

# St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter

## October 30, 2021.



St. Brice's Anglican Church

<https://www.stbriceschurch.com/wordpress/>

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St. Brice's Newsletter: 30 October 2021.

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### **St. Brice's Visioning Scripture**

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus." Colossians 3: 14, 17 (NLT)

## WORSHIP SERVICES



Our **regular service schedule** (10am on the first Sunday of the month), 9am and 11am on the following Sundays, continues.

A few years ago, St. Brice's offered an **informal service on Wednesday evenings**, and there have been several inquiries about whether or not that might be offered again.

A small task group is making plans to offer such brief worship services in Advent (that is, for 4 Wednesdays before Christmas), 7pm. Please stay tuned for more details.

### MINISTRY/ OUTREACH "Backpacks of Love"



The Compassionate Care Committee is an ecumenical committee which seeks to educate, and to reduce **homelessness** in North Bay. The St. Brice's representative is Diane McCaskill.

To help some people without stable housing prepare for winter, **"Backpacks of Love"** are being prepared. These will contain some clothing and other items to help people get through winter. The last collection for this year will be this coming Saturday, November 6, at the New Apostolic Church (46 Joseph St.). If you would like to contribute to the "Backpacks of Love," or would like more information, please contact Diane.

## Take-Home Meals Menu

St. Brice's continues to provide frozen meals monthly for people who are older, recovering from surgery, *etc.*, on a donation basis. The deliveries for December 7 (which are ordered in November) include:

- Roast turkey (roll) with stuffing, potatoes and carrots
- Beef stew with biscuits.

### Parish Photo Directory



Parishioners are being contacted, to have their photos taken for the **parish photo directory** on 9-13 November.

The company providing this service has asked me to let you know that the calls are from

"902" area code. This initiative is being sponsored by St. Brice's.


### Food Bank Volunteers

I want to include a brief note of appreciation to the **additional Food Bank volunteers:** Myrtle White, Jean McArthur, and Gayle & Owen Fleming.

### Advent Retreat

Please note that the **Advent Retreat** being hosted at St. Brice's will be held on Saturday, December 11, 9:30am to lunchtime. (The date was changed from December 4 due to a conflict with a diocesan event.) The Rev. Dr. Derek Neal will conduct the retreat. This event will be held in both an in-person and on-line format. This event is open to everyone – not just St. Brice's parishioners. Details about the theme will be announced in mid-November.

ST. BRICE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO EXPERIENCE



THE  
FORGIVENESS  
FACTOR

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LEARNING TO LIVE IN THE FREEDOM  
OF A FORGIVEN  
AND  
FORGIVING LIFE

5 Thursday Evenings at 7, beginning October 28, 2021	via ZOOM (all are welcome!)
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contact Rev. Marie at [revmarie1952@icloud.com](mailto:revmarie1952@icloud.com) or  
705-497-4699 for further information

## St. Brice's A.C.W.



# BOOK AND BAKE SALE

- and some crafts too!

**Saturday, November 6, 2021**

**1-3 pm**

**St. Brice's Anglican Church**

**All proceeds go to missions.**

*If donating items, please drop off at St. Brice's  
Wednesday, November 3 to Friday, November 5.*



Screening in Faith

Amanda Adams, Carrie Birtch and the rector are currently upgrading our **“Screening in Faith” protocols**. If you have been asked to complete a form, please complete it and turn it in, right away. Thank you 😊

Teen Lunch Program

On October 1, St. Brice’s began to serve food again to local high schools -- the **Teen Lunch Program ministry**. For now, students pick up hot food “to go.” There are about 50-60 students who benefit from this program on a typical week.

Grief Group



Ramona Furst has begun facilitating a **Grief Group** on Tuesday afternoons, 1pm. If you are currently experiencing grief, or if you know someone who is, or if you

would like more information, please contact Ramona at ramonafurst@gmail.com; or you can leave a message at the parish office (705-474-4005), which will be relayed to Ramona.

Small Music Group

Although we can’t have congregational singing presently during the current pandemic, under careful conditions, some music leadership is allowed.

I am wondering if there would be interest to be part of a **small music group**. Perhaps we might be offer something at Christmas. If you can carry a tune (bonus if you can ready music), and would like to explore this further, please contact the parish office (705-474-4005).

Parish Historian



Many of us know Amanda Adams, who is currently a deputy warden. Amanda has degrees in History, English and Library Sciences. Amanda has expressed interest in being a **historian for the parish**, and her offer was accepted with appreciation at a recent Advisory Board meeting.

As part of her ministry in this position, Amanda hopes to develop a few oral histories from some older parishioners. You might get a call from Amanda, asking for a visit. If you have something of historical interest, please pass information on to Amanda through the parish office.

Deanery Layreaders

**Layreaders in Nippissing Deanery** have had continuing education events about 3 or 4 times a year. These have been suspended during the pandemic.

Layreader Carrie Birtch has offered to help coordinate and promote this ministry, for which we’re very appreciative. If you would like more information, or if you would like to learn more about what is involved with being a layreader, please contact Carrie or the parish office.

Newsletter Name Competition?



I’ve noticed that some parishes which produce newsletters like this have a name for their newsletter. Would you like to suggest a creative name for St. Brice’s newsletters?

Brice (Britius) was a not very nice monk, but he changed his ways to be a remarkable witness for Christ toward the end of his life. Perhaps the Anglicans who proposed St. Brice's as this parish's name wanted to communicate that it's never too late in this life to turn closely to God.

If you have an idea for a submission, please send it to the parish office by 15 November. A modest prize will be awarded for the name which is chosen.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
Endings, Beginnings, and Social Justice

Some of us know the **Rev. Henk Willems**, who has been serving at Elliot Lake. Henk's wife, the Rev. Beth Topps, was a parishioner at St. Brice's before discerning a call to ordination. Henk died on October 29 after a brief illness. Please remember the family in your prayers.

The Rev. Kevin McAllister has begun to serve the parishes of St. John the Divine here in North Bay, and Trillium (Callendar/ Powassan). A **Celebration of New Ministry** service will be held on Sunday, November 14, at 3pm. Details will be announced when they are available.

If you would like to learn more about the debate around **Medical Assistance in Dying**, what will likely be a very good webinar on the topic will be offered by the Anglican Communion Alliance, on Saturday, January 29, likely at 1pm. For more information, please contact the parish office, or go to the A.C.A. website.



"Exodus Cry" is a Christian charitable organization to educate the Church about **prostitution**, with the aim of reducing, or ideally eliminating, this practice. It also seeks to eliminate child prostitution. The

material which Exodus Cry produces can be quite disturbing, but is very informative. If you would like to learn more, please go to their website.

If you haven't yet bought some **homemade strawberry jam**



in support of Camp Temiskaming, the deanery camp on Ferry Lake, there are still jam jars available in the parish office. We normally support Camp T through our monthly Linger Lunches, but we cannot hold them during the pandemic. The Advisory Board recently decided to contribute \$1000 to the camp for their on-going expenses.

PROPERTY  
New Vaccination Policy



Clergy in the Diocese of Algoma received an updated **vaccine policy** this past week. The full policy can be viewed on the diocesan website.

We strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated, except for the very rare cases in which a physician has told a patient that they are unable to take vaccines due to a pre-existing medical condition.

As well as the direction from provincial and federal governments, leaders in the Anglican Church of Canada have consulted carefully with epidemiologists, ethicists and others in developing its position. We are very confident

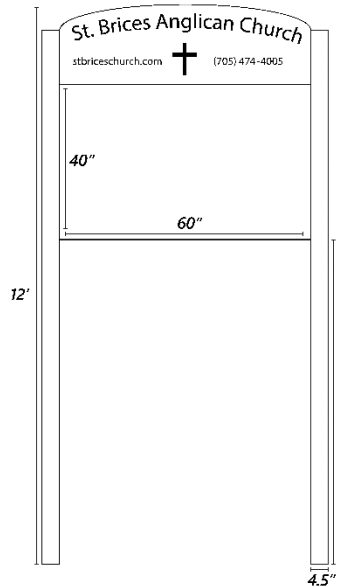
that the vaccines are safe, and that being vaccinated is a way of expressing our love of neighbour, which is part of what it means to follow Jesus Christ (Mark 12: 31).

Everyone is strongly encouraged, but not required, to be vaccinated in order to attend Sunday worship.

However, Christians who are in positions of leadership are held to a higher standard (*cf.* Titus 1: 5 *et al.*). If we are in a position of leadership in the congregation, but refuse to be vaccinated in the weeks ahead, people will be asked to step down from their current positions for the time being.

The intent of this policy is not to punish anyone, but to encourage safety, and to protect the community as a whole.

### Proposed Exterior Sign



As many parishioners are aware, a small Task Group of the parish Advisory Board has been working hard, for a **new exterior sign** at St. Brice's. The design and size of the proposed sign has been established.

We know that the cost of the sign, not including installation, would be \$11 000. The current bids to install the footings and post for the sign, and minor electrical work, will be as much as another \$5000. The parish presently has about \$6600 set aside for this project. This

means that we need another \$9400 or so to complete this project.

The Advisory Board considered this very carefully at its most recent meeting. The Vestry made a decision some time ago to get a new sign when we can. We believe having a new sign will significantly benefit St. Brice's and the local community.

We do not want to compromise on the quality of the sign, nor its installation. We recognize that we don't currently have the resources to proceed with this project. We cannot pour concrete footings in the wintertime.

We appreciate that the Toronto company which provided the best quote for making the sign has promised not to increase the cost of its quote in 2022 (quotes are usually only good for 30 or 90 days).

### **Where do we go from here?**

The Advisory Board has decided to take two steps:

**First, we want to inform the congregation** of what the costs would be to proceed in the next few months. We are aware that parishioners contributed very generously for the parish hall re-roofing project this past June. We don't want to burden anyone unduly.



*We invite people to make pledges* of contributions to this project. This is not asking for money at this time, but gauging if people are in a position to contribute in the near future.

Financial offerings in the parish are typically somewhat higher in November and December – partly perhaps because people want to receive an income tax receipt for

this calendar year. Of course, if people want to make a donation at this time, we won't say "No!" 😊 We are really trying to gauge our capacity to finish this project.



The **second step** is that the Advisory Board would like this proposal to be included as an **Agenda item for our Vestry** (annual meeting), this coming February 6. The purpose of this would be to review the project, and to answer any questions. We also hope that strategies might be put in place to complete the project.

For example, we are not able to put on a fund-raising dinner at this stage of the pandemic, but this ban will not last forever. We hope that we can engage in creative fund-raising to help us meet this need.

The Task Group and the Advisory Board has considered this proposal very seriously. We do not believe that we are being reckless or poor stewards. We have tried to seek God's guidance throughout. We want to inform the congregation, and to invite whatever faithful response you want to offer at this time.



Copier Lease

St. Brice's currently leases a **photocopier** which includes maintenance and toner costs. This lease will expire in 6 months. We need a printer/ photocopier, but our needs might be better met by purchasing a copier outright, with or without a maintenance program. The cost of printing devices has been falling at a remarkable pace.

If you are the type of person who enjoys researching copies made per minute, reliability reports, and interfaces between computers and printers, boy, do we have a place for you! Please contact the parish office (705-474-4005).

"Say Yes! To Kids" Grant Application



A few weeks ago, St. Brice's submitted an application to the Anglican Foundation, through its **"Say Yes! To Kids"** initiative. If it is successful, this grant would pay for two upgraded stoves and some kitchen and Teen Lunch Program items. We have received word that the Board will meet on 18 November to consider the applications, and we will learn within a week which applications have been successful.

"Autumn"

Coloured leaves of yellow, orange, and red shades  
Beautiful foliage flapping in the cool breeze  
Faded pine needles scattered along a fallen tree  
A small dragonfly lands with glistening wings

The breeze calms as the sun prepares to set  
Peaceful serenity floods a cluttered mind  
Leaves randomly flutter to the ground  
As the sound of assorted birds chirping

Sun shines gloriously upon a cool marsh  
While the sound of bathing ducks announces  
The end of summer as the land prepares for winter  
Nature's inhabitants await the frigid season

Pedals turn down a winding leaf-covered path  
As the sun flickers through the tree's leaves  
Saturates into yellow and orange glows  
A warm life falls asleep in tranquil Autumn

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(Kenneth is a parishioner at St. Brice's.)