

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter July 1, 2023.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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

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St. Brice's Newsletter: 1 July 2023.

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Something To Make Us Smile

Q: What do you call a sleep-walking nun?

A: A roamin' Catholic.

St. Brice's Visioning Scripture

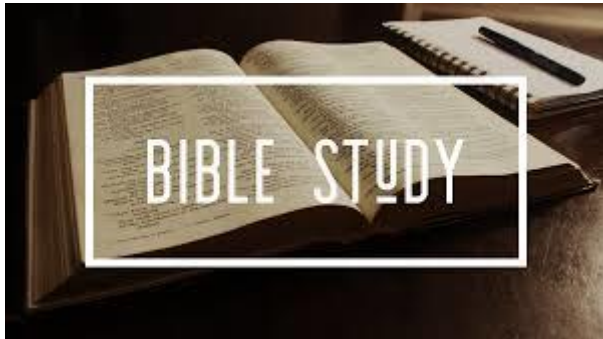
“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.” Colossians 3: 14, 17 (NLT)



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

The Tuesday Evening Bible Study has stopped meeting for the summer. We will begin meeting again on September 5,



7pm. This doesn't mean that we have to stop reading and reflecting on scripture, though. For people who have access to a device and the internet, one resource which

can be particularly engaging is the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/> .

Take Home Meals

The monthly Take Home Meals program will make deliveries this coming week, but the volunteers will be taking a well-deserved summer break, so the next deliveries will be on September 5. If you would like a copy of the menus, or have other questions, please contact Diane McCaskill at the parish office (705 474-4005).

I understand that T.H.M. is looking for a baker, to help prepare some desserts. If this is something which would interest you, please contact Diane.



Sanctuary Course

The Sanctuary Course is intended to help parishes provide a more effective ministry to people who struggle with mental illnesses. There are 8 sessions,

and it seems to be sensitively presented. A small group of us have been reviewing the material. We will present a report at the next regular Board meeting, and then will share it more widely.

Layreader Books

As we are aware, layreaders are commissioned to support the Church's ministries. In most parishes, layreaders assist at the Sunday eucharistic liturgies, and can officiate at prayer services. They may be licensed to preach, and often assist in pastoral care (for example, the administration of Communion to those who are house-bound) or teaching ministries (Confirmation classes; Bible studies...).



I was recently re-reading the Diocesan Layreaders Handbook, and noticed that the following books are recommended for study:

The Bible for Today's Church, by Robert A. Bennett and O.C. Edwards

Opening the Bible, by Roger Ferlo (The New Church's Teaching Series)

The Church in History, by John E. Booty

Understanding the Faith of the Church, by Richard A. Norris

Rites for a New Age, by Michael Ingham

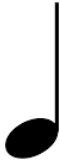
This Anglican Church of Ours, by Patricia Bays

What is Anglicanism, by Urban T. Holmes.

If you happen to have a copy of any of these resources, and are willing to loan them, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

Concert at St. Brice's

St. Brice's will be hosting a music concert, on Saturday, July 22, 7pm. The name of the musical duo is "Infinitely More." Below is some publicity information which they provided. The concert will be free, although a free-will offering will be taken. We encourage you to bring a friend – or two!



We are looking for someone who will greet people at the door, and for one more person who will help serve cold refreshments (lemonade/ iced tea/ punch) during intermission. If you can help for either one, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

AWARD-WINNING DUO COMING TO ST. BRICE'S, NORTH BAY

The Christian music duo, Infinitely More, is bringing the "Keeping The Light On Tour" to our community!

Husband and wife duo, Allison Lynn and Gerald Flemming, bring their signature vocal harmonies, prodigious finger-style guitar, and infectious spirit to this new concert experience.

The "Keeping The Light On Tour" is a celebration of God's unconditional love and faithfulness in all seasons.

Infinitely More is a full-time music ministry based out of St. Catharines. Allison and Gerald perform 100 events each year across every province in Canada. Their original songs and CDs have been nominated for 15 national music awards, and have won two Covenant Awards for Collaboration of the Year and Folk Album of the Year.

Infinitely More concerts blend the old and the new, featuring favourite hymns and inspirational songs, as well as original music from the duo's brand newly released ninth album: The Sum of All Love.

This concert will be offered at St. Brice's Anglican Church, 1225 Cassells St., North Bay, on Saturday, July 22, beginning at 7pm. The concert is free, but there will be a free-will offering to support Allison and Gerald's ministry.

For more information on Infinitely More's music, ministry, and tour dates, please visit: <https://infinitelymore.ca/home>

Donations via the Parish Website

Kenny Drysdale, the parish webmaster, is exploring adding a feature to St. Brice's website, so that people can make donations directly through the website, if they wish. This feature has very strong security features. If implemented, there would be a small administrative charge by the creators of the software. (We will make an announcement on Sunday morning, whenever this feature becomes active.)

Current ways to contribute to St. Brice's are:

- Making offerings on Sunday mornings (using envelopes or cheques if we want a tax receipt);
- the monthly Electronic Offering Program (please contact Fay Ivany through the parish office, 705 474-4005, for more information about that);
- Canada Helps;
- e-transfers (deposits@stbriceschurch.com; depositors, please include your full name, and if the offering is for a particular purpose, please indicate that in the "subject" line).

INFINITELY MORE
2-time 2019 GMA Covenant Award Winner
2-time ECMA Nominee - Inspirational Album

Presents:
The “Keeping the Light On” Tour!
Inspiring Songs of Grace, Gratitude & Faithfulness

Saturday, July 22, 7:00pm
St. Brice’s Anglican Church
 1225 Cassells St., North Bay
 705-474-4005
Freewill Offering

www.InfinatelyMore.ca

Rule of Life

Did you know that the end of the Canadian Anglican Catechism, there is a “Rule of Life” for our consideration? It reads as follows (“he” includes “he” and “she”):

Every Christian man or woman should from time to time frame... a RULE OF LIFE in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein he may consider the following:

- The regularity of his attendance at public worship and especially at the holy Communion.
- The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline.
- Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into his everyday life.
- The boldness of his spoken witness to his faith in Christ.
- His personal service to the Church and the community.
- The offering of money according to his means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas.

PRAYERS

Please pray for General Synod – a gathering of bishops, clergy and lay delegates from across Canada – who are

currently meeting in Calgary. The next General Synod is scheduled for 2025.



We remember in prayer Bishop Eddie Marsh, his wife Emma, and their family. Bishop Eddie died this past Thursday. He was a former bishop in Central Newfoundland. He served as an interim incumbent at St. Brice's in 2002. His obituary can be read at: <https://www.staceysfuneralhome.ca/book-of-memories/5222889/Marsh-Bishop-Edward-F./index.php>

Please also pray for the campers and staff of Camp Temiskaming. The children's camp will begin on July 16. The Rev. Linda White writes, "The theme will be "Created for a Purpose." Our Bible memory passage will be Proverbs 3: 5-6. The story times will be about David, shepherd boy to king."

RECTOR'S NEWS

Ignatian Retreat

As many parishioners are aware, on June 15-23, four of us (Peter & Nancy Armstrong; Jen Auger; Kenny Drysdale – Amanda Adams plans to go later this summer) went on an eight-day silent retreat at the Ignatian Retreat Centre, just north of Guelph, ON. I believe all of us benefited from our time there. Here are a few of my (PA's) impressions:

- Our hosts were a Roman Catholic Jesuit community. The Jesuits were founded by a Spanish priest, Ignatius of Loyola, in the 1500's. A key focus for Ignatius was to encourage people to slow down, and to focus on encountering Jesus Christ.
- The food was excellent – purposefully so. This farm is about 600 acres, so there were lots of walking trails and paths. There is a strong ecological emphasis in this community.
- Retreatants are expected to meet with a Spiritual Director for about an hour a day. My Director, Sr.

Madeline, was a matronly American nun from the Companions of Jesus, sort of on loan to the Jesuit Community – I'm not sure exactly how this works. She was a retired prof. from the University of Pittsburgh, and was evidently a very experienced Director. I thought she was very skilled at encouraging, but could also push a bit for me to reflect more deeply.

- I did a lot of reading, of writings by Ignatius himself, devotional material, and scripture. During the retreat, I undertook more reading and reflection on scripture than I had expected I would, before the Retreat started.
- I found the daily Masses to be good but not amazing; music was generally very good; in my opinion, the homilies (short pastoral sermons) varied between "all right" and "wonderful."
- Some of us might have the impression that monasteries and convents would be more conservative in their interpretation of the Church's teaching, but in my experience, it is often the other way around: Parishes can be more theologically conservative, while monastic communities tend to be more theologically liberal. My impression is that some of the staff were more theologically liberal than I am, but I was certainly welcomed, and never felt uncomfortable. (So, the hosts were "liberal" in the sense that "every point of view is deserving of some respect;" not the



more modern view, “only the more progressive view deserves our support.”)

- While the kind of spiritual growth that goes on during a silent retreat probably isn't for everyone, I do think that many parishioners at St. Brice's would benefit from this spiritual exercise, and am happy to recommend it.

Anglican On-line Book about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

This past week, I provided a submission for an upcoming on-line book about Medical Assistance in Dying, being published by the National Church this autumn. It is tentatively titled

Medical Assistance in Dying: Reflections from Canadian Anglicans.

Holidays

I will be taking my summer holidays from 10 July to 10 August. Sunday services will alternate between coverage



by guest clergy (Eucharist) and layreaders (Morning Prayer). There will be emergency pastoral coverage throughout the time I am away. Please contact the parish

wardens for more information, or contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

ADMINISTRATION

Office Coordinator Holiday

Diane McCaskill will be on holidays from the parish office, from 5 to about 19 July. However, the answering service will be checked regularly.

Rector: New Email Address

My previous email address, which no longer works, was apparently associated with a parish where I formerly served, which cancelled their phone service while they wait for a new incumbent. Unfortunately, I had to get a new address: peter.armstrong2023@outlook.com. (Please note, this new email address will not be posted in the version of the newsletter on the parish website.)

PROPERTY

Upcoming Fundraisers

Thanks to the organization by Rick Turcotte and Don Bonenfant, there will be a **barbeque** tomorrow (July 2), after the 10am service, hosted in the back garden. Donations will be happily received, which will go toward parish capital projects this year.



On the morning of Saturday, 19 August, Jeff Proulx & Kristen Lavergne, with support from Diane McCaskill and others, are organizing a **sale** to be held in the parish hall. If

you have items you think would be suitable to donate, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005). There have already been a substantial number of items collected – it looks quite exciting!

Jeff and Kristen have proposed that parishioners might have the opportunity to get “first dibs” on some of the items. Details will be announced on a Sunday morning, closer to 19 August.

At the last Board meeting, there was some discussion about the potential of having some items for sale which are of greater value than what some people expect when they come to a Saturday morning sale.

The first step will be to evaluate the value of the items which are being offered for sale. If after consulting together, we judge that having a further sale would be worthwhile, then some items might be offered to be sold on-line, or we might have a live or silent auction, sometime shortly after 19 August. There will be a deadline when all sale items need to be sold, distributed, or disposed of. Further announcements will be made, closer to the sale date.

PROPERTY



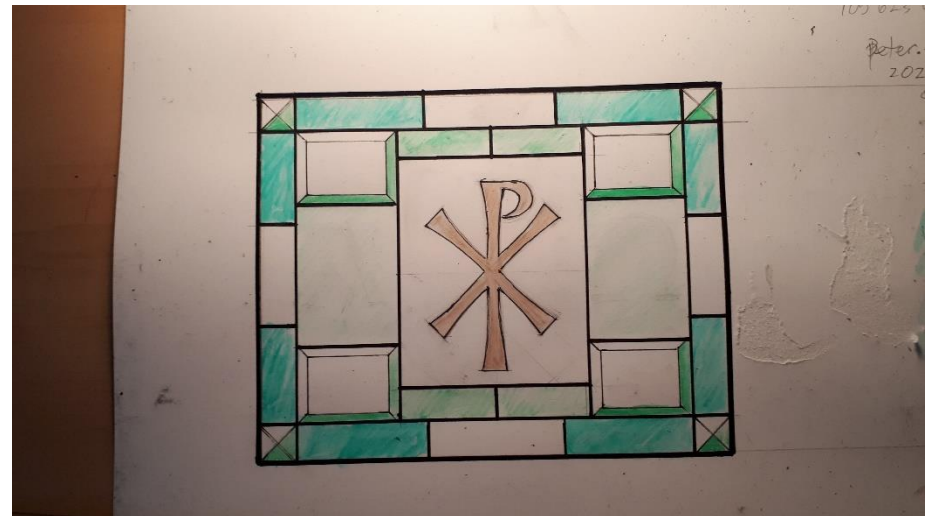
New Exterior Doors

To replace the doors which were damaged by vandalism last summer, new main doors are going to be installed, this coming Wednesday morning. For people who need the automatic door opening feature, that will still be available. There will be a new latch mechanism. To comply with coming building standards, one door will be wider than the other, to make it easier for people using wheelchairs.

The new doors will be made of steel and will be much more rugged. Although there will be glass to let light in (and so people can see out), the glass will be very resistant to damage and penetration. There will be smaller areas of glass in the new doors, compared to the old doors.

We want to make the doors attractive as well as robust. There are plans to paint the new hall doors, and the parish hall doors which were replaced last fall. About a week afterwards, a stained glass artist will install stained glass inserts on the *inside* of the new exit doors. Please see the conceptual drawings below.

These doors are paid for partly through a security grant, but partly also through very generous donations by parishioners, for which we want to express our deep gratitude.



Stained Glass Inserts, New Exterior Doors
One image looks like an X and a stylized P. These are

letters from the Greek alphabet. The “X” is “chi,” and is like our “CH” sound. The other letter is “rho,” which is our “R” sound. Put together, they make “CHR” – for “Christ.”



In the other image, the stylized A and horseshoe-like letter are Alpha (our long and short As) and Omega (our long O) in the Greek alphabet. They come at the beginning and the end of the Greek alphabet, like our A to Z. In Revelation 1: 8, the Lord says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” the beginning and the end.

Both of these are traditional Christian symbols, which we sometimes see in stained glass windows, on altar frontals, and so forth.

Painting

The paint colour, to complement the building and the stained glass, was chosen at the Board meeting. Jen Auger has agreed to coordinate the painting project. It would be helpful to have two more painting volunteers

(please contact the parish office – 705 474-4005). As well as painting both sets of new doors, we want to paint the kitchen window which faces Cassell Street.

Insulation

The back of the Church building is now insulated to the current R60 standard – a five-fold increase. Not only will this make the back of the Church building warmer and more comfortable in the winter, it will also be somewhat cooler and more comfortable on hot summer days.

Roof

We plan to re-shingle one of the planes of the roof on the back of the Church building – the side closer to the office area. This is a relatively small job which we can do ourselves. If you’d like to help out for an evening, or perhaps a Saturday morning, please leave a message at the parish office (705 474-4005).

Lawn Mowing

Thank you to the volunteers who have offered to mow St. Brice’s lawn this summer. We are still looking for a volunteer, for the week of August 13.



Most of us use the lighter push lawn mower from the shed, but there is also an older self-propelled model. Unfortunately (likely due to lack of use), the engine of the self-propelled mower is seized. It also needs a little tender loving care for

the self-propelling mechanism. If you have some mechanical aptitude, and want to tackle it, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

Copier

We regret that we have had 3 unexpected significant costs in the past 2-3 weeks. One was the office photocopier, which needed a couple of service calls, due to difficulties around the toner installation.

Plumbing

Some of us know that we have been having trouble with 2 of the toilets backing up. Some of the original lead pipes in the basement, and associated hardware, needed to be replaced. We just received a very substantial invoice, for about \$2800.

Oven Relay

The oven of one of our two new stoves (bought December 2021) stopped working. It turns out that we had a mouse, or mice, which ate a \$600 relay. This job also requires two service calls. We are replacing the relay when the part comes in. (The stoves had a one-year warranty, but the warranty would probably not cover rodent damage.)

We have put out poison, and mouse traps, and have tried to plug places where mice might enter the building. We also strive to keep the kitchen and food storage areas free of tasty crumbs and things.

Nonetheless, we haven't licked the problem yet. More mousetraps were donated yesterday. As well, the Board has decided to hire the services of an exterminator, at least for a time.

St. Brice's aims to be hospitable – but the hospitality is for people, not for rodents. As well, mice ate through a tea and coffee container for the Food Bank. So, we have at least one mouse who feels very much at home at St. Brice's,



energized by caffeine to cause trouble. Please make every reasonable effort to store all food items in Tupperware and other containers, and to clean up well, any time the kitchen is used.

Sump Pump

Because there is still periodic flooding in the basement, especially during the spring melt, there are plans to install a new sump pump, near the entrance to the Reading Room. This work is tentatively planned for September 9. The Property Committee estimates the cost to be in the \$3000 range for materials. We hope that several volunteers will help install it. If you are able to help, please leave a message at the parish office (705 474-4005).

Outside Garbage

Several of us take turns emptying the garbage can near the kitchen steps, which gets filled every 2 or 3 days in the summertime. I (PA) was dismayed, when I returned from the silent retreat, to find the garbage can overflowing, with excess garbage strewn over the lawn nearby.



St. Brice's has not hired anyone to empty the garbage, including the outside garbage. Collectively, it is all *our* job. This could be especially acute when I'm on vacation 10 July-10 August, as I obviously won't be able to empty the garbage. If there is litter on the lawn, please put it in the garbage. If you see evidence of drug use with needles, please use the sharps containers in the main bathroom or in the office area, and use the pick-up tools in the office area.

If the garbage can is full or nearly full, please empty the full garbage bag into the bin, put in a new bag, and put the lid back on. (If the lid is left off, rainwater can accumulate or even freeze in the cold weather, making it more difficult to take out the next garbage bag.) The handwashing sink is nearest the outside kitchen door.

If you are uncertain how to dispose of garbage, please ask someone who knows, or contact the parish office. Thank you!

FINANCIAL UPDATE



We don't have a financial update for the end of June, but people continued to be generous as they were able in June, and we expected to end the month with a modest surplus. However, if the large (\$2800 or so) unexpected plumbing invoice was paid before the end of June, then we might have a deficit for June 2023.

A Traditional Prayer for Canada Day (July 1)

O GOD, who led our ancestors into this land of Canada, and have increased us by your favour: Grant, we pray, that we who now enter into their inheritance, may prove ourselves a people mindful of your mercies and ready to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Paschal Lamb

Father, Son and
Holy Spirit
Three in one God
Three days earlier
Christ's light shone
Into the darkness
Sacrificing himself
Accepting his death
And suffering to
Graciously pay for
Our sins.
Purifying our hearts
Our father's mercy begins

On this glorious day
Our Lord Jesus conquered death
Our redeemer's, our savior's
Everlasting breath
Bestowed upon the whole world
Saved us from Adam's sin
Our father's gift of forgiveness
Given in his son's resurrection
Sin and death
Left behind the gates
Of eternal life
We may rise with him
To live life in his light
Unafraid each day
In the water beneath the dove
In our hearts we show his love
To forgive those
Who've done us wrong
Because he forgave us
Through his son
From above.

-by parishioner Kenny Drysdale, Easter Sunday 2022.