

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter April 5, 2025.



St. Brice's Anglican Church

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

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Something To Make Us Smile

Q: Why didn't Noah go fishing?

A: He only had 2 worms.



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

I encourage us all to participate in the Holy Week worship services, as much as we are able. In some sense, as we participate in worship, we are journeying through and experiencing something of what our Lord journeyed through, from the triumphal procession into Jerusalem, through the Lord's Supper, through his betrayal, torture and atoning self-sacrifice by crucifixion, his descent to the place of departed spirits, through to his glorious resurrected life.

Holy Week: 13-20 April 2025



Palm Sunday, 13 April

8:30am Holy Communion

10:30am Holy Communion with Procession

There will be the distribution of palm crosses during both worship services.

Monday in Holy Week, 14 April

7:30pm Tenebrae

“Tenebrae” is a Latin word which means “darknesses” or “shadows.” In the rhythm of life in a monastery or a convent, it has been customary to pray together regularly,

four to seven times a day. This rhythm in short prayer services is called the Daily Offices. (Anglican deacons, priests and bishops are expected to continue to participate in the Daily Offices, either privately or together, at least twice daily.)

Many years ago, in the week leading up to Easter (“Holy Week”), the first prayer service of the morning started to be said earlier and earlier in the night, until the first prayer service of the daily was actually being offered late the night before.



Long before electric lighting, the Church building or chapel was lit at night with candles. As this custom was developing, there also developed the practice of extinguishing candles gradually,

so the building becomes more and more dark as the worship service progresses. Candles came to be mounted on a stand, called a “tenebrae hearse.” The growing darkness is a sign of the spiritual disorder which grew during the betrayal, abandonment, torture and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Near the end of the worship service, when the building is in darkness, a sharp sound is made, like the hammering of the nails into the cross.

Maundy Thursday, 17 April

7pm, Holy Communion

It was on the night of his betrayal that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Holy Eucharist, during the celebration of the Passover with the apostles.

This day is traditionally called “Maundy” Thursday, as our Lord instituted a new commandment to his disciples, that we are to love one another (St. John 13: 34-35). “Maundy” derives from the Latin *mandatum*, meaning “commandment.”



This will be a typical celebration of the sacrament, with two exceptions. First, among other events at that surprising meal, our Lord astonished his friends by taking a role of a servant,

and washing their feet. Christ was modelling for us that we are called to serve and to care for one another. So, for those who wish to participate, there will be an opportunity during the service to wash one another’s feet (see John 13: 2-15). Second, the décor of the Church building is typically put away at the end of this eucharistic celebration. (The events of Good Friday are certainly to be appreciated and brought to mind, but they are not a “celebration” in the traditional sense.) This is called the “Stripping of the Altar” or the “Stripping of the Chancel.” The building becomes plain and somber, reflecting the experiences of this night.

There is no dismissal at the end of this worship, because in a sense, this service concludes with the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection on Easter morning.

Some people stay in the Church building after the worship to pray quietly. (While in the Garden of Gethsemane, our Lord asked his disciples to pray with him, and asked, “Could you not pray with me one hour?” Matthew 26: 40) When departing, try not to talk until one is outside the Church building, in the narthex.

Good Friday, 18 April

10:30am, Ecumenical Worship Service



This worship service, shared among a number of local churches, will be hosted this year at Bethel Gospel Chapel on Tackaberry Drive. This year’s theme is from II

Corinthians 5: 21: “For our sake [God] make [Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in [Christ] we might become the righteousness of God.” There will be a variety of hymns and worship music, scripture reading, prayers, and a short sermon.

2:00pm, Anglican Liturgy

“The Stations of the Cross” is a devotional service, often offered during the season of Lent, or the shorter season of Passiontide at the end of Lent. It is a collection of 14 verses, reflections, and devotions, either from scripture, or from very early in the Church’s tradition. It is intended to be thoughtful and somewhat somber, and to help us appreciate more deeply the significance of this day.

Holy Saturday, 19 April

7:00pm, Easter Vigil

For Jewish people, the cycle of a day is typically observed from sundown on one day to sundown on the next. The



Easter Vigil is a celebration of the resurrection, including the sharing of the Eucharist.

The Easter Vigil service developed through the Middle Ages. During the reforms of the fifteenth century, this service was largely

discontinued in most Anglican parishes. Starting with the “Oxford Movement” in the early nineteenth century, many of the customs we take for granted today were re-introduced, including the wider use of candles, chasubles and other robes worn by the clergy, and a re-awakening of some of the earlier traditions of the Church. Easter Vigils were re-introduced at this time, at first among more “high Church” parishes, but then gradually in many parishes throughout the Anglican Communion.

An Easter Vigil typically starts outside the Church building, with the lighting of a new fire; then the Paschal Candle (the large candle, often by the baptismal font) is lit, then other candles. A hymn of praise to the risen Christ is typically offered; bells may be rung, rejoicing. Among the Bible readings, the story of God’s deliverance during the Passover in Exodus is proclaimed.

This year, Christ Church will be hosting the Easter Vigil on Saturday, 19 April, 7pm. Parishioners from St. John’s and St. Brice’s parishes are warmly invited to attend. (I will be presiding at a celebration at Holy Trinity parish, Temiscaming. -PA)

Easter Sunday, 20 April
8:30am & 10:30am

Celebrations of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning.



Confirmation Classes

On-line adult classes for Confirmation will begin, this coming Thursday evening. If you would like to participate, or want more information, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005; stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca).

Marginalized People & Worship

As some of us are aware, there was some disruption during the end of the 10:30am worship service on March 23, with a currently-unhoused man who suffers from mental illness. The leadership of St. Brice’s has been considering this carefully, both at the Advisory Board level, among the rector and wardens, and in consultation with other parishes and local churches. We are determined to ensure that St. Brice’s is a place which is, and which feels, safe, for everyone who is gathered.



At the same time, we recognize that we have a moral and spiritual responsibility to care for all people, to the highest degree that we are able, and within our competencies (none of us are psychiatrists!).

We are currently working at several proposals:

1. The rector meeting with the gentleman, outlining where his behaviour wasn’t appropriate for this parish community (which he already knows), and what we are offering him in terms of support as we are able;
2. We have learned that he currently does not come primarily to worship, but to get warm. We intend to offer him times when he *can* come to the property to get warm, and where there are people who are willing to talk with him if he wishes. We are also inclined to offer him coffee and/ or something to eat when we

- can, which he appreciates;
3. This gentleman feels threatened if people come near him physically, and responds with aggressive behaviour. We aim to allow him plenty of physical space for his own sense of safety and well-being. We note that the Church building is most likely to be crowded on a Sunday morning, which can be hard both on him and on the gathered parishioners, so we intend to offer him other times when he can come (he is able to keep track of time);
 4. We intend to work in co-operation with other churches, who have also experienced challenges with this gentleman, for everyone's well-being;
 5. If he expresses interest, we are open to talking with him about God, the Church, *etc*;
 6. We plan to have a teaching time, following the Linger Lunch on Sunday, May 4, for all members of the congregation who want to stay. The speaker/facilitator will be helping us to learn more about mental illnesses and appropriate responses, both for parishioners in our midst who have mental illnesses, and for visitors. Other congregations may be invited to join us;
 7. Parishioners are encouraged to pray for this troubled individual, who is best seen, we believe, not as someone to run from, but someone who needs healing and who is deeply broken. This is not to excuse bad behaviour, but we can pray for appropriate intervention and healing;
 8. In the event that this individual does not respect our boundaries (after the conversation in point #1, above), then we may call the police for assistance;
 9. We believe this gentleman would benefit greatly from consistent housing with support, and consistent, effective psychiatric care. We are not shutting the door to his participation in public worship, when he is able to join us; we long for this

day to arrive. We are willing to work with secular community supports as we are able, for his well-being.

Women's Night Report



Hi everyone,

We had a good time together Monday night at the last Women's Gathering.

There was a skit, a fig taste test and good discussion around the parable of the useless fig tree in Luke 13.

Our next Women's Gathering is planned for April 28th at 6:30.

I hope you can come out. 😊 -TG

Student Support

As many of us know, there are a number of students and families connected with St. Brice's. Some of these students (and other parishioners, too) are still looking for reasonable rental accommodation, or for steady employment – preferably but not necessarily in their fields of study. If you are aware of any inexpensive apartments or rooms to rent, or any employer who will be doing some hiring, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005; stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca).

A.C.W. Spring Tea

The St. Brice's Anglican Church Women will be hosting a Spring Tea, on Saturday, April 26, 11am to 1pm. \$10/person (children under 10 are free). Please see the nearby poster.

English Style Tea

(A fund raiser for Missions)



Baby Quilts, Unique Cards & Baking

St. Brice's Anglican Church
1225 Cassells St., North Bay

Sat., April 26th 2025

11a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sandwiches, Scones, Squares
Tea & Coffee

\$10.00

[children under 10 years free]

I've received a couple of requests, to explain more about the governance of the Anglican Church, outside our local parishes. In the paragraphs which follow, I aim to explain this. If you don't want to know this, please skip ahead to page 14. -PA

For Anglicans, a “synod” is a regional gathering of clergy and lay people, gathered together under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit, to discern God’s purposes.

Among global Anglicans, there are 4 traditional locations of unity, called “[Instruments of Communion](#).”

1. [The Archbishop of Canterbury](#): The church province of Canterbury covers the southern half or so of England, and the Anglican Church in its current form grew out of the Church of England. (Of course, God’s Church is “apostolic” – the Church began with the ministry of Christ’s apostles.) The Archbishop of Canterbury does not have a status “above” any other bishop of the Communion, but this Archbishop has a traditional role in hosting gatherings and working among the different provinces
2. [Lambeth Conferences](#): These are gatherings of Anglican bishops, held once every 10 years or so, gathering in Canterbury, England. While what is produced during the Lambeth Conferences has no *legal* weight in any province, the Lambeth Conferences typically have a strong *moral* or persuasive influence
3. [Primates](#): Primates (a Primate is sometimes called a *Primus*) are senior archbishops for an Anglican province. Currently, Archbishop Anne Germond is

the acting Primate for the Anglican Church of Canada. The Primates come together when a meeting is called by the Archbishop of Canterbury

4. **Anglican Consultative Council:** This is an international council, made up of one bishop, one priest, and one lay person, from each of the provinces.

Within the Anglican Church of Canada, there is General Synod, which meets every 3 years. (The upcoming General Synod , to be held in London, ON, in late June 2025, will elect a new Primate.) Delegates to General Synod are elected during diocesan synods.



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There is also a Provincial Synod for the Province of Ontario, which focuses especially on theological education and social justice issues. (It's a bit confusing, but there are 4 ecclesiastical

provinces within Canada, but we coordinate as one single province during international Anglican engagements.)

Each diocese has its own diocesan synod. St. Brice's is within the Diocese of Algoma. Diocesan Synod will be held at Sault Ste. Marie on 7-10 May this year. The Diocese of Algoma holds a diocesan synod gathering every 2 years. Carrie Birtch and Kemi Adekitan are our lay delegates. Blaze Cucksey will very likely be elected as a regional youth delegate.

What happens at a diocesan synod? It's a bit like Parliament, but more polite. There are worship services, times for fellowship, presentations, and motions which are debated. If you want to know what the motions will be, the motions will likely be posted on the website of the Diocese of Algoma with a few weeks:

<https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/>

Your prayers are appreciated, for the work of synod, and for our delegates.

Deanery Council

There will be a Deanery Council meeting held at St. Mary Magdalene parish, Sturgeon Falls, on Saturday, April 12, beginning at 10am. There will be elections, reports from parishes, and a presentation by Jane Mesich and Jennifer Baron from the diocesan synod office. Any parishioner is welcome to attend. The meeting will conclude with a light lunch.

PROPERTY

Thank you to Gary Thoms, and for Gary and Bob Gray, for the new railing which is installed on the edge of the parish hall stage.

FINANCES



Income, 1 January-31 March 2025:	\$44 240
Expenses, 1 January-31 March 2025:	<u>\$44 718</u>
Deficit, 1 January-31 March 2025:	\$ 478

We are extremely appreciative for people's support, which means that our deficit which was \$3954.96 at the end of February has been almost entirely erased. We don't want to get too relaxed, though: There were five Sundays in March 2025, and summer tends to be a time when offerings are reduced.