

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

I've always loved clothes and dressing up—always. As I was growing up my poor parents must have been driven to despair by my insistence on wearing only certain types of clothes in certain colours. I went through many phases, some more intense than others: there was an overalls phase, a rugby trousers and golf shirts phase, a button-down shirt under a cable knit sweater phase, and a rubber boots with shorts phase. That last one was not a sartorial success.

I got my first job when I was, I think, 20—which admittedly is rather late in life to get a part-time job. My parents must have also been driven to despair by the fact that I am by nature a flâneur. Flâneurs first appeared in nineteenth-century France. They were the well-dressed men who passed their time loafing around or aimlessly strolling the boulevards. Alas, a true one needs a vast wardrobe, so there was nothing to do but get a job.

The job was selling shoes at Bally, the distinguished Swiss shoe company. Working there enabled me to purchase a tuxedo. I needed one for a black-tie party I'd been invited to in Boston. Wearing it gave me a taste for truly elegant, tailored clothing and forced me to learn how to tie a bow tie.

Most North American men are reluctant to dress with a lot of colour. I am not. And English men have always been known to wear colourful clothes, especially in the country. So imagine my delight when I first went into New and Lingwood on London's famed Jermyn Street. They had trousers in every conceivable hue; shirts with stripes and checks both small and large; silk socks in all the colours of the rainbow. It was like coming home.

That first visit to New and Lingwood also coincided with my first visit to Watts, the prestigious ecclesiastical haberdashers in London. Watts is in the shadow of Westminster Abbey and directly across the road from Church House, the administrative centre of the Church of England. I came into the showroom and it was hushed and calm as only a great atelier can be. The Managing Director of the company, a man with an extremely refined eye and chic taste called David Gazeley, was very kind as he showed me all sorts of fabrics, braids, trims, and sketches. We talked about future projects,

including the purple cope I wear in Advent and Lent. David, knowing I wouldn't be able to resist a touch of luxury, suggested using some French velvet they had lying around from an earlier project. It turned out superbly. Ever since then, a visit to Watts has become part of my London trips. I hope one day I'll be able to go there again.

Of course some people think that vestments are nothing more than expensive vanity. Far from it. They are meant to remind us of the beauty of the Kingdom and, by their very splendour, make the celebrant "invisible."

In May 2018, Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, led the Diocese of Calgary Clergy Conference. One of the things he encouraged us to do is to respond to his meditations by writing—and to be as vulnerable as possible. Quite uncharacteristically I wrote a poem, and on our last night shared it with the group. It's no masterpiece, but it is spontaneous and honest. I'm deeply touched that Archbishop Cottrell included it in his latest book *On Priesthood*. Here it is:

You know those dreams where
you find yourself in front of a crowd
in nothing but your underwear?
I have them too,
but they're of an ecclesiastical flavour.
They're always about me
discovering that the only available cope
is of some dreadful modern design,
or in finding that my cassock
has been eaten by moths,
or even arriving at mass
having left my surplice
in the laundry room at home.
Isn't it queer
that the wearing of vestments
should be the subject of my dreams?
Vestments, we're told,
are meant to erase
the personality of the priest
so that the congregation
will concentrate on the rite
and not the celebrant.
That may be so,
but I'm sure I dream of them
because they make me feel safe,
because it's so easy to hide

behind all of these silken protections
and in the persona of 'The Dean.'
And I wonder if the reason
I fit so easily and immediately
into that rôle
is because I really don't want
to be known for who I am,
because I am trying to hide
my deepest self,
because being grandly pompous
is so much safer than
being authentically vulnerable.
Except Christ's power and appeal
lies in the fact that he was unafraid
to be who he was
and thought it no shame
to be stripped naked
and lifted high
for all the world to see.
So I dream of the day
when I'll be courageous enough
to dance a spiritual
dance of the seven veils,
drop all pretences and pretensions
and stand emotionally naked
before the Church.
It won't be pleasant
and it sure won't be pretty.
But it will be real.
And at least I'll be ready
to truly put on Christ
and finally learn
that for those who do so
there is no shame
but rather the glorious
liberty found
in being found in him
and in being given the great dignity
of the meek king.

Every blessing
Leighton

PARISH UPDATES

Migrant Farm Workers Ministry has two on going needs:

- due to the pandemic more people are outside on their bikes, which is wonderful, but it has led to shortages for the Bike Ministry. We need repair parts, if anyone has an old bike that we could use for parts to repair newer bikes your donations would be greatly appreciated. And we will always accept used bikes we can refurbish for the Migrant Workers in our area, it is the most reliable transportation they have. Bikes can be dropped off at St. John's in Jordan, or at St. Alban's in Beamsville. If you need someone to pick up the bikes please phone either church and we will arrange for them to be picked up or email Fr. Antonio. Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions about the Bike ministry please contact Fr. Antonio Illas at migrantfarmworkers@niagaraanglican.ca

- the Grocery Bag Ministry for the Migrant Workers is in need of a few 'younger' volunteers who can help with the 'unloading' of cars, every Friday night for an hour, between 4-5 at St. John's in Jordan. If students are in need of volunteer hours we can fill out the paper work. Please contact Fr. Antonio to coordinate.

migrantfarmworkers@niagaraanglican.ca

Keeping in Touch On-line

*Our Sunday morning services are **streamed** on Facebook at 8:00 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page. The service will be uploaded to YouTube also by 8:00 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-vVgNf0GbuxrfljW4sOXzQ>

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

<https://stmarksnotl.org/>

WARDEN'S LETTER

We are very pleased to begin with great news. Starting Sunday August 1st at 10:30 a.m. we will hold an in-person church service of worship. Certain precautions still need to be followed as we did last year. Pre-register by calling or e-mailing the office by Thursday July 29th. The number attending is limited, and at this time we understand it will be 50. As before, people will attend at the hall first for verification and to complete a five-question form. The Bishop's priority is to open churches first before any other approvals for events, fundraising, etc. Please, see attached Bishop's letter "To the people of the Diocese of Niagara".

We know many parishioners have been eagerly awaiting this first and important step in re-opening. There will be lots of questions as to next steps and we will make every effort to share the information as soon as we receive it. We are very pleased that

James Bourne will be back for the August 1st service and the weekly recordings. We are very thankful that Michael Tansley has assisted us during Jim's absence. Work has started on the flooring replacement and repair in the church and will continue for the next 10-12 days. Other than for the service and recordings, the church will be closed.

Parish Council met on Thursday with much discussion on the opening and the possibility of fall events. The topic of a speaker's series has been raised and a committee has been struck. If you are interested in helping please contact the office. St. Mark's new website was launched on Thursday. Please have a look at the new format and various sections. The website is truly a vast improvement. Last year Parish Council and others were asked for advice on the most important changes and these comments have helped facilitate the new site. Much thanks must go to Candace Bennett-Walker who worked closely with the developer Danima Creative Group, Andrea Douglas, and Donald Combe who provided some wonderful photos. Candace has also agreed to be St. Mark's webmaster.

On another positive note, cherries have been ordered for 2022. No, we don't know when we will be able to make pies with our existing cherries but stay tuned as we hope there is continuous improvement in potential further openings by the Diocese. A bit of parishioner news is that Jack and Mary Hazell have moved into the Royal Henley in St. Catharines and hope to be with us in church as circumstances permit. Next week's ENews will have further updates and information on the August services. Please remember to provide the information to the office if you know of anyone needing assistance.

"The best gift - Forgiveness
The greatest knowledge - God
The greatest thing in the world - LOVE"

Stay safe - keep well
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.



READINGS FOR NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Sunday, July 25, 2021- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost -LINK](#)

2 Samuel 11:1-15 Over the past few weeks, we have seen David at his best. Now we see his other side, as he makes Bathsheba pregnant, tries to have Uriah think that the child will be his, and in desperation arranges for Uriah to be killed in battle.

Ephesians 3:14-21 Both Jewish and Gentile Christians share in the “boundless riches of Christ”. They have “faith in the Lord Jesus” and love all fellow members of the Church. For these reasons, the author now prays to the Father, who is the very source of existence for all.

John 6:1-21 These stories are familiar to us from the other gospels, but John presents them a little differently. He tells us about certain signs (of which these stories are two) which he hopes will encourage belief, be a starting point for understanding Jesus, and show Christ for who he is.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Submitted by Tammy Zalepa)

Gracious and loving God, you reach into the stormy chaos of our lives to save us from fear and to bring us into new life:

Hear our prayers for the needs of a suffering world, and save all who call upon you, as we pray: *O’ Lord and responding, **hear our prayer.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
*O’ Lord, **Hear our prayer.***

Help us to extend the confident hand of Jesus to those who share our lives here,
that we may bring hope and peace to all our neighbours.
We give thanks for the presence in this community of Jamie and Virginia Mainprize,
Peter and Janis Manning, Doug Mantegna, and the Venerable Lynne Marchant and pray
for them and their families.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. Aidan, Oakville, The
Reverend Fran Wallace, Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell,
Honorary Assistant and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rev. Stephen London, Bishop-
elect, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Edmonton, and the dean, council,
and congregations of the East Central Area of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.
*O’ Lord, **Hear our prayer.***

Loving God, have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress, especially remembering Gillian MacKay,

Terry, Don Dicarlo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Peter Ford, Jodey Porter, Sean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, Joshua, and Jack and Mary Hazell.

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

O' Lord, Hear our prayer.

We entrust to your never-failing care and love those who have died, especially Mimi McEwan and Sam Kingdon.

O' Lord, Hear our prayer.

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal,
that we lose not the things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hear now the words that Jesus taught us,

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.**

Donald Combe is sharing this wonderful TVO story about a parishioner of St. Mark's Elizabeth Ascher, who remains mainly unknown:

<https://www.tvo.org/article/why-are-these-graves-in-niagara-on-the-lake-on-sovereign-polish-land>

