

IN GOD'S SERVICE  
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REGIONAL MINISTRY OF SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY  
OCTOBER 10, 2024

Welcome to our regional newsletter! In this edition, we are pleased to welcome the parishioners of Church of the Good Shepherd in Stayner.

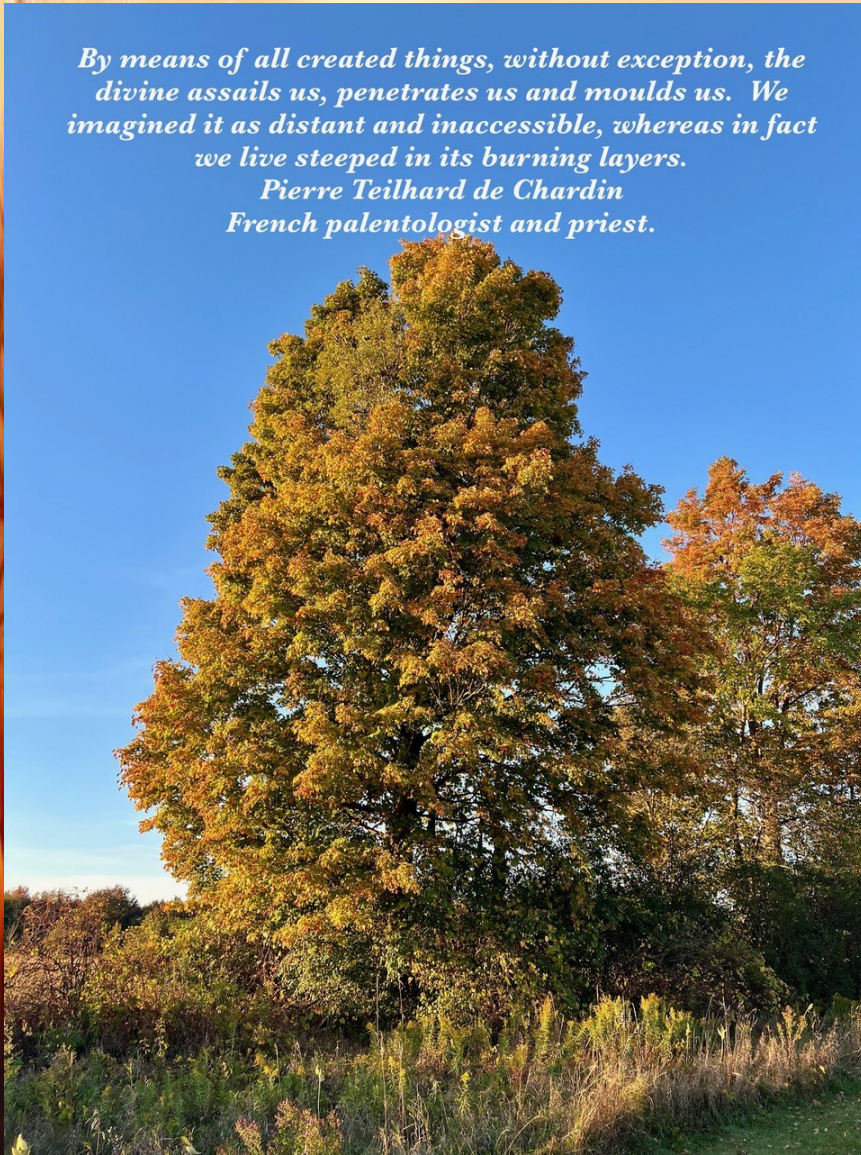
We celebrate Thanksgiving this weekend and are grateful that we live in a very special part of this world. We thank the Lord for allowing us to be custodians of this wonderful area of our country....and we are blessed at this time of the year with the bounties of our fields and gardens and the magnificent colours of our surroundings.

At this time, we are also mindful of those in our world who are not so fortunate....those in Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa, where war, civil unrest, famine and climate change issues, create unimaginable living conditions. Today we also remember those in Florida who are living through Hurricane Milton.

Let us all take time this holiday weekend, to give thanks for our lives, our families and friends and to remember those in our midst and throughout our world who need our prayers and assistance.

*By means of all created things, without exception, the  
divine assails us, penetrates us and moulds us. We  
imagined it as distant and inaccessible, whereas in fact  
we live steeped in its burning layers.*

*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin  
French palentologist and priest.*





On Sunday, September 29th, parishioners from All Saints, Prince of Peace and Church of the Good Shepherd, joined those from St. Luke's in a special service in Creemore. Our church leaders, All Saints Choir and over 100 Anglicans celebrated our regional ministry in what Father Michael called... "Wasn't that a Party!"



#### A Message From the Priest in Charge, Father Michael

Wasn't That A Party! Celebrating Our Togetherness in Creemore

Our beloved Deacon Lorna put it well on Sunday September 29th when she observed that she couldn't remember St Luke's, Creemore, ever being so packed. And indeed, packed it was. The occasion was the Feast of St Michael and All Angels (a good name for our clergy team if ever there was one!) and it seemed like a good opportunity to celebrate our regional ministry with our first joint service for the South Georgian Bay churches.

Over one hundred worshippers (and doubtless a few angels) were present, from all four of our churches, and what a delight it was to welcome a group of our new friends from Good Shepherd, Stayner. We're so glad that you came! Also present was a wonderful group of four sisters who were visiting the area and who made their way to join us. So it was quite a party in one of the loveliest churches in one of the prettiest villages of our Diocese.

Our thanks to Deacon Lorna and to our wonderful hosts at St Luke's, who put on an amazing spread which would have fed a legion of Anglicans even if folks from the other churches hadn't brought their contributions! It was good to hear a jazzy anthem from the All Saints choir, Oscar Peterson's Hymn to Freedom, which spoke to how the kingdom of God is perfect freedom and justice for all of us.

Gathering together on special occasions like this one reminds us that while our own churches and church families are the building blocks of our regional ministry, our strength and joy is most visible when we put the blocks together and see what our regional ministry can offer. Our four churches are sharing talent, ideas, invitations to events, and spaces. Our clergy team strives to show Christ's love to all four congregations. And every now and then, it's just plain fun to worship and sing with a hundred plus siblings in Christ. So thank you to all of you who helped and attended. The angels were surely smiling with us!



St Michael and All Angels?



### **A Season of Gratitude**

It is that wonderful time of year when we, as Canadians, count our many blessings. We gather with loved ones for Thanksgiving, celebrating our harvest blessings and the sustenance provide for our rich life. Our All Saints festival reminds us we are blessed as members of our own church community in our Regional Ministry and the Holy Church -- the Bride of Christ. We got a taste of this at our Regional Ministry service and the wonderful lunch at St. Luke's. Shortly after Thanksgiving, we have multiple Remembrance observations. Being intentional about noticing all of these occasions

in this season of gratitude is an act of worship and thanksgiving for God's many blessings to us, and it also honours the sacrifice of the many who fought to give us the free and prosperous country we enjoy. I believe that it is also healthy for our souls to cultivate an attitude of gratitude as it puts us in right relationship with our Creator.

I really appreciate the words of the Thanksgiving Day Collect from the BCP where we give thanks to God for "thy gifts so freely bestowed upon us; for life and health and safety; for power to work and leisure to rest; for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of [people]; but above all we thank thee for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord," (BCP, p.307) It's important, but also easier, to be thankful when things are going well. However, we know that life is not always easy. We will all face trials and failures in varying degrees and magnitudes, which is just a reality of the human experience. That is when it is very difficult to be thankful and when I most need the "spiritual mercies in Christ" to be anchored in Faith and keep a Providential perspective on life. A life of rich fulfilment comes to those who are also thankful for even the setbacks and challenges and who use them as building stones to a better future and deeper faith.

This is not a new thought. There have been pop-psychology books written about the Chinese character representation of the word "crisis" being made up of the characters for "danger" + "opportunity" and the apparent sage wisdom therein. While it is somewhat disputed as to whether this analysis of the Chinese characters is, in fact, technically accurate, the principle remains true. There are two sides and approaches to every situation we face in life. In general terms, we can approach life as a victim or as a student. We can blame others for whatever circumstances we find ourselves in and entrench a negative attitude, or we can treat circumstances as opportunities to learn, grow and sometimes even be stretched beyond what we thought we were capable of. Having a positive attitude allows us to tap into our own resources, the help of others, and our faith. I would submit to you that our attitude makes the difference between surviving and thriving. Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for even your troubles, and they, too, can become your blessings.

This Thanksgiving I would challenge each of us to be determined to have an attitude of gratitude during the season in front of us and see the difference it makes in our lives. Enjoy the holiday! Happy Thanksgiving and may God bless you and your family!



Deacon Lorna shares with us, activities taking place at St. Lukes in her 'Update for the Fall'....



### **Deacon's Update**

I can hardly believe it's October, but the days are getting shorter, the nights cooler, and the acorns are falling!

September seemed to fly by.... at least for me.

This month we will look forward to our Double Toonie lunch and Super Soup dinner. Details to be confirmed. Volunteers and soup always welcome, and spread the word ! Last year we saw an increase in our guests, as folks began to feel a bit more comfortable after Covid.

This year I would suggest that our Double Toonie lunch proceeds be sent outside our community. David Busby Centre in Barrie, Out of the Cold Collingwood, My Friends House, And Brad's Place are some possible considerations. The Super Soup supports our foodbank.

I'm sure everyone was delighted to see the church full last Sunday! What a joyful noise we made!! Thank you to everyone who helped organize, bring or make food, set up tables etc. A special thank you to Marjorie for the orange ribbons! It was wonderful to see so much orange in the congregation.

Perhaps you didn't have a chance to chat with our curate, Amy Pauley, but she will be back to visit and hopefully we can have a coffee hour with her at that point.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, my thoughts are already thinking about Advent, and our Reverse Advent Calendar tradition. We will be combining our efforts this year with St. John's United church. Sheila and I will make a list of what is most needed as we approach the Christmas season. I anticipate that this will begin the week of Sunday November 3 and conclude on Sunday November 24. This will leave time to collect and organize for December.

At the end of this month I am participating virtually in the National Conference on Ending Homelessness. This is a three day event with many workshops and guest speakers.

I have been recently appointed Chairperson for the Bishops Diaconal Review Committee which interviews those persons discerning their call to diaconal ministry and ordination. This is a great honour for me, so I ask your prayers as our interviews reconvene in February. The committee consists of 2 priests, 2 deacons, 2 lay persons, and myself. Sheila has represented St. Lukes on this committee several times.

Thank you for your faithfulness and trust,

Lorna

The Primates World Relief and Development Fund is coordinated by David Penhale. David gives us an update on the work that this organization is doing in our Diocese.

Primates World Relief and Development Corner  
By David Penhale, PWRDF Rep



**PWRDF**  
The Primate's World Relief  
and Development Fund

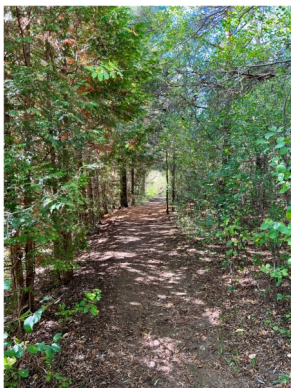
Every Sunday, our intercessors lead us in prayer for this troubled world. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund helps put our prayers into action.

Some facts about the PWRDF, taken from the March, 2024 annual report: Over 12 months the PWRDF worked with 70 partners in 32 countries, including Canada; allocated \$1,880,053 to development projects, and allocated \$2,275,323 to humanitarian relief responses. Results included: 750 families of people with disabilities received warming kits in the winter (Ukraine); 17,120 people received vital health care services and education at the Al-Ahli Hospital (Gaza); 560 women learned new skills to adapt to climate change and improve their livelihoods (Nepal); 4,411 farmers completed training in dairy farming to improve their livelihoods (Kenya); 16,582 tree seedlings were planted at the Nyarugusu Refugee camp (Tanzania); Four films were developed, documenting early footage of "Nation's Trails of our Ancestors" (Yellowknife, NWT); 150 people received support to rebuild after wildfire (British Columbia); 100 Indigenous midwives were trained in safe birthing practices. (Peru and Mexico).

Would you like to support this important work? <https://pwrdf.org/give-today/>

Last week Father Michael spent time at a Jesuit retreat near Guelph. He shares with us some of his experiences during the week and encourages us to 'Pray With Nature', especially at this time of year....

### **Praying With Nature: Notes From Time With Nature (By Fr. Michael)**



I've just returned from a week at a remarkable place, the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, just north of Guelph. The Jesuits are an order of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to deepening our sense of God in prayer and in our awareness of and care for creation. They teach that all things exist because of God's constant and creative love, so to be with nature is to be with God. We can unite our prayers with those of creation in praising and thanking God for giving us life.

The Retreat Centre includes 500 acres of old growth forest and working farmland. It hosts community gardens and encourages people to grow food and plants in non-destructive and sustainable ways. It's also a place of great beauty.

Over five gorgeous fall days I had ample opportunity to walk the fields and trails, notice bright fall colours against achingly blue skies, and to see murmurations of starlings moving in the skies like schools of fish. I could sense the presence of God all around me. It seemed especially appropriate to be there on Friday, October 4, the Feast of St Francis. I include some photos from those walks.

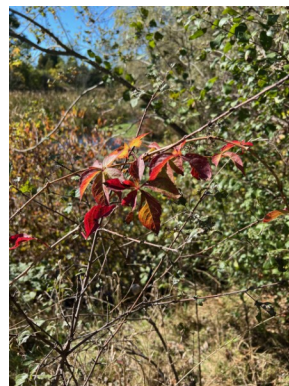




Our own part of Ontario is renowned for its beauty and several local parishes are offering ways to take our prayer and faith outside of church walls. The Rev. Andrew Kuhl at The Parish of Midhurst and Craighurst offers Hiking Church on the third Saturday of each month, and Prince of Peace has an active walking group.



You can incorporate prayer into your own walking. For example, as you watch the trees sway and dance on a windy day, you might call to mind Isaiah's verse: "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isa 55.12). However you get out of doors, take a moment to pause and join the prayers of praise that nature offers to its loving Creator.



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Our Parish Archivist at All Saints, Mary Lou Dunn shares with us the early history of the Anglican Church, (Church of England), in British North America, prior to Canada's Confederation.



The first Anglican bishopric in British North America was that of Nova Scotia, established in 1787 with Loyalist Charles Inglis as bishop. Although he was styled bishop of Nova Scotia, his jurisdiction included Newfoundland, Bermuda, Prince Edward Island, Lower Canada, and Upper Canada. His load was lightened in 1793 with the creation of the Diocese of Quebec with Jacob Mountain as bishop. The diocese of Quebec was further subdivided in 1839 when John Strachan became the first bishop.

The first documented resident Church of England cleric on Canadian soil was Erasmus Stourton, who arrived at the "Sea Forest Plantation" at Ferryland, Newfoundland, in 1612 under the patronage of Lords Bacon and Baltimore. Stourton was of the Puritan party and remained in Ferryland until returning to England in 1628.[11]

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Upcoming Events....our regional churches continue to offer their own weekly and monthly events. Please contact your church office for updates on these. On a regional basis, the Covenant Bible Study continues at All Saints on October 22 at 7 p.m.

A special "All Souls Service" will take place at All Saints on November 2 at 7 p.m. Please see the poster included in the newsletter.

A little bit of humour.....

Children in Church.... “a little boy was overheard praying in church one Sunday morning...”Lord. If you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it. I’m having a real good time like I am!”

“A little boy opened the big, old family Bible, fascinated with the old pages. Then, something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and realized it was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages of the Bible. He shouted to his mother, “look what I found mom...I just found Adam’s clothes”.

Six year old Mary and her four year old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel started to sing, laugh and talk out loud. His big sister finally, had had enough and said to him, “Joel you must be quiet in church!” Joel replied, “Why? Who’s going to stop me? Mary quietly pointed to the two adults standing at the back of the church and said, “See those two people there, standing by the door? They’re the church ‘hushers’!

In your prayers this week, please remember those whose names are found on the prayer lists in our Parishes. We pray for their caregivers and for all who assist others in need.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OUR 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, SHARE, LEARN AND PRAY.



Daylight saving time 2024 will come to an end on  
Sunday November 3rd “Fall back” on  
Saturday, November 2nd

*Happy Thanksgiving*



**All Saints Anglican Church Collingwood**  
**A Christian Education Study Series Tuesday Evenings 7pm - 8pm**



**Leader: Ms. Olivia Crowe**

Olivia is a member of Prince of Peace, and has a lifelong passion for children's ministry and for Christian education.

She has diplomas in ministry from Wycliffe College and McMaster University.

**Study Outline**

**October 15, 2024 – No Meeting**

**October 22, 2024**

The new and everlasting covenant -- Grace



**All Souls Service**  
**Saturday, November 2nd, 7pm**  
**All Saints Church, Collingwood**  
**Commemoration of the Faithful Departed**  
**Liturgy From the Book of Common Prayer**

**All Saints Anglican Church**  
**Collingwood**  
**Saturday November 2nd 7pm**

**On Saturday, November 2nd at 7pm,**  
**at All Saints, Collingwood, we will**  
**again observe the Feast of All Souls,**  
**also known in the church as**  
**The Commemoration of the**  
**Faithful Departed.**

**This is the time of the church year**  
**when we are called to give thanks for**  
**the lives of the saints and loved ones gone before us, and to pray for their repose until we are**  
**reunited with them in God's eternal presence.**

**All are welcome to this communion service, which will use the liturgy for Holy Communion**  
**from the Book of Common Prayer. It will be a sung service using the traditional communion**  
**music from Merbecke. Please be aware that some incense will be used during this service.**

**All are invited to bring a photo or portrait of those who are on your hearts at this time, and we**  
**will gather them together before the service begins.**