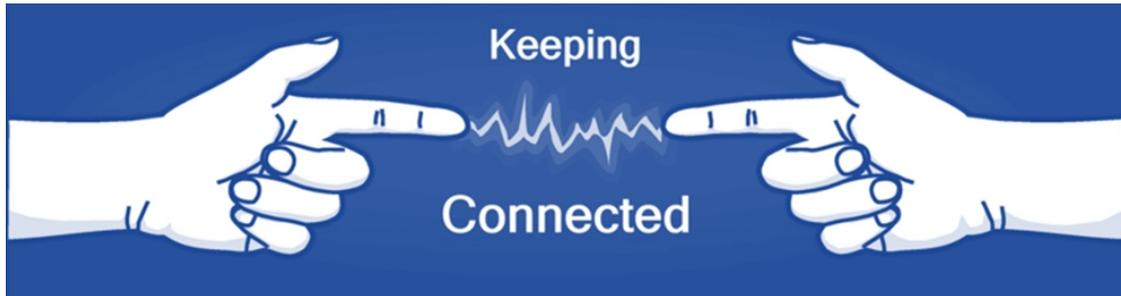


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For November 1 2020
All Saints

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A Message from Rev. Jonathon
What Time Is It?

This weekend we will be adjusting our clocks backwards by one hour to mark the end of Daylight Savings Time. While the mornings will be slightly brighter, the sunset will come sooner. And as we approach the winter solstice in December we will be losing a little more daylight each week. The seasons are also changing. The days and nights are now getting cooler as winter approaches.



There is a definite pattern to the times and seasons of the year. There is also a definite pattern to the times and seasons of the church year. Christians (and before that our Jewish brothers and sisters) followed two separate calendars, as we observed two different ways of marking time. There was the secular calendar followed by society. And then there was the sacred calendar followed by religious people.

From the earliest days, Christians began setting Sunday morning aside as a special day to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This was originally the first day of

the week (a work day) in the secular calendar. The first Christians had to gather before sunrise to celebrate the Eucharist so that they could get to work on time. But as Christianity became the established state religion, Sunday became an official day off when Christians celebrated the Sabbath, as opposed to the Jewish Sabbath on Saturday.

Particular days during the year were also used to celebrate significant events in the Christian year. These "feast days" could either be "fixed feasts" (such as Christmas, which is now celebrated on December 25 each year in Western Christianity, but which is celebrated on January 6 by Orthodox Christians and Eastern Rite Catholics) or "moveable feasts" (such as Easter and Pentecost whose dates vary from year to year).

There were also particular fixed dates set aside to honour specific saints - men, women, and children who had been officially recognized by the Church because of their exemplary lives of faith. This Sunday we will be celebrating All Saints Day, a time to celebrate all the saints - both those who have been officially recognized by the Church with a particular date and those who have not.

Another long-standing tradition is that Christians (like Jews and Muslims) often pray at specific times of the day. Christians in religious orders (and many other Christians) mark the day with prayer in the morning, at noon, in the afternoon, and in the evening. Anglican priests pray both Morning and Evening Prayer, and many lay people have also adopted this spiritual discipline of regular daily prayer.

Just as there are seasons in nature, there are also seasons in the Church calendar (also known as the *liturgical year* or the *liturgical cycle*). It is divided into *liturgical seasons* such as Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Lent. Each liturgical season has a specific focus or theme. This theme is reflected in everything that we do during our Sunday worship service - including our Bible readings, music, and prayers. Even the colours that we use to decorate the altar or that make up the priest's vestments reflect the current liturgical season and have specific meanings. The traditional liturgical colours are blue, white, purple, red, and green, although there are some variations to these colours as well.

So what time is it now in our liturgical year? There are actually a number of answers to that question, which I will be exploring in my newsletter article next week.





November is Cherish Our Church Month

when Parish Council asks us to prayerfully consider our giving to our church for 2021.

Of course, money is only one small way our family is giving. Without volunteers who give their time and talent, this wonderful church would not thrive.

To celebrate and encourage giving, we have asked some members to share their stories, briefly, each week in November.

May we be inspired by their willingness to participate and share.



Pie in the Sky?

It's probably not a surprise that there will be no tourtieres this November due to pandemic precautions.

But let's thank Ron and His Holy Rollers anyway for all the great work they do every year! (not forgetting everyone else who helps out with donated ingredients, filling prep and sales!)



Thanks everyone!

Report on the Diocesan Synod meeting, October 24

from Karen Masson, on her first year on Synod.

As your Synod Rep, I admit first I had to do some background on what is Synod. Synod is very much like our Vestry meeting at the church, only it is Vestry meeting or the Diocese of

Ottawa. Our diocese covers from Cornwall to Pembroke to Western Quebec, a very large area.

Also, I consulted our Anglican Diocese of Ottawa website which lists Outreach, Policies and Accountability, Vision and Mission as its priorities. There is a link for *Cross Talk*, our Anglican newspaper. There is a *Prayer Calendar* and over the course of a year, our parish and priest are prayed for. There are prayers available offering hope and comfort for us during this pandemic.

On Saturday, October 24th, there were 234 participants for our 140th Synod via Zoom and despite some small technical difficulties it all went smoothly. Legally our diocese has to meet annually, even during a pandemic so everyone is grateful for our technology. Synod usually happens over a weekend but today we were online for about three hours.

Some highlights from Bishop Shane Parker's speech: (paraphrased): We are a Diocesan Church, with parish ministries and community ministries. He asked us to focus on being children of the light, imitators of Jesus. He said COVID is a teacher and a revealer. The pandemic has shown how greed and exploitation causes harm; whereas love and compassion bring healing. We are all the Body of Christ. He asked us not to think of the Diocese as a "thing" and that the Diocese is asking where is God calling us to be? The Diocese is looking at our Parish ministries and wants to ensure that everyone will continue to be part of the Anglican ministry; that if in the future, churches that are struggling have to close, no-one will be abandoned.

Bishop Parker mentioned that the heightened awareness of racism shows we need more education regarding racism. There is a need to recognize how racism causes dehumanization - and hurts people. We need to always grow into the full stature of Christ.

Next, the Treasurer, Sanjay Grover, gave his presentation of the Diocese's finances. The Diocese has had a drop in revenue but he said things are starting to improve. The Diocese did receive a Federal Grant for wage subsidy from the Federal Government but finances are being carefully monitored, a review to be done in December. He told us the Diocese uses a fund accounting, which is an accounting system emphasizing accountability rather than profitability. The Diocese has total assets of \$102 million, up from 2019 which at \$90,858.77. He assured everyone that the Diocese investments are conservative and safe. The financial reports are posted in the Synod Journal.

We voted for members to four bodies: Diocesan Council, Provincial Council, Advisory Panel on the Termination of Clerical Appointments, and Trinity College Corporation.

The annual Synod report is available online [HERE](#). I urge you to read it - it contains lots of information about the Diocesan ministries we all support.

Of note, over the past 12 months, 58 refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Iraq, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have landed in Canada in cooperation with the Diocese of Ottawa and constituent groups and co-sponsors. The Diocese has applications in process with immigration, Refugees and Citizenship in Canada for 190 refugees who hope to arrive in Ottawa over the coming months and years.

The Diocese is blessed with many committed and strong clergy and lay people. There is a genuine "care" for the other, an openness to change and a spirit of collaboration. While the

way forward may not always be clear, there is a strong sense that we need to find new ways to share the Gospel and be the church in the world.

Highlights of the meeting, provided by the Diocese, can be consulted [HERE](#)



Blessings multiplied! We all received seeds as part of our Earth Day 2019 celebrations. Irene Emig is still celebrating with nasturtiums from the original distribution again this year.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

All Saints Day

**Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway**

- **First reading:** [Revelation 7: 9-17](#)
 - **Psalm:** [Psalm 34: 1-10, 22](#)
 - **Second reading:** [1 John 3: 1-3](#)
 - **Gospel:** [Matthew 5: 1-12](#)
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Your prayers are requested for the people of the United States as they vote this week for many positions in their federal government, especially for the office of President.

In the World. Pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa.

In Canada. Bishop Leslie Wheeler-Dame, the clergy and people of the Diocese of Yukon.

In our Diocese. Pray for the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; for the Area Parish of Mississippi Lake, including specially this week: Christ Church, Ashton - The Reverend Canon Mary Ellen Berry ;The Venerable Brian Kauk; The Reverend Rosemary Parker; for all clergy under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Ottawa.

In Our Community. We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for the leaders, staff, volunteers and clients of the Lanark County Food Bank.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. We pray for the family of Linda Nilson-Rogers as they grieve her loss., remembering especially her daughter, Sarah Spinks, who has lost her anchor. We ask for God's presence and His comfort for Ted MacDonald, recently admitted to hospital.

We ask for God's blessing on our members Calvin Bourne, Jim and Judith Bowen, Mary Bowen, Jean Brathwaite, Arthur Brydges, and Clarence and Marian Brydges.

We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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