

IN GOD’S SERVICE
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN REGIONAL MINISTRY
OF SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY
MARCH 21, 2024

Welcome to our regional newsletter....we wish you a “happy spring”, despite the weather Mother Nature has and is, giving us the last couple of days!

Our regional newsletter shares information from our three Parishes...St. Luke’s in Creemore, Prince of Peace in Wasaga Beach and All Saints in Collingwood.

As everyone knows, this Sunday is referred to as “Palm Sunday”. But did you know that in some Christian Churches, it is also called “Passion Sunday”. In the 1970’s, churches often called it, “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord”.

Regardless of what we call it, for Christians, it is a reminder of the beginning of Holy Week, and for welcoming Jesus in to our hearts, and our willingness to follow Him. Often, during Palm Sunday services, there is a reading of the Passion, that is, the story of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

Our three churches will be very busy next week—‘Holy Week’. We hope you will find time to celebrate this most wonderful time in our Christian faith.

Father Michael shares with us, his thoughts and wishes for our regional ministry....

Message From the Priest in Charge

I’m very happy to introduce this latest edition of our Regional Ministry Newsletter.

This week the clergy have been busy filing our parochial returns, which are statistic snapshots that give our Diocesan leaders a sense of the size and health of our churches. Often church health is measured by attendance, and yet studies show that the majority of churches in Canada, of all denominations, have 100 or fewer members in the building on Sunday.

Our three churches are small by some standards, and yet as this newsletter shows, they are full of life and energy. The Holy Spirit is clearly comfortable in small churches and seems to enjoy being active in our midst!

I’m especially proud of the many opportunities for worship that our three churches offer over Holy Week, a testimony to the enthusiasm and faithfulness of our clergy team and people. Our shared worship at St. Luke’s in Creemore on the Vigil of Easter, starting at 7pm, will be a truly regional affair and I encourage you to attend. This ancient service captures the deep mystery of Easter in music, light, and symbol, and on this night we will welcome a new believer into our midst through baptism.



A scene from the Easter Vigil at All Saints, 2023

May this Easter give you the hope and joy through our Risen Lord, who leads us from darkness into light and from death into life.

Blessings, Michael+

Training and Learning Opportunities

Safe Church Training

Every few years, all volunteers in Anglican parishes to attend Safe Church training on how we can interact respectfully and properly with others, particularly with vulnerable individuals. If it's been some years since you've done this training, or if you are new in a volunteer role, you need to complete this training. We've arranged a special in-person afternoon at All Saints on Tuesday, April 16th, from 2-4pm. To register, pls contact Fr. Michael at madpadre@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Visitor Training

If you are or would like to be part of the pastoral care team, to visit and encourage the sick or shut-ins, our Deanery has organized a Lay Pastoral Training Day for Saturday, May 4, from 10am to 3pm, at St. Margaret's Church, 161 Hanmer Street in Barrie. Rev. Joanne Davies will be the speaker.

To register, please send an email to the Regional Dean, Rev. Susan Snelling, at smsatgoodshepherd@gmail.com by April 21.

Reverend Sharon has a special Easter message for everyone.....

EASTER 2024

"That Eastertide with joy was bright, the sun shone out with fairer light". Even though a few centuries old, the words of this hymn are as relevant now as they were when written. In spite of all the problems of the world and the injustices around, John Mason Neale put pen to paper and wrote a hymn of hope and faith. We too live in a world full of violence, war, injustice, suffering and pain. It is our faith in our Risen Lord that helps us put one foot in front of the other and it is the assurance that God is with us that we turn our hopes forward.

Throughout Lent we have spent time reflecting on Jesus' ministry, his life and his miracles, and his calling others to share in ministry with him. They came to Jesus as simple, ordinary folk. Most of them would never have thought of themselves as leaders or able to do wondrous things, yet they accepted their calling and helped bring the news of the Gospel to a world desperate for hope and love. Our world today is no different. We too have a message to share, one of hope, love, community and acceptance. All of us together show our community that we have hope, that we can make a difference, and all because of the power of the resurrection. That is where our joy and gratitude come from.

As we move from the solemnity of Lent may our thoughts and hearts turn toward the joy and wonder of Easter. "Jesus, the King of gentleness, do thou thyself our hearts possess, that we may give thee all our days the tribute of our grateful praise, Alleluia!"

Wishing you all Easter Joy!

Sharon+

We include a special message this week....a true story from a graduating high school class in Nova Scotia.

“As the they walked into the auditorium at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, the 92 students were all dressed in their graduation gowns. They looked all grown up, causing mothers and fathers to smile and brush away tears of happiness.

This class would not pray during the commencement exercises, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting any form of prayer in schools. All the speakers during the ceremony gave inspiring and challenging speeches but no one mentioned divine guidance or blessings for the graduates and their families.

The final speaker of the evening, one of the graduating students, walked up to the lectern. He stood silent for a moment.....and then it happened!

The other 91 graduates, in unison, suddenly sneezed! The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said....

“GOD BLESS YOU”

As he walked off the stage, the audience exploded in applause. The graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God’s blessing on the future with or without the court’s approval!

As we approach this special time of year, “God Bless You”.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OF PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH

Rev. Louise shares the story of ‘Carrying Our Cross to Easter’....her special message for this special time of year. As well, we learn about the exciting things happening at Prince of Peace, in words and pictures!

Carrying Our Cross to Easter

Jesus told his disciples: If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Mark 16:24)

One Sunday during Lent we invited the children to carry our large, and quite heavy, Good Friday rugged cross. One five-year-old managed to carry it all the way down the aisle. When asked, he insisted it “wasn’t heavy.” But when his father took the weight of the other end, the child remarked that then the big cross was “really light. Like nothing.”

As adults we each carry our cross – a cross weighed down by worries, duties and self-sacrifice. A cross that can feel weighed down by Christ’s call to us to be his servants – a call that can sometimes feel overwhelming in our broken world.

And as adults we can get swept up into telling others – and telling ourselves – that our cross isn’t heavy. Perhaps, we think, it is not as heavy as other people’s. Or not as heavy as it could be. Or not as heavy as it used to be. Or we just don’t want to admit to ourselves or others that our cross has become too heavy to bear. And perhaps we proudly think we can carry all of that weight alone, like that five-year-old on Sunday.

The thing is, although Jesus does call on us to take up our cross and follow him, he does not expect us to do it alone! When we turn to Jesus for help, we will find that our cross is light. Just like that young child who found that that heavy rugged cross was “really light - like nothing” when his father took the weight of one end.

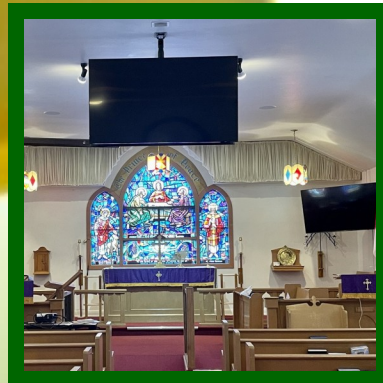
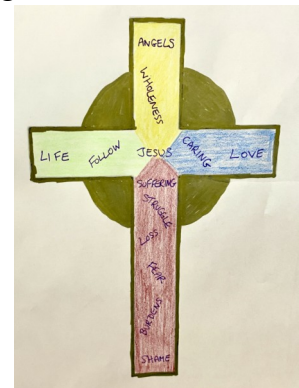
We are surrounded by God's loving care – through the spiritual support of the Holy Spirit and the tangible support of all those who are the hands of Christ around us. Perhaps this is especially so when we humbly admit that our cross is too heavy.

So this Lent, let us boldly take up our cross, know that Jesus will lessen the heavy weight, just as that father did with his son. Because while Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him -- follow him all the way to the cross -- he also reminds us that he that his yoke is easy, and his burden is light (Matt 11:30), and that he is with us always (Matt 28:20).

In life we are always accompanied by Jesus. Jesus who carried his cross all the way to his death on Good Friday and was then freed from it in the resurrection of Easter morning.

So, trusting in the Lord, may we carry our cross with Jesus through Lent and into the resurrection, where we will proclaim with all the world, "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!"

Rev. Louise Dightam
Assistant Curate
Prince of Peace Anglican Church, Wasaga Beach



News from Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach

Prince of Peace has been a hive of activity in the last couple of months. Children at our monthly Messy Church have learned about God's love and the desert, and the children's activities during our services have engaged young and old alike. A group of 12 parishioners are responding to scripture with a range of art activities at our Wednesday Lenten series, a special BCP service was well attended and we enjoyed a fun pancake supper. Our walking group walks on Mondays in all weathers.

Coming up is our commissioning Sunday, a St Patrick's Day brunch and all the depth and joy of our services in Holy Week and Easter. Our choir is looking forward to joining at the Regional Easter Vigil service at St. Luke's, Creemore, and the whole congregation is looking forward to the final touches on the installation of our new sound system and screens. Meanwhile, we are starting to look for signs of spring and new life as the hundreds of bulbs planted in our new garden in the fall begin to stir.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH OF ST. LUKE'S

The Parish of St. Luke's has been and continues to be very busy! Deacon Lorna tells us about the many activities that have taken place since our last regional ministry newsletter and shares with us some of the upcoming events...

News From St. Luke's Creemore

Blessings to everyone.

I hesitate to say "what lovely spring weather we are having" for a couple of reasons. Most importantly I strongly believe that whether we acknowledge it or not, an early spring distracts us from our Lenten practices. So I hope we are all vigilant in our practices during most Holy season.

Due to inclement weather our workshop on budgeting was cancelled in February. We are pleased to announce that this will be presented on Saturday April 13, 10-12. Sharon McCormick from the United Way will be our facilitator. Sharon has worked in communities as a volunteer and now as a United Way facilitator. She has extensive knowledge of communities and supportive ideas will be very encouraging. We do not require a reservation but if you could let us know if you are coming it would be helpful.

We hope to offer a workshop supporting those who have diabetes, or blood pressure concerns. Our local dietician will explore strategies that can give encouragement to those struggling with these issues.

On February 17 Robert and Sonja McArthur hosted a fundraiser at the Station on the Green in Creemore. Proceeds were donated to St. Luke's Community foodbank and the Station Ministerial foodbank. The dinner was excellent, and was prepared by local chefs. The live and silent auctions made for a fun evening, followed by a local music band. The speaker for the evening was the Olympian skater Elizabeth Manley who resides in Collingwood.



On February 24th Sheila, Sharon and Lorna walked in support of The Coldest Night of the Year.

It was a brisk walk into the north wind, but the view throughout the hills surrounding the village was breathtaking. Thank you to all your donated, or wished us a safe walk. We look forward to next year!

I participated in the annual Deacon's retreat (on line) on March 9. Bishop Kevin Robertson was our guest and he spoke of the vast support that Deacons provide to the many ministries of the Diocese. In our Q and A we discussed regional ministry, and the challenges and diversity this creates for Deacons.



St. Lukes has been gifted a small communion set which was given to us by Lyndell McNabb.

Her father, Rev. R. John Kerr was the Rector, of St. Lukes in the early 1950's. Lyndell met with Sharon, Sheila and myself and we are so very grateful for the gift. A rededication will occur in the future.

The launch of "the great cookie" was premiered in February. Members of the community are preparing peanut free cookies for school lunches. On an average week we need between 10 - 13 dozen! We are very grateful to the community at large for this support

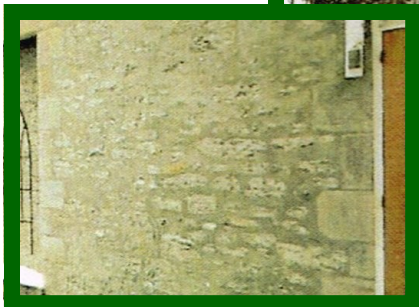
Our monthly toonie lunch is seeing an increase in popularity! It's wonderful to see the community members gather over soup during the fall/winter months and enjoy some fellowship.

Beginning in April we will have Souper Soup once a month. This will be held on the April 10th 5: 30-7:30. Games and guitars will add to the entertainment! Donations will go towards the St. Luke's Community foodbank.

I wish to encourage you to attend the Great Easter Vigil service at St. Lukes on Saturday March 30th at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to this most sacred and joyous service. Blessings to you all, Deacon Lorna.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS

History Bites....our new church archivist, Mary Lou Dunn, tells us interesting details about the building material for our historic church building. She mentions that some of the stone may have originated in the quarry on Ontario Street in Collingwood....on the current site of the Legion Building...and while I was not around when the area was a working quarry, I vaguely remember the 'very large swimming hole' when I was quite young...



History Bites: The church that was later named All Saints' had the English style of a steeply pitched roof. The low walls were clad with an attractive natural stone in various shades of grey with buff coloured corner stones. The carved stone blocks were dressed with limestone that was blended with crushed granite. This unusual covering made of local field stone is referred to as random rubble stone. Throughout the area, it is difficult to find any other stone buildings similar to the church with the exception being the rectory that was built at a later date. Top photo is the transept wall of the church. Middle photo is parish hall wall and bottom is the rectory wall. The present Legion grounds are situated over the old Batteaux Quarry. It is possible that some of the rubble stone came from that quarry.

Father Michael's All Saints report follows.....

- Our next Rector's Book Study will continue our focus on C.S. Lewis by looking at his book, *The Screwtape Letters*. A junior devil, who is not very good at his job, receives advice from a senior devil, Screwtape, on how to tempt humans and lead them away from their faith. As he advises his young apprentice, "But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy (the devils' name for God). It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

The Screwtape Letters is a modern Christian classic and is full of insights on what genuine and lifegiving faith looks like. You can purchase it from the bookseller of your choice, and we will meet to discuss it in late April, date to be announced.

- Every few years, all volunteers at All Saints are required to attend Safe Church training on how we can interact respectfully and properly with others, particularly with vulnerable individuals. If it's been some years since you've done this training, or if you are new in a volunteer role, you need to complete this training, which can be done in several ways. You can take the training online (see Nancy in the church office) or you can attend a special in-person afternoon that Fr. Michael has organized here at All Saints on Tuesday, April 16th, from 2-4pm. If you have questions about whether you need to take this training, please speak to your group leader, to Fr. Michael, or to one of the wardens.
- Our Easter mailing is going out this week and contains a complete schedule for all of our Holy Week worship.
- On Palm Sunday, March 24th, our 9:30 service will include a short prayer of commissioning as we ask God's blessing on all those who have recently stepped into a new role, including wardens, choristers, our new synod reps and archivist, and all others who are new in a volunteer role. Please plan to attend this service if possible.

Birthday greetings to out this week for Greg Goldsworth and Rob Potter!



We also send greetings to Warden Jake Johnston as he recovers from hip surgery.

Get Well Soon!

Our Food Ministry Programmes have been very active in March. Over 200 people have received a hearty meal through the two programmes. 'Five Loaves' delivers meals to "Out of the Cold" and the "Mobile Soup Kitchen and to 50 people in the community. The Community Friendship Dinner served a delicious sit-down dinner in the Parish Hall to over 100 diners on March 13th. Thank you to all who volunteered or donated food or money. Last Wednesday's dinner had a special visitor—M.P. Terry Dowdall came and chatted with many of those in attendance. Penny Bourne has shared a report for us.

**ALL SAINTS' COLLINGWOOD
FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY DINNER Wednesday March 13, 2024**

Hi Everyone,

Well, our dinner last Wednesday was one of the busiest and successful dinners we have had since pre-Covid. We served over 100 guests and a few volunteers a delicious dinner of boneless chicken thighs in a barbecue/salsa sauce, rice, salads, fresh veggies and a dinner roll. The dessert plates were filled with a yummy assortment of desserts. Everyone went home very happy and some even had take out containers, too!

We had a surprise visit from our Federal MP, Terry Dowdall, and his assistant, who were here with us to see first-hand the problems faced by so many today. Housing problems and food insecurity. Mr. Dowdall was interested to talk with many of our guests after dinner.

Thank you to all who have helped us with this valuable ministry to our parish and to the larger Collingwood community. I send a special thank you to those who helped on Wednesday. It was very busy and everyone gave a little bit extra to help in so many different ways.

Our next dinner will be on Wednesday April 10th, so mark it in your calendar!

Attention all Women! Mark April 6th on your calendars. You are invited to a "Women's Breakfast" in the Parish Hall. For more information, please see the sign-up sheet in the hall.

All Saints Women's Breakfast



Saturday April 6th, 2024
9:30am – 11:00am Parish Hall
Sign-up Sheet in the Parish Hall
Email: cheri.kelly0522@gmail.com

In your prayers this week, please remember those in our three parishes, who are ill or in need of prayers. We pray for all caregivers and for 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, SSN, Irene McVeigh, Brian, John, Gail, Penny, Barb, Loraine, Janice, Dimi Ntantoulis, Sean, Dorothy.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR REGIONAL PARISHES RESIDE ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES 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.

A sunset over the ocean with three crosses in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds. The crosses are silhouetted against the bright light of the sunset.

All Saints Collingwood

Maundy Thursday March 28th - 7pm

Good Friday March 29th - 12noon

Easter Sunday March 31st - 9:30am

St Luke's Creemore

Maundy Thursday March 28th - 12noon

Good Friday March 29th - 10am

Saturday March 30th Great Vigil - 7pm

Easter Sunday March 31st - 11:15am

Prince of Peace Wasaga Beach

Maundy Thursday March 28th - 6pm

Good Friday March 29th - 10am

Easter Sunday March 31st - 9:30am