

# The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

## Reverend Carrie writes . .

### Put a spring in your step for Lent!

Spring is such a lovely time of the year, a time when all things feel possible. It is a time to feel positive, strong, committed, and yes, even adventurous! And, spring is just around the corner. The three feet of snow in your front garden may lead you to doubt this, but Spring is a mere 29 days away.

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through February, and that Lent is upon us. I just found a Christmas decoration on my desk yesterday. How can it be Lent when I haven't even finished clearing up from Christmas? The year is moving on, and so it is with the church year. It also moves forward, towards exciting things to come. In no time at all, we will be celebrating Easter once again—the major, most exciting and important time in our calendar.

We have eaten our fill of pancakes and sausages. We have managed to celebrate Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday on the same day - and no, I did not mark any foreheads with a heart; the cross is already the greatest symbol of love we have!

The Ash Wednesday service begins our Lenten journey, and for many this begins as a quiet, reflective, and contemplative time, and indeed it is. It is also, if you let it be, a time of personal spiritual growth. Lent is a good time

to give ourselves moments to sit, think, and reflect. It is also a time when we can look forward to what is to come – the joy of Easter – and be ready for that, ... but we can only be ready by preparing ourselves for it. I encourage you to spend a few hours this Lent, exploring ways in which we find and receive Christ in the world around us, how it makes a difference and how it prepares us for Easter- not just to celebrate Easter, but to live Easter—to be ready to remember the death of Jesus on Good Friday, and be ready to celebrate the joy of his resurrection at Easter.

I encourage you to think about Lent this year, and use it as a time of preparation, ready for the growth that will come from it and the wonderful joy of Easter. Join us at our midweek services, Lenten lunches, and Bible Study. Our Lenten study this year is called “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John.” We meet at 10:30 am on Tuesday mornings at St Paul’s, and at 7 pm on Thursday evenings at St John’s. Everyone is welcome!

I will end by sharing this prayer from our Lenten study. *Loving God, you gave us your Son Jesus Christ so that all may be drawn to him. We ask you to bless our time together, and to give us grace and courage to meet Jesus wherever he may be found. We ask this by the grace of your Holy Spirit.*

Blessings!

**Carrie+**



**Robbie  
Burns  
Night—  
See inside!**





# Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Have you ever wished to deepen your relationship with God? To experience a warm friendship with God? Maybe even fall in love with God – again – or for the very first time? If so, read on!

*“God Emmanuel is so palpable in John’s Gospel; it invites me to be in God’s presence just as I am, for good or ill, to be welcomed, provided for, sustained by Jesus. Praying with John, I feel a profound sense of not being alone.” - Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE*

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John invites participants on a six-week journey into deeper intimacy with God by praying with the words of John the Evangelist (The Gospel According to John and First Letter of John). These two texts describe how God, out of deep love, sends God’s only Son Jesus into the world, to take on human form and live among us. By learning from Jesus, his human friendships, and his teachings about the God he calls ‘Father,’ we will discover God as One who longs for deep intimacy with each of us. We will take to heart the words of Jesus: “I and the Father are one.” We will find that God is not a judge, a disapproving parent, a policeman, or a taskmaster; rather God is our companion, our friend, our confidant, our beloved. We are even invited to abide in God as God abides in us. It is in relationship with Jesus that such extraordinary communion with God becomes a personal reality.

With a beautiful prayer journal and facilitation guidance for small groups, from the Center for the Ministry of Teaching, and videos from the monks of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE), **Meeting Jesus** is a six-week journey and reflection on the Gospel According to John.

**Join the study group at St. Paul’s, Southampton on Tuesdays at 10:30, following Morning Prayer at 10. Or, join our other group at St. John’s on Thursdays at 7 PM.**

A Message from the Bishop of Huron, The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls:

Dear Friends in Christ:

At the heart of our Christian life is our relationship with God – a relationship of intimate love, compassion and call. Sustaining the intimacy of a human relationship requires time spent together listening, caring and loving one another. So too does our relationship with God. We need to spend time listening, loving and being loved, and responding.

This resource will help you to deepen your relationship with God. It will invite you, through the Gospel of John, deeper in faith. I pray that you will find it strengthens and renews you for all that God is calling you to do and to be.

## Mark Your Calendars for these Events/Services Through Lent and Holy Week

Lenten Morning Prayer—10:00 AM at St. Paul’s, Southampton

Lenten Study—**Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John**—Tuesdays at 10:30 St. Paul’s (S) ,Thursdays at 7 PM (St. John’s)

Sunday, March 25: —**Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday**- services at regular times

Wednesday, March 28: **The Passion revealed in Stone at La Sagrada Familia , Barcelona**—7PM at St. Paul’s (S)

Thursday Mar 29: **Maundy Thursday Stripping of the Altar** — St. John’s at 7 PM, Christ Church at 7 PM

Friday, March 30: **Good Friday Ecumenical Service**—Port Elgin United Church at 10:30 AM, Tara United (time TBA)

Saturday, March 31: **The Great Vigil of Easter**— St. Paul’s (Southampton) at 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 1: **Easter Sunday**—services at regular times **Come and Worship!**

## Book Talk by Becky Peters, Librarian:

### Jesus Manifesto: Restoring the Supremacy and Sovereignty of Jesus Christ" By Leonard Sweet and Frank Viola (2010)

"Leonard Sweet, one of the authors of this excellent book, was the keynote speaker at the two final "53rd Weekends" -- an annual inspirational event spanning 4 decades, attended by many Anglicans. "Jesus Manifesto" comes highly recommended by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, who notes that this is an "exhilarating reintroduction to a Jesus who sometimes seems to have become a stranger to the church".

From the introduction: "The body of Christ is at a crossroads right now. The two common alternatives are to move either to the left or the right. It's our observation, however, that we are living in a unique time, when people are frozen as they look in either of those two directions. When they look to the left, they decide that they cannot venture there. When they look to the right, they feel the same. Whether they realize it or not, people are looking for a fresh alternative -- A THIRD WAY. The crossroads today, we believe, is one of moving forward or backward.

What we will present in this book, therefore, is razor-sharp, cut-glass clarity of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Alpha and the Omega. We will show that HE is that third way -- and the only way -- that we can forge a secure path into the future. If the church does not reorient and become Christological at its core, any steps taken will be backwards."

And so they begin to articulate the glory of the gospel, which is the invitation to live our lives by an indwelling Lord, the fullness of Christ incarnated in us both individually and corporately. He is the most exciting person in the universe, bar none, claim these writers. But they are speaking about the REAL Christ, not the insipid one promoted today. This "real" Jesus gave his disciples breath and body, wounds to touch and hands to heal. Not an intellectual belief or Christian worldview but a relational faith, an indwelling Presence. There is no disconnect between Jesus of the gospels and the all-sufficient cosmic Christ of the epistles. We are called to come and see His radiance.

Sweet and Viola write with hearts burning for Jesus the Christ, that He may be known fully in and through His Church.

## Robbie Burns Night at St. John's!

Och aye, the lads & lassies toasted by Len & Cassie Wallace were celebrating Burns on Thursday, January 25! Our Regional Ministry gathered at St. John's Hall for the piping in of the haggis by talented Piper Tom Willins, followed by Debbie Campbell presenting the haggis and the **best** Address to the Haggis **ever** given by Rob Campbell! We toasted the baird with good Glen Fiddich and listened to recitations of "To A Louse" & "A Man's A Man for a' That" by Cathy Seaton. She also helped Marilyn Stewart bring tribute to dear Rabbie. Our ears were filled with the music of Kenneth McKellar and Matthew M. Dickie singing *The Star O Robbie Burns* and *My Love Is Like a Red Red Rose*! Dinner of Cock A Leekie Soup, Scotch Pie, Haggis, Bashed Neeps & Champit Tatties, followed by shortbread & Empire biscuits was delicious! (even the haggis— really!) MC John Stewart kept the night moving with jovial remarks. His 96 yr. old mum Agnes, opened with the Selkirk Grace and a great time was had by all. Rev. Carrie won the accent contest! So many helped and donated food, help & funds. Many thanks to all! Our piper said it was the **most authentic Burns Night ever!**

## Christ Church Tara Annual Valentine's Tea a Smashing Success!

On Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> the parish hall of Christ Church Tara was full to bursting with Valentine Tea enjoyment! A sold out crowd of over 60 savoured scones, jam, sandwiches, cream puffs and other delectables along with, of course, tea (and coffee). The Christ Church Guild also had a bazaar table which included the ever popular home baking and hand crafts. As always a guest speaker offers some insight into their craft or topic. This year Dave Rudell, owner of the Southampton Olive Oil Company provided an informative talk on the benefits, uses and history of olive oil. Every one enjoyed a new appreciation for olive oil!

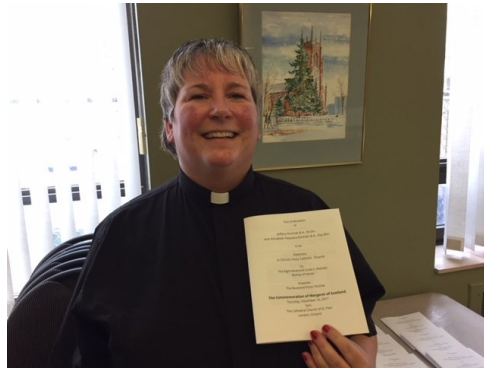
The Valentine Tea is a fund raiser for the Guild and helps support outreach initiatives that they participate in each year, such as supporting the Chesley Hospital, Owen Sound Hospital, Women Shelter and the Tara Food Bank. This year over \$900.00 was raised and was deemed to be probably the best-attended and most successful Teas yet!

## From the Deacon's Bench

As I prepared to write an article for our newsletter I thought I might have a title for the page.

For some reason "From the Deacon's Bench" popped into my head. From where, I don't have the faintest, but then it got me really thinking. What is a Deacon's Bench? Is it significant? Ah, something to research and to learn in my new role as Deacon Assistant to the Rector. So I found the following: "A Deacon is someone who assists the pastor, rector, or priest of the church – as the case may be – with his or her various spiritual duties. It seems that at some point in our country's early history (around 1922) it became customary for a simple bench with an upright back to be set aside in the sanctuary for ONLY the deacons to sit upon. Often set at a 90 degree angle to the pulpit or lectern, this bench was used by the deacons during services and for special church functions. Naturally, the bench came to be known as the Deacon's Bench – and so the term stuck – and subsequently, wooden benches with very high and straight backs are today referred to as Deacon's Benches and are now often used at entry points in a home." (various sources)

Well, that is quite interesting! We don't have an official Deacon's Bench in any of our 4 congregations but where I do sit when assisting Rev Carrie on a Sunday is a bench (pew) that is 90 degrees to the pulpit, so I guess we're fulfilling the requirement of a Deacon's bench at St. Paul's Southampton. My role though, as defined above, is that



of assistant and since my ordination in November I have certainly been doing that. I am honoured to be able to serve in any capacity for what ever needs are to be met. I have enjoyed representing the Regional Ministry at the Community Suppers, Ministerial and Clericus meetings, service leadership at Country Lane Care Centre in Chatsworth, Christ Church Tara, St. Paul's Chatsworth and deacon's role during the eucharist services at St. Paul's Southampton and St. John's Port Elgin. It is in bringing the Gospel to light and offering a new energy to the Scripture that I so enjoy.

I was brought up to serve and when a need was seen it was not questioned if I was to help out. It was how I was to do that. I have the unique opportunity now, as an ordained person, to bring my abilities to serve the wider community of Christ in the Regional Ministry and beyond. The ability to preach the Gospel, offer pastoral care, and journey with those that have questions regarding faith, life and salvation is just a small part of my role as time passes. It's in being seen as a spiritual leader as well as community leader that I know God is using me as an instrument of His peace.

Rev. Carrie and I are excited about our ministry together going forward. There is a renewed energy (and if you see us together you know what kind of energy we can have!) in the possibilities for ministry. These are exciting times!

On Saturday March 3 at 2pm at St. George's Anglican Church, Owen Sound the 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Huron, the Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls will ordain me priest. All are invited to the service!

Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski

**St. Paul's Anglican Church**, 248 High Street, Southampton, ON, N0H 2L0 519-797-2984

**St. John's Anglican Church**, 516 Mill Street, Box 1059, Port Elgin, ON, N0H 2C0 519-832-5757

**Christ Church**, 56 Bruce Road 17, Tara, ON, N0H 2N0

**St. Paul's Anglican Church**, 57 Toronto Street (Hwy 21), Chatsworth, ON, N0H 1G0

To contact The Rev. Carrie Irwin (Rector): Cell Phone: 519-377-3664; Email: [anglicanrector@bmts.com](mailto:anglicanrector@bmts.com)

To contact The Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski (Deacon Assistant): Cell Phone: 519-375-1816