

ALL SAINTS ALIVE
THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 19, 2024

Do you remember me? I sat upon your knee
I wrote to you with childhood fantasies
Well, I'm all grown up now, And still need help somehow
I'm not a child but my heart still can dream
So here's my lifelong wish, my grown-up Christmas list
Not for myself but for a world in need.
"No more lives torn apart, that wars would never start,
And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend,
And right would always win
And love would never end
This is my grown-up Christmas list"

David Foster

Welcome back to All Saints Alive! Well, this time next week, the celebrations will have ended, gift wrap will have been placed in re-cycling (hopefully!), Christmas carols and songs will just be faded memories in our minds....but the good news is that 'Christ is Born', and our new church year lies ahead.

Mary Lou Dunn, our church archivist, shares with us, a special part of Christmas history....

British and German troops meeting in No-Man's Land during the unofficial truce

The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and mythologised events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in no-man's land?



Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man's land dwindled out.

The truce was not observed everywhere along the Western Front. Elsewhere the fighting continued and casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit.

Father Michael continues our journey in history from Mary Lou's recount of Christmas Eve in 1914....in 1918, almost four years to the date, the very first 'Lessons and Carols Service' was held as a memorial to the men and women who were killed in WW1. Father Michael shares with us the special 'Bidding Prayer', written for that first service by the Dean of King's College in Cambridge.

The Story of the Service of Carols and Lessons and What It Offers Us

On Sunday, December 29th, our combined worship at 10:30am with the other three churches in our regional ministry will feature a service of Carols and Lessons. Normally this service is held during the Advent season, but our music director, Barry De Silva, has offered us the option of having Carols and Lessons as a post-Christmas celebration (and also a break for tired preachers as our service has no sermon).

You might be surprised to learn that the Carols and Lessons service is a fairly recent invention in the Anglican tradition, celebrating its one-hundredth birthday only last year in 2018. It was constructed out of the grief and horror of the First World War, which had ended only 6 weeks before Christmas Eve in 1918.

The service was invented by the Rev. Eric Milner-White, a graduate of King's College, Cambridge, who had served as a British Army chaplain during the war. After he returned to King's College as its Dean, Milner-White wanted to create a memorial to the men of the College killed in the war, but also as a way of reimagining the Christian message for people whose faith had been severely challenged by the trauma of the Great War.

As part of the service, Milner-White wrote a "Bidding Prayer" which begins like this:

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise...

As Ashley Tumlin-Wallace writes in The Anglican Compass, this prayer "does not retreat from the world". Its second part invites our prayers for the needs of the world:

let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city. And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one."

Ashley writes that: "If Eric Milner-White could delight in Christ in the midst of a World War, each of us can find hope in Christ in the midst of our struggles.

As you enter into the season of Advent, maybe you feel overwhelmed, tired, or just distracted and anxious by all that needs to be done. Maybe, like me, you need to hear this bidding prayer – this invitation once again to let it be our care and delight in this holy season to prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Come to All Saints on Sunday December 29th at 10:30 and hear this remarkable service and prayer; may it also be your care and delight!

Our Food Ministry Programme at All Saints continued last week with the Christmas Friendship Dinner. Penny Bourne and Paulette De Silva report on the wonderful evening of food, friendship and fellowship! (photos courtesy of Penny Bourne)

ALL SAINTS' FRIENDSHIP DINNER DECEMBER 11th, 2024

Hi Everyone,

Our Friendship Dinner last Wednesday was a big success, and it emphasized why we are calling it "Friendship Dinner".

We served a turkey dinner (including stuffing, mashed potatoes, veggies, salads, dessert and fruit) to 90 guests. Everyone was delighted with the food and the entertainment by Jimmy Kelly. There were plenty of left-overs for people to take home, as well. Many people thanked us on their way out, and one of our volunteers gave us a big bowl of bananas and clementines for guests to take home with them. Such a great idea! One lucky person at each table also got to take home a poinsettia donated by another of our wonderful volunteers.

There are so many people we would like to thank individually but there are just too many of you! So I am sending an enormous THANK YOU to everyone. You helped to make the evening very special for us all. The food was delicious, the hall was beautifully decorated and the clean up was done in record time!

As this year comes to a close, we want to thank everyone for all the help you have given us this year. This has become a vital part of our important ministry to the community and without your help our dinners would be very different.

Wishing everyone a safe and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and good health.

Thank you!
Penny and Paulette



All Saints has also been involved in the community during Collingwood's Christmas Market on Friday evenings in December. Father Michael and Joy and parishioners have been handing out cups of hot chocolate to passersby on Hurontario Street. Thanks to Greg Goldsworthy for allowing the church to use his storefront office! If you would like to assist on the final market night (Dec. 20th), please contact the church office. (Photos courtesy of Penny Bourne...ed note: Father Michael has a special way of attracting angels!)



Please remember that today and tomorrow is your last chance to donate non-food items to the gifts that will be delivered to our friends at Pine Villa. If you wish to donate please contact Rev. Sharon or Nancy at the church, (705-445-3841).

As we move closer to a new calendar year, Jim Cunningham, Chairperson of the All Saints Foundation, reminds us of an opportunity to donate to support our church and its future legacy...



The All Saints Collingwood Foundation continues to help to provide our Church with a measure of financial security well into the future, through investing bequests (in wills) and donations from our parishioners.

Proceeds from the investments are passed on to the Church annually, so that your gift keeps on giving over and over and over again.

If you are considering a donation or bequest at the end of the tax year, and in this most "giving" of months, a gift of "stocks" avoids having to pay capital gains on the profit that may have been realized since their purchase.

As the Foundation (and the Church) is a registered charity, we are exempt from the tax on the capital gain. Also, we issue the donor a tax receipt for the current value of the stock..

A win-win situation for the donor and the Foundation (or the Church)!

We wish everyone a joyous and healthy Christmas !

.....All Saints Collingwood Foundation's Board of Directors

Recently, a First Aid Training Workshop was held at All Saints. A number of our parishioners took part in this very important event. Reverend Sharon has sent us a photo of the participants (and their dummies!).



We all know that Father Michael is an amazing priest and preacher...but did you know that he is also known for his song writing. Attached is an example...a touch of humour but about a very important project for the church. When one considers the size of our church, parish hall, offices, basement classrooms and storage areas, it is important to realize the need for a heating system that will meet our requirements. The current boiler at the church has supplied those needs for many years, but recently, repairs have become far too common....if you are able, please consider Father Michael's and the Wardens' request.



A Frozen Church! Could This Happen Here?

All Saints leadership is faced with the difficult decision of having to replace our old furnace boiler, which is now perilously near the end of its life. We're asking for your help in making a donation of any amount to help us manage the considerable cost. Remember that any donation received before 31 December qualifies for your 2024 tax receipt.

An Appeal for Help With Our Boiler Replacement

With apologies to Christina Georgina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, should our boiler go,
We'd soon be all a shiver, ice from head to toe;
Snow would fall, snow on snow, it would be no fun,
in the bleak midwinter, if our heat won't run.

Our boiler's gotten ancient, it may not us sustain,
The poor old thing has done its best, it is not to blame.
In the bleak midwinter, its heat might not suffice.
Time's come to replace it, lest we all turn to ice.

Angels and archangels may hover in the air,
But our dear parishioners, it's to you we make our prayer.
A new boiler's pricey, we say that to you plain,
Hoping that your kindness will ease our fiscal pain.

What can you give, to help us in this jam?
Anything would help, but please don't bring a lamb!
Any large or small amount, if you could play your part,
Would keep us warm and toasty, and gladden all our hearts.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS

Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 22 at 9:30am

Christmas Eve Services—December 24 at 4:00pm at St. Luke's and Good Shepherd; 7:00pm and 10:30pm at All Saints

Christmas Day Service—9:30am

Lessons and Carols Service—December 29 at 10:30am (Note the time change!) This will be a regional service with our friends from the other regional churches.

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

“Please pray for these people during the week” - Brenda Teeter, Sandra Girdle, Mary Ratensperger, Eric Vignola, Wolf, SSN, Irene McVeigh, Brian, John, Gail, Penny, Sean, Terry, Ann Pope, Patricia, Faith.

ALL SAINTS ALIVE WISHES EVERYONE A MOST JOYOUS CHRISTMAS!

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, SHARE, LEARN AND PRAY.

Christmas at **All Saints Anglican Church** **Collingwood** **Our Christmas Service Schedule**

Christmas Eve

Tuesday December 24th

7pm - Family Friendly Service
with Carol Singing starting at 6:30pm
10:30pm - Traditional Holy Communion
with Carol Singing starting at 10pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday December 25th - 9:30am - Holy Communion

After Christmas

Sunday December 29th

10:30am - Carols and Lessons Service
Come sing the beloved Christmas carols with us and stay for a potluck lunch afterwards

All Saints, Collingwood, is an inclusive and welcoming Church in the Anglican tradition

2025 All Saints Anglican Church *Après Ski Service Series*



The Après Ski Series Returns to All Saints

The Après Ski services at All Saints is a parish tradition, a candlelit service late Saturday afternoon, followed by a light snacks and a glass of wine. The services are candlelit and contemplative, featuring singing from the Taizé tradition, a short meditation by one of the clergy team, and eucharist. We'd love to welcome you some Saturday this winter.