlines, I'm writing this just before Christmas. .

I am excited to say that for the first time in close to 30 years, when I got on the scale



**MOSTLY ABOUT
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON
KEITH
NETHERY**

(warning I'm of the age that I mix and match imperial and metric because we switched when I was in elementary school) and the first number was 1.

So you are saying, "What's the big deal about getting under 200 pounds?" Well if I told you that on March 6, 2017, I weighed 271 pounds, that might help you understand how proud I am of this spiritual discipline. What? Spiritual discipline, how is this about spiritual discipline?

Glad you asked.



Samuel Zeller, Unsplash

Many of you will know that just after Easter 2016 I was diagnosed with kidney cancer. Fortunately, it was caught early and surgery to remove a kidney was the cure.

Unfortunately, I didn't pay attention to the blessing I had been given. In March when I visited the kidney specialist my blood pressure was putting me at further risk. I left that appointment determined to change my ways. I started walking more and eating less. Along the way the medical folks made

some further suggestions about diet and how that would play into my long term health.

I set targets of walking an hour a day, minimum, and limiting calories to 2000 per day. All the while, I'm still thinking this was just about me and my health. A one hour walk started about being three kilometers and then four and five, and it's now six kilometers in an hour. One walk, turned into two walks some days, with a target of 10 hours per week. Snacks became a thing of the past.

Vegetables and fruit replaced potato chips and pie, and the pounds began to fall away. Ten pounds the first month and the same each of the next five months. Blood pressure became normal. Resting heart rate dropped below 70. So, you say again, how is this spiritual. I was just getting to that.

As I walked more and more, I found I prayed more and more. Suddenly this time outdoors was a time of meditation and spiritual practice. It has gotten to the point that I can't wait to get out and walk and talk with God.

I notice things that I never saw before. Colours and birds and rabbits and trees in bloom. Exercise used to be a chore, now it is a blessing! And I feel so much better. I have energy to take on new tasks.

It used to be working into the evening meant there was little chance that I would make the office by 9 am. Now, without an alarm, I am up by 6 am every morning and bounding out the door to breath deep, stretch my legs and my mind! Mid-day naps used to be a regular occurrence, now they are an

option that is oft by passed.

None of this should be surprising. I've known all my adult life that I wasn't treating the body that God provided with the respect that it deserved. It took a loud wake-up call and then a louder wake-up call for me to get the message.

I must admit, that I used to roll my eyes when fit people told me that I could do better. I thought I was just fine, maybe just a couple of pounds too heavy. At the risk of causing that same rolling of eyes for many readers, might I tell you now not only is fitness great, the spiritual benefits are out of this world. Like all disciplines, it takes just one step to get started.

I pray that the wisdom God has imparted through this journey will stay with me and in two, five, ten years, I will still be on the same path. It is up to me to make that happen. But it is amazing the gentle push that God can give. And sometimes it's a downright spiritual boot to the behind!!

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

Sharing God's message of Love

“When members of the clergy are given the opportunity to say a ‘few words’ in a public setting, they hardly ever do”.



**A VIEW FROM
THE BACK PEW**

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

My Old Testament Preaching professor offered his viewpoint and then used it to set the framework for the term: “In your presentations in front of the class, you will be expected to limit yourselves to three minutes. In that time, you will reflect on the assigned Old Testament passage, make a link to the Gospel and bridge the message offered in the biblical passages to a contemporary issue.”

Four decades have passed since that course, but I have not forgotten the essential message that my professor was offering.

Words are important.

How we use words to convey what we think and what we believe, whether it is in an intimate setting, in front of a thousand people, or through the use of social media (especially through the social media

opportunities not available four decades ago), is important. If we do not communicate well, the message of the community of faith gets tuned out and we become inaudible.

Using every means possible to convey a message of welcome, availability and an invitation to enter into the life of a caring community of faith is an essential element in a ministry of hospitality.

A person I knew used to keep her stenographic skills sharp by attending Evening Prayer services, simply to take down the words of the sermon, as if they were being dictated, then she would take them home and type them up, to be read at her leisure. Words used in the context of worship helped her to develop the skills she needed for her employment and their content, which she had heard, typed and re-read, helped shape her spiritual life.

How does the world know that the Anglican Church, YOUR church, exists?

Time, effort, energy and resources are being invested in enabling people to make connections through the use of social media as a platform of introduction to communities of faith. Each individual parish website expresses its unique liturgical style and special congregational ministry priorities in an attempt to woo the wandering, searching soul. Yet, at the same time, the Anglican experience of the Christian Faith calls us to be, “...mutually responsible and interdependent members of the Body of Christ...”

In one part of the Diocese of Huron, that I am aware of, in the entire month leading up to the observance of the Season of Christmas 2017, there was no indication through any paid advertisement on the Religion page of the regional paper that the Anglican Church of Canada even exists.

Large newspaper ads may not be within the financial grasp of some congregations, however, even a brief word generating some kind of visibility, indicating an online presence would at least let some members of the community know, especially those who still pick up a newspaper and read it, that the Anglican Church does exist, and still does have a pulse!

Using every means possible to convey a message of wel-

come, availability and an invitation to enter into the life of a caring community of faith is an essential element in a ministry of hospitality.

During the month of February, a variety of means will be used to convey a simple message from one human being to another. “I Love You”, is a message which falls well within a Twitter word limiting regulation!

“I Love You”, is a message which may be expanded on as the person conveying the message underlines the sincerity of their devotion for even more than the three minutes that my professor set as a limit.

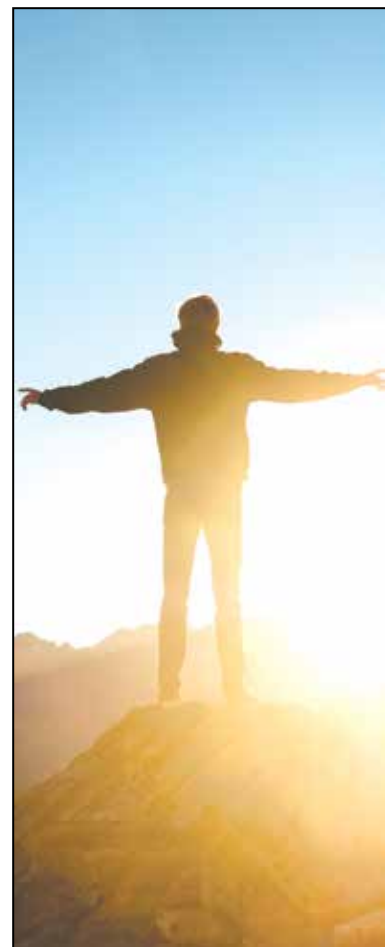
“I Love You”, is a message of Divine Love for humanity which is a message communities of faith seek to share throughout the year as worship is offered as a response to the expression of that Divine Love in the person of Jesus.

Wherever you are, I invite you to communicate with others and discover ways in which your community of faith and the faith which you profess to hold dear, are neither inaudible nor invisible!

We have God's message of Love to share in a world that is seeking to experience it through worship and fellowship, if only we speak up and offer the invitation.

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

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Pablo Heimplatz, Unsplash

HURON CHURCH NEWS

Anglican Diocese of Huron • 190 Queens Avenue • London, ON N6A 6H7



It's an exciting time in Huron! Our diocese is going through major changes – parishes are exploring new ways of ministry, often joining forces in an effort to become more vibrant and remain sustainable.

In the previous year, your Huron Church News was there to bring you the stories that are transforming the face of Huron. The stories that reflect courage and a willingness to make changes.

“A sign of things to come” – our coverage of Bishop Linda's seating as the 13th Bishop of Huron (January edition) – set the tone for the entire year.

In our April edition we told you about ministry on a hockey rink in Stratford. It was an opportunity to hear young people's voices. They told us that Christ still matters in the life of our youth.

In September we wrote about “Church for the unchurched, and more”, describing how the Anglican congregations in Goderich, Port Albert and Clinton embraced the challenge of biker ministry, each of them in a different way. The story of Rev. Steve Martin's ministry went viral!

We also wrote about church closures focusing on the congregations who lost their buildings. And we saw that the mission of God outweighs the love for the building. We shared the excitement of the newly ordained priests (“The joyful noise and the blessed quiet”, February 2017) and the challenges they face in their parishes (“Three faces of ministry in South Huron”, October 2017).

In 2017 Rev. Canon Lorne Mitchell took you on “A Celtic Pilgrimage”, to the Island of Iona, in a series which explored the rich layers of Anglican heritage. We also took you to another kind of spiritual journey, equally important in an effort to understand our past and trace our future: the journey towards Truth and Reconciliation which starts by acknowledging the mistakes of the past and by opening our eyes to the real history.

We covered the stories that matter to a wider community. In October, we took you to the streets of London and gave you different angles on Huron Anglicans' march against intolerance. In June, and again in September, we reported about the events at St. John the Evangelist in Leamington: the story of the “Little mosque by the lake”. Our coverage received national attention. Echoed by CBC reports, the story of Leamington's Anglicans sharing their space with a group of local Syrian refugees ended up on the pages of “Maclean's”.

In 2017 Huron Church News won a third place award for in-depth treatment of a news event from the Canadian Church Press. Huron Church News was recognized with the award for its coverage of the coadjutor bishop election. More than 80 Canadian Christian publications – newspapers and magazines – were reviewed and the best were recognized for their excellence. Thanks to your generous support, Huron Church News was among them!

Our joined journey continues in these times of challenges and changes. Huron Church News is a witness to these changes. Without your support these stories would not have been heard.

That is why I ask you to continue your financial assistance and to consider a donation in support of Huron Church News' continued role in the Diocese of Huron. There is no subscription fee for our paper and it depends on its readers. We cannot continue without your help. I am certain that you will, once again, show your support for our mission.

Thank you.

Davor Milicevic, Editor



Sharing your stories. Huron Church News is the public communication device for our Diocese.

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