

The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." John 8.12

Dear friends in Christ,

As the Advent season unfolds before us, I am struck again by the beauty and power of our collective presence in worship. Our first Advent Service found us in the dark, in the midst of an ice storm, and yet our voices rose to the heavens as we gathered to offer praise. The light that shone brightest in our sanctuary at St Paul's on Sunday morning came not from the coursing flow of electricity, but rather, from the light of Christ spilling out from those gathered as we offered praise through gesture, word and song. With no power, no organ, no microphones, we did what thousands before us have done; we simply gathered, we offered praise and we sang.

How lovely our sanctuary looked with the soft glow of candle light, and natural light coming through the stain glass windows. I found myself focusing on our worship in a whole new way, with my eyes drawn to the advent wreath, the altar and our windows. I heard the prayers and words of our hymns differently and it made me pause.

Scripture, our prayers and liturgy, our hymns all tell a part of our faith story. The windows, the altar and even the Advent wreath tell another part of our story. And, our response to them, also tells another part of that story. We are constantly invited into dialogue with God, into a relationship with our Creator and through that with each other. Through our private and collective worship, we offer a joyful response to the One who loves us, beyond anything we can imagine! We are called to

simply share what that means for us, how that shapes our lives, and how it gives us hope.

Peace, Hope, Joy, Trust and Love are the words of Advent and of Christmas. They all will have different meaning for each of us, but they are at the heart of our message. A question that was asked at a meeting I attended last month has been sitting on my heart and in my mind, and I think it is an excellent question for us to ponder in this season of Advent. "Why does church matter to me?"

Wherever we are, home or abroad, with friends or with strangers, we have the opportunity to shine with the light of Christ. And that light shines brightest when we open our hearts with our mouths in telling our story. How has God made a difference in your life? Where do you find peace, hope, joy, trust and love? How has your church family offered you support and care?

The greatest gift of all is Love, and that is what has been given to each and every single one of us. That Love is what we respond to, why we offer our praise and thanksgiving, even in the midst of lament and hardship. Love is at the heart of our song, at the heart of our message and the true light of our life. That great Love, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger,

attended to by shepherds and angels, is who we will celebrate on Christmas Eve. Through these days of Advent, may you be blessed with many opportunities to share your story, to shine with the light of Christ, and to sing praises to his name! God bless!

All Blessings and joy,

Carrie+



Diocese of Huron Elects New Bishop

On Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, The Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townsend was elected the 14th Bishop of Huron. It was an exciting day!!

The election process was triggered in June at General Synod in Vancouver, when Linda Nicholls, Bishop of Huron was elected Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada and first woman to hold that position. To be elected Bishop, a nominee needs to have more than 50% of all votes cast on a ballot by both order of clergy and laity (voting separately). Candidates were nominated by Diocesan Council and the House of Bishops. Our list of candidates, who pondered the call, and accepted the nomination, included:

The Right Reverend William Cliff

The Venerable Doctor Tim Dobbin

The Very Reverend Paul Millward

The Venerable Tanya Phibbs

The Reverend Canon Doctor Todd Townsend



Prior to the election there were meet and greet opportunities with the candidates to hear about their priorities. Answers to questions posed previously had been placed on the Diocesan website. The opportunities to see and hear the candidates in action was very helpful to voters.

On the day of the election, clergy and lay reps converged on St. Paul's

Cathedral. Rev. Carrie, Rev. Annie, Youth Rep Elspeth Irwin, Lay reps Doug Goar and Marilyn Stewart represented our Regional Ministry. Following registration, there was yet another opportunity to seek out the candidates and have a word with them.



The day began with Eucharist, complete with inspiring music and prayer. The Most Reverend Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ontario, officiated, and delivered a thought-provoking homily. Next, the Metropolitan, who presided over the election, called Synod to order. When the first ballot took place, we were invited to move up to the front to deposit our ballots in much the same manner as being invited to come up for communion! When all had voted, the ballot boxes were taken away to be counted.



Each candidate left the church with their personal spiritual advisor to await the results. The results were shared with the candidates prior to the public announcement to the voting clergy and lay reps, allowing candidates to reflect on the results and then decide whether to continue, or withdraw from the next ballot. Following the first ballot, Tanya Phibbs decided to withdraw. The atmosphere became a little more charged as we readied for the second ballot. Following the second ballot, Paul Millward and Bill Cliff withdrew from the process, leaving only Tim Dobbin and Todd Townshend. With even more stirring, we prepared for the third ballot, which resulted in 68 clergy and 134 laity votes for The Reverend Canon Doctor Todd Townsend. There was an electric buzz as we realized that the magic numbers for election had



been reached. It was then announced...**WE HAVE A BISHOP!**

The Consecration and Seating service of Bishop-elect Townsend as 14th Bishop of Huron will take place on January 25, 2020 at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

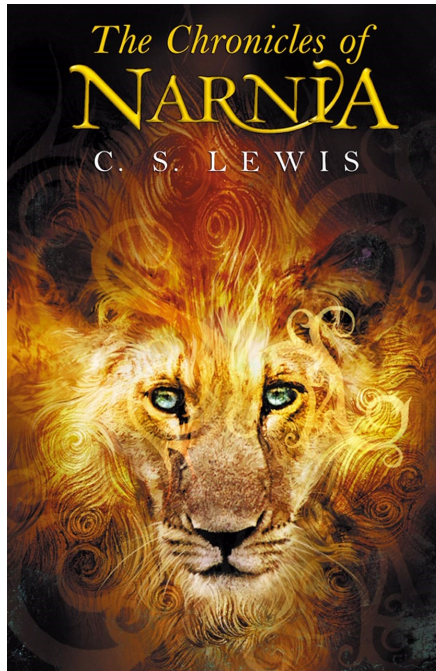
Book Talk:

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

- *by C.S. Lewis*

Clive Staples Lewis was born in 1898 and was a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford University. He did much of his writing in the company of the Inklings, an informal writers' club that met at the local pub to discuss their story ideas. J.R.R. Tolkien was among these friends. This past May while my husband and I were in Oxford, living aboard our rented narrowboat, we hiked the 5 km from the centre of town to Headington Quarry, the village where C.S. Lewis (known as "Jack") lived with his brother Warnie in a brick house called the Kilns. They lived there until Jack's death in 1963. Nearby is Holy Trinity, a small stone church surrounded with ancient yew trees and lichen-covered grave-stones. The church was open, allowing us to meander and to find the marked pew where Jack and Warnie sat at worship. We also discovered a beautiful clear glass window engraved with scenes from Narnia – a memorial dedicated to two other brothers from the parish who died very young. As I gazed at Aslan the lion, the lamp post, Jill riding on the back of Glimfeather the owl, Reepicheep and the talking beasts – I was transported to the beloved enchanted world of these books which I had read as a school-aged child.

I decided to purchase copies of all seven books in this series and read them again as an adult. It has been



delightful to experience again the joy in Lewis's characters and to meet Aslan, the Christ-like Lion whose song weaves itself into the fabric of Narnia. These stories are ageless and have the capacity to shape and feed faith through allegory. Themes of light and darkness, good and evil, redemption, the self-offering of a Saviour and a beatific vision of Home are all presented in these tales. The best-known title in the series is, of course, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". While this is the book that was written first, the adventure of Narnia actually begins with "The Magician's Nephew". I am currently embarking on the final book, "The Last Battle". A child once wrote to C.S. Lewis, asking him to continue the story, so sad was he to have finished the last book. Lewis, who was very near to the end of his life at the time, suggested to this lad that he continue the story himself.

As we exited Holy Trinity Church we noticed a small wooden sign pointing us towards the grave of C.S. Lewis and his brother Warren, who were buried together under a flat granite stone etched with a cross. The Lewis brothers remained close comrades after the death of their mother when Jack was nine.

You will find these seven paperback books in the children's section of our library. I purchased them, used, from various thrift stores.

Becky Peters

(one of St. Paul's Resource Library team)

FIRST COMING by Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!



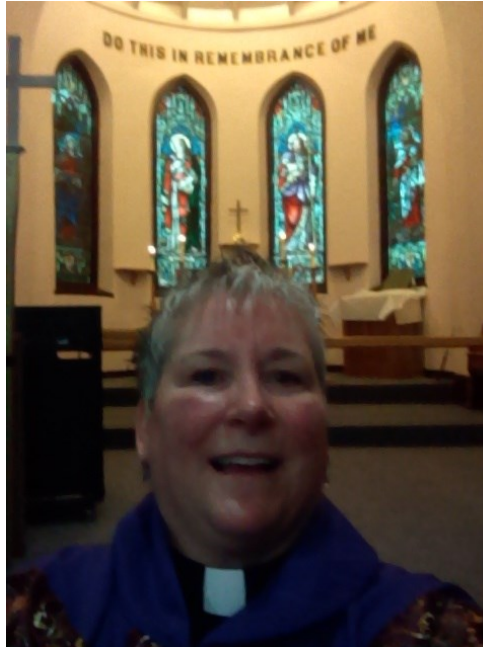
From the Priest Assistant's Pew

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Are we in Advent already? It seems yesterday I was still sitting on the front porch of my cottage, book in hand, watching the fall leaves turn. Our seasons seem to change so quickly, or maybe I need to take time to notice the subtleties before they come upon me all at once.

Advent will help with the preparation for the Christmas Season and the joy that it brings. Advent is also a time of hope and sometimes in our frantic attempt to find the right "thing" for the right person we forget there is hope growing at this time of year.

Advent is a time of preparation, for our hearts and our spirits. Of course, we're preparing meals and our homes for guests and sharing in the joy that is this season. Rarely though, do we talk about the hope of the season and that's my challenge this year, not only to myself, but to the people I meet in my various journeys. How can I express to those I face that this Advent time isn't about worrying how pretty the lights are? it's about the hope of the future in a life with Jesus and what He is and who He is? I think it's going to be a challenge!



Shalom,

Rev. Annie+

In so many places I see hope being sought. In the Owen Sound hospital where I work, patients and families look for hope for a cure, a great treatment or a calm and peaceful departure from this earth. In my journeys with the Palliative Care Outreach Team clients, I see hope embodied as they find comfort, acknowledging that their lives have not been in vain and that there is hope for a beautiful and pain-free life beyond where they are now. I see friends from St. Paul's Chatsworth transitioning to a new way of worship without their beloved church building, hoping that they did make a difference in people's lives and they will be remembered.

I feel we need to take time to reflect on the hope that the coming Christ will bring us. It is in the innocence of that tiny person that is God on Earth who came to us so many years ago. It is the hope that this innocence can bring change to a world filled with anxiety and challenge. Maybe this year we will all find some hope for a better, greater world in the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Eve Services (Tuesday, December 24):

St. Paul's, Chatsworth—Eucharist at 5:00 PM

St. John's, Port Elgin—Family Service at 5:00 PM

Christ Church, Tara—Eucharist at 7 PM

St. Paul's, Southampton—Candlelight Eucharist at 8:00 PM



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

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