

ALL SAINTS ALIVE  
THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Wow! Another month has slipped by...and this Sunday marks the start of Advent, the beginning of our Christian year. The word “advent”, comes from the Latin word ‘adventus’ which means ‘coming’ or ‘arrival’...and as we know, it is a time for celebration, not with presents and parties, but for commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.

All Saints will be a very busy place over the next month. This newsletter will share with you announcements regarding many of activities taking place. Get your running shoes ready!!

Father Michael

### **Advent Badgers and Hedgehogs**

Every Advent, two tunes compete in my head. One is the bouncy and uplifting “People Look East”, which uses the language of many parables to encourage us to prepare our souls for the coming of Christ (“Love the guest is on the way”). This hymn was a favourite of my mother, a cheerful soul who usually began singing it sometime in August.

The other tune competing for my mental real estate is “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. This ancient tune, in a medieval minor tone, is sombre and austere, full of biblical imagery that longs for the promised Saviour whose coming is foretold in scripture.

Both hymns embody the essential Advent themes of preparation and expectation, though they neither may satisfy those who come to church in early to mid December hoping to hear Christmas carols!

In a recent essay in the Christian journal Plough, Claire Coffey makes a tongue in cheek distinction between “badger-like stalwarts who point out that Advent is its own season” and “jolly hedgehogs” who want to spread the Christmas spirit as far and wide as they can.

Liturgically speaking, I tend to be a bit badger-ish when it comes to Advent, though I have nothing against jolly hedgehogs and, personally, if you want to keep your Christmas lights lit all year long because they cheer you up, then more power to your elbow! I myself wait to hang the lights until just before Advent, when the darkness and chill creep in earlier each day. In doing so, I find myself agreeing with Claire Coffey that “Advent is the final phase of spooky season”.

By spooky season, Coffey means that Advent is in many ways connected with Halloween, when we bid adieu to summer’s glories, when the fields and the trees turn bare and brown, and we walk a little more nervously at night amidst the rustling leaves. We think of the dead on All Souls, and we think of our sins and guilts and grievances. In church through November, our gospel readings warn of the return of the lord who will demand an accounting. We ask ourselves, are we ready for his coming?



Advent is expectation and hope, but it can also be a time for remorse, repentance, and self-examination. This is a time when we may need to curb our hedgehog enthusiasm for Christmas and tune in to the more disciplined badger side of our personalities. Remorse, repentance, and self-examination as spiritual disciplines can be demanding, but they lead us out of gloom and into joy. One of our most beloved Christmas tales is a ghost story that leads from remorse, repentance, and self-examination to a new life and joy.

So yes, Advent may indeed be part of the spooky season, but it ends with church bells ringing clear and bright on a frosty morning, ringing to banish the ghosts and to tell us that we need not fear the Lord's return. In the words of the ancient hymn,

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by Your drawing nigh  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadow put to flight

Happy Advent, dear saints. May this time be one of good preparation for us as we put our homes and hearts in readiness for the coming of the king.

Claire Coffey's piece may be found at [www.plough.com](http://www.plough.com)

Our Food Ministry programmes are preparing for their December meals. On December 6th, Five Loaves will be delivering 100 turkey dinners to Out of the Cold and Mobile Soup Kitchen ministries, as well as 50 individuals in our community. One week later, our Friendship dinner team will host the monthly community dinner in the Parish Hall. Opportunities are available to help cook, serve and donate if you wish! We thank all those people involved in these important community outreach programmes!

**Community Friendship Dinner**  
**Wednesday December 13th 2023 Dinner Begins at 5pm**  
Turkey, Stuffing, Vegetables, Salads, Dinner Roll, Desserts  
and Fruit Coffee, Tea and Juice



We cannot guarantee that the donated food at our dinners is free from aller-

Reverend Sharon is once again organizing donations for gift bags for our friends at Pine Villa. Her report follows....

### **SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY**

For many people this is a difficult time of year. We have all come through many challenges over this past year. Some of the people we have loved are no longer with us. Some people have faced health challenges, and are on the road to recovery. Some have had changes in their lives that were unexpected, some for good, and some not so much. Even this colder weather brings challenges for many of us. So there is lots to bring us down, or make us frustrated, or take some of the joy out of our day. But we are here. We are still going. We are still a community loving and serving Jesus. And Jesus calls us to serve – the poor, the needy, the hungry, the down-and-out. The amazing thing is that we are energized and realize that it brings as much joy to ourselves as it does to those we help.

Again this year, we have the opportunity to help a group of people who at times are forgotten. People who are alone and no longer have family. People whose life circumstances have changed. We have the chance to make a Christmas for those who live at Pine Villa. For a number of years now we have provided gift bags for those who live there. This is a chance to bring Christmas to them. Through visiting there, I found that there were many who received only what the staff were able to provide. So the ministry to bring joy began.

This year there are 34 residents. There are 20 gentlemen and 14 ladies. Yes, this means 34 pairs of socks, 34 toothbrushes, 34 hats, toques, scarves and mitts. 34 unique things to be stocking stuffers – all presented in gift bags. You might not ever know “who” will be the recipient, but you can be assured that the gifts are appreciated and make a world of difference. Sometimes things like board games are given to the nursing home for all to share. It all makes a difference. If you feel that you could participate this year, think of the things you would appreciate getting, and see what you could come up with to make this group of people feel special. Even combs, shampoo, soap, all show that they matter and that someone was thinking of them. If you can help out, please let Nancy know and if you would choose a gent or a lady. It would be helpful to have the bags brought to the church between the 14th and 18th of December for delivery later that week. If you might not be able to contribute an individual bag, donations of individual items are also helpful – tooth paste, puzzles, puzzle books and such are also helpful. Each gift bag also includes a card on behalf of the congregation, wishing them a Merry Christmas.

I thank you in advance for your continued generosity! It really does make a difference to everyone who lives there.

Thank you, and blessings,  
Sharon+



Birthday greetings go out to Jean Mackison. We hope you had a wonderful celebration Jean!



Anniversary greetings are in order for Father Michael. Last week marked the 19th anniversary since his ordination! Congratulations, Michael!



**Ok....do you have your shoes on???**

December 2... "Praying Into Advent Quiet Saturday"...All Saints 10am to 3pm

December 3...First Sunday of Advent

December 6... Service in memory of the Women of L'Ecole Polytechnique ...All Saints 7pm

December 6...Five Loaves food ministry deliveries

December 7 and 14...CO3 10am; Choir practice Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 7pm

December 9... Christmas in Creemore 4-6pm at St. Luke's in Creemore

December 10... Second Sunday of Advent

December 13... Community Friendship Dinner 5pm at All Saints

December 16...Rectory Tree Trimming party...All Saints Rectory 4-7pm

December 17...Third Sunday of Advent; Community Carol Sing 7pm at Prince of Peace Church

December 20...Service for Those Missing Loved Ones at Christmas...7pm at All Saints

December 21...Winter Solstice "Change of Seasons Event"..Awen' Gathering Place 5-6 pm;  
please see poster below

December 24... Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve Services 7pm and 10:30pm at All Saints

December 25...Christmas Day Service at 9:30am at All Saints

In your prayers this week, please remember those whose names are on our Parish Prayer List. We pray for their caregivers and all who assist others in need.

**“Please pray for these people during the week”** - Brenda Teeter, Bob Teeter, Sandra Girdle, Mary Ratensperger, Bev Baxter, Paul Reid, Eric Vignola, Wolf, Marnie Potter, SSN, Irene McVeigh, Brian, John, Gail, Penny, Barb, Loraine, Janice, Candice Swartz, Lisa Swartz, Dimi Ntantoulis, Sean, Dorothy.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS RESIDES ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE ANISHNAABE AND WENDAT PEOPLES. THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REMINDS US OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS TO THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ON WHICH WE LIVE, LEARN, SHARE AND PRAY.



**Christmas Flowers** - If you would like to decorate the Church this Christmas with flowers you can call the office 705-445-3841 or e-mail [all-saintschurch@bmts.com](mailto:all-saintschurch@bmts.com) with your wording by 10am Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Flowers can be left in the Church beginning Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>.

We have 20 beautiful artificial poinsettias. If you would like to make a donation to the Church (a ministry of your choice) in memory of a loved one please contact the office and we can display one of the poinsettias in their memory. A note will be placed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin and on the Screen.

Since 1906, the **Canadian Church Calendar** has been a useful and beautiful addition to the walls of homes, sacristies and offices across Canada. As has been the custom, the calendar includes a range of photos featuring beloved Anglican churches across the country. Additional details include notes on liturgical colours, saints' days, important dates, previous and next month calendars on each page spread and more. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar please contact the Church office. We will post a cost once the Anglican Church of Canada estore has received the calendars and set their price.



# *Christmas Events and Services for 2023*

## **Advent Retreat**

10am to 3pm, Saturday, December, 2nd, All Saints, Collingwood

Register by emailing [PrinceofPeaceChurchWB@gmail.com](mailto:PrinceofPeaceChurchWB@gmail.com)

## **Peace Vigil**

**In Memory of the Women of L'Ecole Polytechnique, Montreal**

7pm, Wednesday, December 6th, All Saints Collingwood

## **Christmas in Creemore: Carol Sing and Reception**

4pm - 6pm, Saturday, December, 9th, St Luke's, Creemore

## **Rectory Tree Trimming Party**

4pm - 7pm, Saturday, December, 16th, All Saints Rectory, Collingwood

## **Community Carol Sing**

7pm, Sunday, December, 17th, Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach

## **Quiet Christmas**

**A Service for Those Missing Loved Ones at Christmas**

7pm, Wednesday, December, 20th, All Saints, Collingwood

## **Christmas Worship**

**Sunday December 24th in the Morning**

9:30am, Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist at Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach

9:30am, Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist at All Saints, Collingwood

**Sunday December 24th in the Evening**

3:30pm, Carol Sing, and 4pm, Holy Eucharist, St. Luke's, Creemore

7pm, Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Collingwood

7pm, Holy Eucharist, Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach

10:30pm, Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Collingwood

**Monday, December 25th**

9:30am, Holy Eucharist, Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach

9:30am, Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Collingwood