

Deanery of Sudbury-Manitoulin  
Deanery Council Meeting - May 14, 2022  
Archdeacon's Report

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”*  
(1 Peter 1:3-5)

St. Peter wrote those words to the early Christian Church whose members had been dispersed due to persecution throughout the Roman Empire. The unity of Christ was what held them together even though they were physically separated and we see evidence through an historical lens that God did indeed bless their ministry. You and I have not been physically dispersed but we have been forced to separate and to depend on the unity that comes through our relationship with Jesus Christ. History will also declare that God has blessed our ministries in ways we did not expect. I give thanks to God once more for the diligence and dedication of all who are part of the Anglican portion of the Body of Christ in this Deanery. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and declare its power to heal and restore as we welcome each other in Jesus' name and continue to reach into our neighbourhoods with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

When we met as a Deanery Council in February the world around us was very different than it is today. Pope Francis had not yet apologized for the Roman Catholic Church's involvement in Residential Schools and that has now happened. The people of Ukraine were living in a relatively peaceful state and that has now been tragically destroyed by an invasion by Russian military forces. The Archbishop of Canterbury had not yet visited Canada with his gracious apology for the Church of England in Canada's involvement in the Residential Schools prior to the establishment of the Anglican Church of Canada and that has now happened. Many other changes and challenges have taken place over the past few months including the limited return of singing in our public worship services. The Covid - 19 pandemic has not yet been declared to be over but the world has gotten better at coping with its effects. Still, many thousands of people are suffering from the effects of this terrible disease and so vigilance is still necessary. Thank you all for your prayers and faithful actions as we respond to the various challenges facing us in these days. God has indeed provided ample evidence of His presence in our world and in our Churches. As the days of summer approach and the growing season begins may God's blessing be upon our farmers and our tourist areas and may we share those blessings with others.

Among our many blessings was the opportunity provided by the Church of the Epiphany to gather for an Easter Vigil service for the first time since 2019. The in-person and virtual hybrid service was a step into our new world and seems to have been received well. The Rev. Charles Nolting provided the sermon and the choir did a beautiful job under somewhat challenging conditions. Thanks be to God for this chance to gather and sing God's praises. Another hybrid service was held the week after when a Celebration of New Ministry service was held for the congregation of the Church of the Ascension and their new priest the Rev. Jeffrey Hooper. Those

who attended that service were blessed by a sermon by the Ven. Marie Loewen and some lovely singing. Our next opportunity to get together in person as a Deanery family will come at the end of June. As you know by now I will be retiring from full time parish ministry at the end of June and so I invite you to a 'come and go' reception in the afternoon of June 26. The location will be confirmed soon I am told and will be communicated in advance of the date. I would ask that any gifts be in the form of a donation to the charity of your choice but I would love to see as many of you as possible sometime between 12:30 and 5 pm on the 26th. While I will be retiring from parish ministry the Archbishop has asked that I continue as the Deanery Archdeacon for the time being. In that role I will be providing Eucharistic ministry to the congregations of St. Alban's in Capreol, St. Peter's in Elliot Lake as well as providing vacation coverage for some of the Deanery Clergy. All of this will follow a 3 week vacation in the beginning of July. I continue to give thanks for the years I have spent with all of you in this Deanery and I look forward to a continued relationship over the years to come.

One of the Wardens from St. Christopher's Church in McGregor Bay contacted me with a request for some service leadership throughout the summer. Any lay or ordained person interested in providing liturgical leadership at St. Christopher's is asked to contact me in order to arrange details. The congregation will provide boat transportation to and from the Church and the Rectory is available for overnight stays. St. John's in Biscotasing is also opening for in person worship and would welcome lay or ordained people to come and lead worship with them during the summer. Again, please contact me if you are interested.

On a final note I would ask that all congregations confirm that the annual returns which are supposed to be sent to the Synod Office have indeed been sent. There are a number of missing reports, according to the Synod Office staff so if you have been meaning to send them in take this as a nudge. I will be contacting the congregations on the list I was provided in the days and weeks to come. I close with the words that St. Peter used at the end of his second epistle to the dispersed Christians. *'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and o the day of eternity. Amen'* (2 Peter 3:18).

Respectfully submitted with apologies for my absence,  
the Ven. Glen Miller  
Archdeacon of Sudbury-Manitoulin