

Deanery of Sudbury-Manitoulin  
Deanery Council Meeting - February 26, 2022  
Archdeacon's Report

To the saints serving Christ in the various congregations within this Deanery I greet you all in the name of Jesus with thanksgiving for the amazing work you are doing within your own parish and throughout the Deanery.

We continue to cope with the restrictions brought on by the spread of the Covid-19 virus and to date I am not aware of any cases of that spread being caused by a congregation within this Deanery (or the Diocese for that matter). You are all to be commended for the careful way you have conducted the ministry to which we have been called while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in creative and new ways. While we all were aware of the technology to broadcast services the pandemic has pushed many of us into this different way of worshiping God and even though it may have been against our will the adaptation to this new technology has been, in my opinion, quite impressive. The months to which we are approaching will see the first Easter during which we may have in person worship since the pandemic was announced. I know that congregations are making plans within the protocols to honour this holy feast in beautiful ways. I pray that God will guide us through His Holy Spirit to expand our imaginations as we make our plans.

A number of changes have taken place within the life of the Deanery. For instance, we celebrate with the congregation at the Church of the Ascension as they welcome the Rev. Jeffrey Hooper as their latest incumbent effective January 1, 2022. We had hoped to celebrate this new ministry but given the rise in Covid 19 cases that we witnessed in the first part of the year it was felt to be a wiser course to delay this service until a later date. An announcement will be made once a date has been chosen. May God bless this new ministry relationship.

The congregation of St. Thomas in French River decided to request permission to sell their building which required a Deconsecration ceremony held in October. The building has since been sold and the remaining congregation continue to receive ministry from the Rev. Bev van der Jagt as they map out their next steps.

We continue to mourn the death of so many of our valued members. In each parish there have been funerals held for long-time members and we pray with, and for, their families as they grieve. The hope of resurrection continues to help us see a wondrous day. Of those significant deaths were two of our clergy: the Rev. Henk Willems, and the Rt. Rev. Tom Corston. While we mourn we celebrate the beautiful impact both of these men had on the congregations in which they served. Close to 100 years of combined service to Christ is wrapped up in these two lives and we miss them terribly while we rejoice that they have moved into the nearer presence of our Lord. *We continue to pray to God - the giver of all comfort that he would: Deal graciously with those who mourn, that casting every care on Him, they may know the consolation of God's love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.* With the death of Rev. Henk the Parish of Elliot Lake is now in a period of searching for their next incumbent. During the interim Lutheran and Anglican pastors, along with the Lay Readers and Honourary Assistant at St. Peters, are conducting regular worship services as I serve them as the acting incumbent. Please pray for God's discernment in the search for their next leader. The move of Fr. Jeff to the Ascension has meant a change in the service leadership arrangement at St. Alban's in Capreol. Parochial Lay Readers from some congregations in Sudbury supplement the leadership provided by their Lay Reader and I, as

Archdeacon, also serve them as their acting incumbent.

Moving forward we look to the day when restrictions are further eased and we can gather in larger numbers to celebrate the wonder of being in God's family with God's family in person. I commend the work of the group in the Ecclesiastical Province and our Diocese responsible for guiding those steps through the protocols that have been developed. As case numbers descend and certain thresholds appear I trust that efforts to bring back things like singing and fellowship hours will be handled with the same care that all the other steps have been handled. Your Executive Committee, along with the Archbishop's Council, will likely be discussing some of these matters at the upcoming meeting in early March.

Another change that is coming is that at this meeting we will be asked to elect a Lay Steward and I'm pleased to share the biographical information which Mara Waern has provided as she puts her name forward as a nominee for this position. Should Mara be elected she would fill the position left vacant when Chantal Rozon chose to step down at the end of her four year term.

I close this report officially informing the Deanery Council of my intention to retire at the end of June 2022. It has been such a pleasure and privilege for me to work alongside you for these past 21 years (I took on the incumbency at Christ Church in Lively on March 1, 2001) in a variety of roles. My wife, Mary Beth, and I have decided to look for an apartment in the Sudbury area. As I prepare for this next stage in my journey I give thanks to God for the support of so many wonderful people that I will not risk naming anyone at the risk of missing someone. Please know that I have loved my time here and I look forward to what God has in store in my 'retirement' years.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Glen Miller +