

Enews to the St. Mark's Pews
63rd Edition June 11, 2021
St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON
Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!

There was an episode of "The Flintstones" in which Fred and Wilma got new neighbours who were a parody of Samantha and Darren from "Bewitched." Since they'd just moved in, their new house was in a state of chaos: nothing unpacked, boxes everywhere, general disorganization. At some point the Samantha character twitched her nose and everything magically unpacked itself and was put in place. How I wish I had those powers! Everything arrived safe and sound on Monday and it's mainly unpacked but not put away. But progress is being made - slowly but surely. I can't wait for the day when we can have a grand party.

But the annoyances of moving and settling in are trivial when set aside the concerns of the world. As a nation, we have been going through a difficult couple of weeks. First it was the news of the discovery of the 215 children buried at the former residential school in Kamloops and then it was the murder of four members of the Afzaal family Monday evening in London.

Both of these events have shaken us from our complacency that "these sorts of things" don't happen in Canada. We realize that our vision of ourselves is so often far removed from reality. And so we must confront this and, if we wish the vision we have of ourselves - as individuals, communities, nations - to be really true, then we have to work to make it happen. It's work that can be painful and seems so daunting that we don't even know where to begin. But we can begin by simply listening.

Yes, it's harrowing and exhausting to listen to stories of abuse at the Residential Schools and it's uncomfortable to hear stories of racism. Yet we must patiently listen and truly hear if things are going to change. And eventually we must do more than listen: we must dare to journey in patience, love, and tolerance with our brothers and sisters of all races, creeds, and backgrounds because, after all, we're all in this together.

I have been so impressed with the loving care which the people of St. Mark's show to one another. And I am honoured to be among you as we continue to explore the many ways we are called to love and support not only one another but also our entire community. There are no nose twitches to make our vision come true immediately and get everything sorted. It will take hard work, dedication, planning and good humour - and prayer. But as St. Paul reminds us, all things work together for good for those who love God.

I wish you all God's richest blessings for the coming week.

Grace and peace,

Leighton

PARISH UPDATES

Cemetery Stone Restoration

The Cemetery Board is pleased to announce the launch of our stone restoration project beginning on Monday June 14 and continuing on site until the end of July. Al Ernest, a recognized stone conservation restorer will be working on four of our most historic stone monuments – The Charles Morrison “chopping block” (a ledger stone) , the Sara Chrysler monument, The George Forsyth “tomb” and the Waters obelisk .The first three are located north of the church (Centre Block) and the Waters in the north west side of the cemetery. Restoration is an expensive project. Gifts to the cemetery combined with the careful management of our funds have made the first restoration phase possible.

We encourage you to visit the cemetery and see the work in progress.

As we would like to do further restoration to preserve our remarkable history we encourage donations to the cemetery.

Keeping in Touch On-line

*Our Sunday morning services are **streamed** on Facebook at 10:00 am. Simply go to St. Mark’s Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page. The service will be uploaded to YouTube also by 10:00 in the morning.*

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNf0GbuxrfjW4sOXzQ>

Our Facebook and YouTube channels can also be accessed through our website:

<https://stmarksnotl.org/>

WARDEN’S LETTER

Our first week with our new Rector, Fr. Leighton. After an extended wait, his furniture and goods arrived on Monday and by the end of the week he says he will be settled into his new home. The moving van that appeared was the largest anyone of us had seen. With a double bunks extension on the back:



We thought maybe he moved the Cathedral as well. We quickly learned only part was his. A big thank you to those in the interim who provided lunches and dinners. Our animal friends on the property have also been dropping by to see the new occupant.

We did have some last-minute moving of large furniture out of the Rectory that is waiting for Habitat to pick up. Thanks to the three young men, Ben, Jamie and Owen Bradford, the items were moved to the Coach House. Thanks to Steve Hinchliffe for organizing and also for obtaining an office desk for the Rector's office.

As most of you know Jean Baker has written and printed a very interesting book. We have read it and found it a nice read and so much detail makes the people and places come alive. Jean needs help selling more books and we recommend you buy one. Contact Jean at 905-468-1030.

We continue to wait to hear from the Diocese as to the opening for outdoor services, use of kitchen, etc. The vaccine rate is increasing much faster and most second jabs have been moved up to a shorter time frame.

Each Sunday in our Prayers for the People, we include the names of those who are ailing provided by parishioners. Often the office does not know who made the request and if it still required. Please help us keep the names relevant and current. We use only the first name unless requested otherwise. It is important also for our Fr. Leighton as to any calls or visits.

An important date today is Gillian MacKay's special birthday. Please keep her in your prayers and best wishes.

Thank you to the many that responded so positively to our last Enews. Take care and please, stay safe!

Called to Life – Compelled to Love
Your Wardens

WORSHIP:

Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan

Every week, the Bishop continues to lead Sunday Prayers at 10:00 am on our [Facebook page](#). An order of service is posted on our online [diocesan COVID-19 resource hub](#) on the Friday before. Join a few minutes beforehand and say hello to friends from your church and across the diocese! Afterwards, the service is posted [on our YouTube channel](#) and the Bishop's homily is available on the resource hub.



Celebrate Pride This Sunday

You are invited to participate in our upcoming virtual celebration of Pride, Fiercely Loved: You Belong! The service, featuring Bishop Susan Bell with a homily by Canon Penny Anderson and a host of diverse voices from around our diocese, will premiere on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) on Sunday, June 13 at 4:00pm.



The service is a witness to the vibrant ministry carried out by 2SLGBTQIA+ Christians in our midst. It is also an important opportunity to gather virtually in a year when in-person celebrations of Pride are not possible.

READINGS FOR THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Sunday, June 13, 2021- Third Sunday After Pentecost -LINK](#)

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 Despite military victories, Saul has lost favour with God for failing to obey him completely. Now God, through Samuel, identifies his successor as king of Israel.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10,(11-13),14-17 Paul has contrasted the mode of being we have now, and the one we will have in the future. The mode we have now is temporary; in it we are subject to suffering. The mode we long for, and are assured of by God, is being "clothed with our heavenly dwelling".

Mark 4:26-34 Jesus has told a parable about sowing seed: depending on where it lands, some flourishes greatly but other seed dies, is carried off by birds, or does not

grow. He has interpreted this parable to the disciples in terms of the kingdom of God. Now he tells two more seed parables.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Submitted by Jane De Münnich)

Let us pray - that we may weep yet, if we have not already done so, for our sins and those of our countrymen.

Heavenly Father,

Look upon our tears for the lives taken by the evil illusion of hate in London, Ontario. Bolster our resolve to do Your will at all times in imitation of Your Son, so that no illusion of any kind may stalk our souls. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Help us as Canadians to offer compassionate apology and recompense to the indigenous peoples of this land for the atrocities visited upon them in the name of our state. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Help us as Christians to speak out against such atrocities, refusing and abhorring any justification for doing harm in our Lord's name. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and rejoice for the presence in this community of Ethel Keith, Laura Kelley, Peter and Nancy Kemball, and Patrick and Jane Kierans and pray for the health and well-being of them and their families. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for Grace Church, Milton, the Reverend Karine Snowdon, Rector, the Reverend Nina Page, Deacon, the Reverend Mark Curtis, Honorary Assistant, the Reverend Canon Dr. Mark McDermott, Honorary Assistant as well, and the people of that parish, which must be considerably larger than ours! We pray for them all. May they continue to flourish for your greater glory. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Archbishop of the Diocese of Calgary, where Father Leighton has just come from, who is also Metropolitan of the entire Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, whose 10 dioceses we also pray for here today, and well as for our Lutheran and Anglican global partners and companions in mission. Continue to aid them in pleasing you in their work and worship. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, especially thinking now of Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarolo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Mimi McEwan, Peter Ford, Jodey Porter, Sean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, Sam Kingdon, and Joshua.

And for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper.

And those who have gone before us, remembering Yvonne Playle. In your mercy, comfort all who are sick, housebound, and grieving. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, without you we are not able to please you. Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**