

Creation Care with the Diocese of Ontario Green Group

Green Group passes resolution at 2021 Synod requesting churches to respond to call to care for creation

▶ 8



Shared leadership in Leeds Anglican Ministries

Clergy model provides fertile ground for creative collaboration

▶ 4

The parable of the Good Samaritan

Anglican Diocese of Ontario Foundation considers the Good Samaritan as an example of community outreach and shared partnerships in ministry.

▶ 2



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Dialogue

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Lent and Holy Week as hope for turbulent times

■ Bishop Oulton encourages Lenten observance to confront troubled and dark times in our modern age. ▶ 3



Stewardship through the season of Lent, Holy Week, Easter

Archdeacon **Wayne Varley** invites members of the Diocese of Ontario to continue a stewardship journey through the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter using his reflections as guideposts to holistic stewardship. ▶ 6

Anglican Diocese of Ontario Foundation pivots

Ven Bill Clarke
Diocese of Ontario Foundation

Just as people and parishes are pivoting from one direction to another during this pandemic, the Anglican Diocese of Ontario is also pivoting in its mission. In the beginning the Foundation's focus was on diocesan church buildings and parish ministries. In part it remains so, but with a greater emphasis on parish outreach and mission projects, less on bricks and mortar, save for accessibility projects. Then there was the development of outreach partnerships with other agencies such as the Kingston Community Foundation.

Now that the Diocese of Ontario is funding Reach and Stretch Grants for parish ministries. So then what makes the Foundation distinct from these diocesan programs?

The distinction is that the Foundation pivots further out into the communities that make up the Diocese of Ontario. In 2022 we will build on the relationships



The Anglican Diocese of Ontario Foundation, like the parable of the Good Samaritan, is continuing to build on community relationships to assist those on the margins and help others where least expected. Image-Shutterstock.

we have established to assist at the very margins of those communities. To go, and be with agencies and programs that serve people, who may never

have thought of either reaching out to a church community or would have expected help from said community. Is there a precedent?

I reflect upon the famous parable of the Good Samaritan. Has anyone ever given thought as to how the victim of the story, a Jew, feel about

his rescuer, his enemy, a Samaritan? Did he see or realize who it was who washed and bandaged his wounds? Did he resent or dismiss the innkeepers account of who had so generously provided for him as so much drivel or fanciful tale – “no Samaritan would ever have helped a Jew”. Or, just perhaps, did his heart and mind open to the possibility that what he had believed about those people all his life had been wrong? Did some, if not all, of his prejudice fall away from his heart like the scales did from Saul's eyes.

We can be like that Samaritan, we Anglican Christians, and help others by binding their wounds, helping where least expected, and so bring God's love where it was not experienced before. If you are excited by that possibility than prayerfully consider a monthly, or one time donation to the Anglican Foundation of Ontario and become a member of a part of our Church going out into the world to proclaim by action and word the love of God.



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Lenten Series: From Grief Toward Healing, Responding to the Crises of Our Times

Canon Valerie Kelly
Justice & Peace Commission

The last two years have created a lot of grief and consequently there's no shortage of topics to engage and reflect upon. The Justice & Peace Commission—Anglican & Roman Catholic—is offering four Zoom sessions on Wednesdays at 7pm beginning March 9. Speakers' presentations will be made available on the Diocese of Ontario's website (www.ontario.anglican.ca) and the Archdiocese of Kingston's

website (<https://romancatholic.kingston.on.ca>). Zoom link will be made available through the Diocese of Ontario communications in March.

The sessions will consider grief; grief as it pertains to the climate; how grief is experienced as “the other” and finally, looking at grief through hope. We recommend you follow the presentations in order as they will correspond to the movements of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus with

the final session preparing us for the hope of the Resurrection.

The Commission is grateful for the contributions of each speaker at Reid's Funeral Home, Green Group, Islamic Society, Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul and to Mark Hauser for overall assistance and recordings of the speakers.

The Commission looks forward to welcoming you in Lent! May the blessings of the season bring you to new life in Christ.

In the bulb there is a flower

In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise;
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness,
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

submitted by Alice De La Plante

Other little ships

Bishop Michael Oulton



This is a difficult article to compose. I am writing against the backdrop of lockdown and anti-vaccine mandate protests stretching into weeks in Ottawa, with the city under an intractable siege within the downtown core and the Parliamentary precinct. These protests have spread across the country, laying bare a seething rage that was just below the surface of our society. We will soon be moving into the third year of the global pandemic with patience waning, nerves frayed and rifts growing within our society. As our Synod Speaker last Fall, Bishop William Cliff, noted to me: "People are brittle, they are breaking easily."

The challenges of the global pandemic have been unique in that they have affected every aspect of life from our households to global international relationships. Added to this mess, are the growing international tensions between the NATO states and Russia over Ukraine, coupled with the increasing global influence of China while domestic human rights

in that country and Hong Kong are swept aside. I continually pray for all those who are bending every ounce of their energy to achieving peaceful, diplomatic and enduring solutions for all of these issues.

I remember a Facebook post that I saw during the first Lenten season of the global pandemic. As we finally emerged from Lent and began the journey through Holy Week, the writer declared: "This was the Lentiest, Lent I have ever Lented!" It spoke to the temper of the times which has only grown more intemperate as the months have dragged into years.

My belief though is that the Lenten observance and the journey through Holy Week is exactly what we need as followers of Jesus Christ in these times. We can confront the lack of light, ever growing storm clouds and angry voices with the Good News of the Gospel. It puts me in mind of a few words found in Mark's Gospel chapter 4, the story of Jesus calming the sea. After Jesus had taught the crowds on the shore



"I can imagine that as word spread through the flotilla, so to did the amazement that seized the disciples in the lead boat with Jesus. 'Who is this that even the wind and waves obey him?'" says Bishop Michael Oulton. Image-Shutterstock.

of the Sea of Galilee, he declared that they would now cross over to the other side of the sea.

The other side was the place of the unknown, the land of the Gerasenes, people who were not part of the Covenant. Fore-shadowing the confrontation Jesus would have with the demon possessed man in that land, a great tempest suddenly arose. Jesus was asleep in the stern while the disciples struggled to keep the boat afloat and to make matters worse it was during the pitch black of night. We know the story, how

Jesus rebuked the winds with the words: "Peace, be still". The disciples were astounded by what they saw.

But these are not the few words which are in sharp focus for me today. They are found in a brief, seemingly insignificant sentence of nine words: "And there were also with him, other little ships." This is where you and I find ourselves, sailing toward an unknown land, with the tempest raging, struggling to keep our little boat afloat. Jesus is somewhere at the head of this threatened flotilla.

What was he doing in that lead boat? We might assume he was struggling along with the disciples who accompanied him. I would wager that the last thing we would surmise, as we struggled to keep our own boat from swamping, was that he was fast asleep in the stern!

Suddenly, the storm is stilled, the struggles cease and the welcome stillness of the night was adorned with a starlit sky spread above them. I can imagine that as word spread through the flotilla, so to did the amazement that

seized the disciples in the lead boat with Jesus. "Who is this that even the wind and waves obey him?"

The answer can be found in the story that began our Lenten observance. Jesus had faced a tempest of a different sort in that story, when at his weakest point, he was confronted with the temptations of the devil. Encouraged to attend to his own survival through the divine provision of sustenance, security and power, Jesus chose the path of faith and trust after which angels came and ministered to him. What was a tempest on the sea compared to that? More a tempest in a teapot given Jesus' trust in divine deliverance.

We can face the turbulent times around us with confidence, hope and certainty for Christ is in our midst. This is the hope that attends me as I sail along in my own little boat, trying to navigate the turmoil of the times. Better still, we are not sailing toward an unknown land but toward that which is fully known, the entrance of which is illuminated through an empty tomb occupied only with folded grave clothes and an angel who declares: "He is not here!" "He is risen!"

May that trust and certainty be with you through Lent, Holy Week and Easter as we sail along into the future that is known, certain and secured in Christ. Tempest indeed! I guess this article was not as difficult to write as I thought!

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Shared Leadership

An emerging model for the Church

Rev. Trish Miller

Our conventional model of clergy leadership has been a solo incumbent with a single or multi-point parish. As the Anglican Church of Canada has changed over the years, especially in rural areas due to depopulation and decline in church participation, this has the potential for creating a crisis in clergy leadership for some areas. In Leeds Anglican Ministries (LAM), the four parishes of Kitley, Lansdowne Rear, Leeds Rear and the Rideau entered into a covenant in 2016 sharing two full-time clergy, an incumbent and priest associate, instead of remaining apart and trying to attract part-time clergy. From the beginning, shared leadership was modelled, with clergy alternating weekly wor-

ship services and parish meetings and representatives from all parishes participating in the area ministry council, affectionately known as LAM Shepherds. On January 1, 2022, LAM celebrated a renewal of this ministry and the switching of the clergy roles, with the Rev. Trish Miller becoming the Incumbent and the Ven. Nancy MacLeod becoming the Priest Associate. This model of shared leadership isn't about seniority or power, but rather can be fluid with the transfer of responsibilities while prioritizing the goals of the church in the world, in this time and place.

What are some of the benefits of shared clergy leadership? At its heart it is relational - a kinship that reflects the image of our relational Triune God as a model for our



Communication is critical in shared clergy leadership – knowing when to share and when to listen! (L) Venerable Nancy MacLeod, (R) Rev. Trish Miller (photo taken pre-pandemic). Photo-Rev. Trish Miller.

parish leaders. Especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a blessing to be in this clergy kinship to lessen feelings of isolation and to share the burdens of ministry. Shared clergy leadership also offers a fertile ground for creative collaboration. We learn from each other and can interactively build on ideas to resolve problems or develop new ministry

initiatives. That collaborative nature extends to all parish teams leading to new, vibrant expressions of the gospel in our part of the vineyard.

Sounds great, right?! Spoiler alert: shared clergy leadership won't work in every context. What makes LAM work isn't the sheer will of the clergy to make it work. Rather, the parishes entered into this area ministry covenant

through prayerful discernment and continue to develop their relationships with one another as they live out their calling in this ministry. It also helps to have clergy who bring different gifts and experiences but have a shared commitment to the ministry as servant leaders. And of course, communication is critical – both in expressing thoughts and ideas as well

as intentional listening.

LAM is grateful to Bishop Michael for his leadership and in trusting the Spirit to lead us through this emerging model of area ministry. And as clergy in LAM we give thanks for the inspiring gifts our lay leaders share in bringing good news of God's Kingdom to our communities and beyond.

AFC: Say Yes! to Kids 2022

AFC Communications

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) is stepping up its commitment to young people across Canada with an even more ambitious plan to fund ministry and outreach to children, youth, and young adults this year.

At its November meeting, the AFC Board approved a campaign plan for Say Yes! to Kids 2022, setting a \$500,000 goal and introducing an innovative partnership model of fundraising. "Our hope is that this campaign will be both empowering and energizing," says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director, "enabling our churches to harness the power of peer-to-peer (P2P) fundraising to grow sustainable revenue streams for youth programs, while connecting them with other churches across Canada, as well as diocesan and national ministries, that are growing a brighter future for young people, today." Brubacher says that



the 2021 campaign and Request for Proposals (RFPs)—where 79 projects received a total of \$470,000 in funding—was a valuable learning experience for AFC. "Grant recipients demonstrated a stunning combination of compassion and creative thinking. They also showed us the depth of relationships that exist between churches and their communities." Brubacher says Say Yes! to Kids will help to provide the resources needed to strengthen these connections and partnerships so the church can "continue to be a catalyst for re-engaging with children

and families in a time of pandemic recovery."

The Very Rev. Peter Wall, AFC's Gift Consultant, is excited about this campaign's potential to attract leadership gifts. "There was, and is, a real appetite among donors to support a community-based movement for youth. We believe a national campaign that is strong in its numbers and coordinated in its approach can connect money to mission in a truly transformational way."

Michelle Hauser, AFC's Development and Communications Consultant says, "Any Anglican

parish in Canada with a vision for outreach to young people is eligible to apply to form a fundraising team and campaign alongside like-minded parishes nationwide from April 1 to June 30." Hauser says teams will be able to set their own fundraising goals, and they will receive support with communications, case development, and training from AFC throughout the campaign. "Teams will also benefit from an AFC-led leadership giving campaign that will boost their efforts, including matching gifts."

Those who wish to learn more about Say Yes! to Kids should visit anglicanfoundation.org/say-yes-to-kids to register for an upcoming webinar and download AFC's campaign FAQs sheet. "I also encourage anyone who has questions to reach out to me directly," says Hauser, who can be reached at mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org.

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Say Yes! to Kids is back, and better than ever!

Who is eligible

- Any Anglican parish in Canada with a vision for ministry and outreach to young people.

When

- Apply now and campaign alongside your peers nationwide from April 1 to June 30.

Why

- Raise the funds you need to bring your church's vision for youth ministry to life.
- Reconnect with families in your community by raising awareness about your youth programs.

How much

- Each team establishes its own fundraising goal.
- Salaries, equipment costs, and capital improvements can be included in your case for support.

Help our church grow a brighter future for young people, today! Visit anglicanfoundation.org/say-yes-to-kids

Diocese of Ontario Green Group Seeks help with Creation Care efforts

Paula Walker
Diocesan Green Group

For over ten years the Diocese of Ontario Green Group met almost monthly for potluck suppers in the homes of members. Discussions led to plans for promoting creation care in our diocese. When the global pandemic began in March of 2020 and we were no longer able to meet in person we moved to Zoom meetings. We were concerned with how much we would get done without the fellowship of the table to encourage us. Almost two years later we thank God we have been able to keep going in a productive way.

Members continue to contribute articles for Dialogue for each issue and items are regularly submitted to eNews.

In September we presented a six week creation care webinar series to coincide with the Season of Creation. Topics included: a Biblical case for climate care, climate justice, spiritual care in a time of climate crisis, working faithfully with government, and climate change and sacred spaces. The series concluded with Bishop Michael's presentation: The Earth is the Lord's and the Fullness Thereof. All sessions are still available on the Diocese of Ontario Green Group YouTube channel. We are grateful to Rev.

Dr. Ian Ritchie for setting up and maintaining our channel and for keeping our Facebook page up to date. Ian has also produced webinars on electric cars and cold weather heat pumps which are available for viewing.

Last summer we launched a creation care survey for parishes in our diocese. The survey remains available on our website and offers many ideas that may be used by churches considering creation care.

Currently we are working on adding information to our website which can be found on our diocesan website under mission @ <https://www.ontario.anglican.ca/mission/diocese-of-ontario-green-group>. Access to the creation care survey, the YouTube channel, and our previous Dialogue articles can be found there. We are adding resources that may be useful to churches as we respond to our call to care for creation.

It is our hope and prayer that these resources may be helpful, as we face the challenges of global warming. Your diocesan Green Group would like to hear from you. We can all be inspired by hearing what each church is doing. You can contact us anytime at greengroup@ontario.anglican.ca.



At our diocesan Synod in October, 2021, The Green Group presented a seven part resolution pertaining to climate change.

This resolution was passed and now begins the work of implementing it!

Be it resolved that this Synod of the Diocese of Ontario:

1. Recognizes, on behalf of the parishes of the Diocese of Ontario, that there is a growing global climate emergency.
2. Encourages the diocese and its parishes to continue making the Baptismal Covenant and the fifth Mark of Mission a priority in our stewardship.
3. Urges every Anglican in the diocese to reduce their personal carbon footprint.
4. Requests parishes to continue the development and implementation of action plans including reducing their carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 over 2018 levels and to report annually to Synod Council on progress being made.
5. Directs Synod Council to recognize the climate emergency as a strategic priority in program development and budgeting
6. Seeks to collaborate with other partners to strengthen our voice on the climate emergency.
7. Requests the Green Group to organize education opportunities about the climate emergency throughout the Diocese.

The Synod resolution reflects our baptismal promise to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth."

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Stewardship Reflections

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary - Liturgical Year C

The following reflections are intended to encourage individuals, parishes and others to think about biblical and holistic stewardship and serve as guideposts along the way of our individual and collective faith journey. Bless you throughout the holy season of Lent by your self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and reading and meditating on the word of God. Strengthen you with the joy, power and reality of resurrection in your lives and be filled with the Spirit of love so that we may give witness to the risen Christ. Loving God, in the midst of hard times, and in the midst of good times, we are grateful for joyful generosity. Thank you for your generosity to us and for the privilege of sharing in service. Amen.

Season of Lent Holy Week Easter Season

MARCH 2, 2022

A reflection based on Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

MARCH 6, 2022

A reflection based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11

MARCH 13, 2022

A reflection based on Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

MARCH 20, 2022

A reflection based on Isaiah 55:1-9

MARCH 27, 2022

A reflection based on Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

APRIL 3, 2022

A reflection based on John 12: 1-8

APRIL 10, 2022

A reflection based on Luke 19:28-40

APRIL 14, 2022

A reflection based on John 13:1-17, 31b-35

APRIL 15, 2022

A reflection based on Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

APRIL 16 & 17, 2022

A reflection based on the readings of the day

APRIL 24, 2022

A reflection based on John 20:19-31

MAY 1, 2022

A reflection based on John 21:1-19

MAY 8, 2022

A reflection based on John 10:22-30

MAY 15, 2022

A reflection based on John 13:31-35

MAY 22, 2022

A reflection based on Psalm 67

MAY 26, 2022

A reflection based on Acts 1:1–11

MAY 29, 2022

A reflection based on Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

ASH WEDNESDAY: Jesus points out that we ought to choose carefully what our life treasures are to be. To whom or what are we being called to commit ourselves during Lent 2022?

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT: Moses teaches about “first-fruits giving” as our response to how we are preserved and strengthened. What does this biblical passage say to us about our faithful stewardship?

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: God assures us that we are beloved and counted by God as being among God’s own. What are a few ways that we may nurture this gift in a spirit of thanksgiving?

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT: “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy?” The meaning of money is set within the context of God’s agenda, and we are called to be faithful stewards of God’s present and future so that the hungry will be fed; the captives and the oppressed will be liberated; the blind will see, and the poor will hear Good News!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT: It is never too late to become a faithful steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been so all along. Blessed is the younger brother who came to understand the value of what he had been given. Blessed is the father who made his prodigal son feel welcome.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: I trust that all of us are deepening our understanding and practice of faithful stewardship. What is our motivation in being stewards? What are a few ways that we are taking care of the needs of others?

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY: Jesus is praised and his holy name is blessed. We know that many will call for him to be crucified. What does this passage say to us about stewardship? Are we unwavering or caught up in moments of excitement? Jesus gives witness to what it truly means to care over time.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: This evening faithful stewards are mindful of how much we are loved by Christ. In turn, who are we called to lovingly serve in 2022 through the offering of our talent, time and treasure?

GOOD FRIDAY: Isaiah offers a moving depiction of a man’s suffering, humiliation and then his triumph. We may understand that the supreme revelation of this is Jesus and his self-giving love. In what ways does this inspire us anew as faithful stewards?

EASTER: The biblical accounts of Easter repeat again and again the various ways in which God is part of the lives of people and creation inviting us anew to care for nurture that presence. Bless you this Easter season with grace and joy in your ministry as disciples of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: “As God has sent me, so I send you”, says Jesus to his disciples. What are ways within which we are being sent with the story of Easter faith in our communities and the wider world?

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER: Jesus instructs Peter to “feed my lambs...tend my sheep... feed my sheep.” Who are we called to feed and tend this Easter season and what resources do we require in carrying out hospitality and ministry?

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: Jesus informs people that those belonging to him hear his voice. How are we doing thus far in 2022 hearing his voice as individuals and in our faith communities?

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: It has been observed that the global pandemic invites the church to return to basics: Love God and our neighbour, and how better can we affirm our discipleship and faithful stewardship!

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: The Psalmist declares, “The earth has brought forth increase; may God, our own God give us his blessing.” May we covenant with God and our neighbour to return generously to God and serve others in God’s name with a spirit of gratitude.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: We have received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit empowering us to be Jesus’ witnesses around the world. What are a few ways that we use our talent, time and treasure in this life-giving work?

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: This challenging passage of scripture reminds us that stewardship is about conversion of heart and mind to discipleship. What are a few ways that I and my parish are being called anew to conversion in 2022 and beyond?

Abide With Me

Abide with us: for it is towards evening, and the day is far spent. -- Luke xiv. 29

*Abide with me! Fast falls the Eventide;
The darkness thickens, Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see,
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!*

*Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;
But as Thou dwellest with thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free, --
Come, not to sojourn, but abide with me.*

*Come not in terrors, as the King of kings;
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea,
Come, Friend of sinners and thus abide with me.*

*Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me!*

*I need thy presence every passing hour,
What but thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me!*

*I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness,
Where is death's sting? where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold then thy cross before my closing eyes;
Speak through the gloom, and point me to the skies,
Heaven's morning breaks, and Earth's vain shadows flee!
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!*

Henry Francis Lyte

Abide with me

Diana Duncan-Fletcher

*“Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
“In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.”*

The words above are two lines out of the hymn ‘Abide with Me,’ often sung at funerals and remembrance ceremonies. The hymn asks God to remain with them throughout life and death. It was written by Anglican priest, Henry Francis Lyte, in 1820, and first sung at his funeral in 1847. All the words are meaningful and thought provoking-- especially now. Take a few minutes to read through the whole hymn. If you don't have a hymnal and have a computer, the words are available on Google. There were, originally, eight stanzas to this hymn. Usually only five verses are sung these days. The others also have powerful words.

I have recently been saddened by the deaths of a number of special people in my life. The COVID-19 pandemic has



‘Abide with Me’ was written by Anglican priest Henry Francis Lyte in 1820. Photo-Shutterstock.

made life very difficult for those left behind to mourn loved ones. Often funerals and celebration of life ceremonies have been unable to be held. Sometimes the rules allow for very limited attendance. It used to be a time when family and friends shared together, hugged, cried, ate comfort foods and reached out. Now, sadly, telephone calls or cards are the best way of connecting. I feel it is not really a closure for those suffering. Nothing

beats a heartfelt hug. I well remember how much that helped when my father died in 1996, and my husband, George, died in 1999. Touch really counted. “I need Thy presence every passing hour. ...Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.”

While everything appears to have changed in our present world, the one thing that has not is God. That is well expressed in this hymn. “O Thou who changest not, abide with me.”

We are about to begin Lent with Ash Wednesday falling on the 2nd of March. During the 40 days of Lent, we are given a time of preparation, and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection. It prepares our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter. The three main things we should focus on during Lent are:

Prayer (considering our need for God's forgiveness, and receiving God's mercy and love); Fasting (giving up something that is a regular part of our lives – e.g. not eating desserts, or limiting our computer time – as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. This gives us an

opportunity to use that time connecting with God); Giving (responding to God's grace by giving of our time, generosity, or love to others – e.g. perhaps by using the money, normally used on oneself for coffee or a treat, instead on others, or by calling someone who is alone and lonely, and needs to hear someone really cares).

For forty days we are given this opportunity to make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday, and resurrection on Easter, even more meaningful. Use this time wisely. “I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; ...I triumph still, if Thou abides with me.”

One past Lent, I wrote forty personal letters to family and friends. It was much appreciated. Perhaps this is something you might consider? A friend took forty photographs showing our beautiful world and added Scripture verses to accompany them. I think that you can come up with your own gift.

Thanks be to God!
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A typical take-out lunch to feed the hungry during lockdowns through Lunch by George, five days a week, 100 meals a day, year-round

Photo credit: Brad Barbeau

partnerships, has the power to engage new members and friends, responding in creative ways to ministry opportunities through our diocese and communities we serve. Imagine a Church which these ministries and programmes have the resources they need to thrive.

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Since 2009 to date, the Foundation has awarded \$240,311 in grants to parishes and community groups, especially since early 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To all visionary and committed supporters of the Anglican community and friends as well as those in partnership with the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area...

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Please check our website for up-to-date information and news, illustrating how to make a legacy or other gift, and to apply for a programme or ministry grant, directly through the Foundation or by application to the Fearless Generosity Fund of the Community Foundation for Kingston & Area. Let's make 2022 a very special, compassionate and thoughtful year of thanksgiving and community-building.

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Dwight D. Eisenhower

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