**A group of people in a circle

Description automatically generated ST. THOMAS’ ANGLICAN**

**CHURCH**

August 21– August 27, 2025

4 Mary St, Bracebridge, Ont., P1L 2B6

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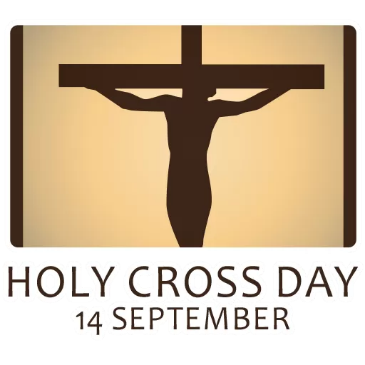
**Messages From Rev. Phelan**

If you know anyone who is not able to make it to church, whether at home or in the hospital, and would like to take communion, please let me know. Due to privacy laws, the hospital does NOT call the church to let us know, so we depend on you. Thanks

The monthly ‘Bible verse to memorize’ for August is: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him." John 1:6-7

**Communion Services**

This week I visited both James Street Place and Castlepeak to reach some of our shut-in parishioners and offer them communion. Thank you to both Ross McLean and John Mitchell for their assistance with these services.



**Holy Cross Day**

On September 14th, Bishop Poole will be at St. Thomas. **Holy Cross Day**, commemorates [the cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/True_Cross) used in the [crucifixion of Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion_of_Jesus). It celebrates the Cross itself, as the sign of [salvation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvation).  He asks you to bring your crosses and crucifixes with you that day if you would like them to be blessed.

**Collect of the Day**

You will find strips of paper with a marker or pencil in the pews. This is for you to write down your prayer concerns anonymously and then place the paper on the altar either before or after the service so they can be addressed. I will “collect” the thoughts of the congregation to add them to the Collect of the Day. **Please use them.**

**Summer Schedule**

Phelan has made a summer schedule that starts June 29th. The Archbishop has offered The Rev. Margaret Morrison to assist us during the period of July-August, as Phelan would need to be in three congregations at the same time. Thank you to those who have also offered to help at the 3 churches. The monthly calendar posted in the hallway will let you know who is leading the service each Sunday.

**Our Vision**

At the June Parish Council meeting, we were asked what our vision for the church is. The wardens and I have brainstormed, and our vision is to spread God’s word by:

1. **Introducing ourselves to every household in Bracebridge.** Soon, we will begin a canvassing of Bracebridge. It is not our tradition to bother people at their homes; we simply take the flyer (soon to be printed) and place it in the door handle or behind the door. If a homeowner is out and visible, it is best to say, "I have a flyer from the church; may I leave it at your door?"  You will soon see a map of Bracebridge downstairs: all you need to do is take some flyers, mark the street you are doing with the highlighter, and complete delivery; it may be best to start with your own street or one close by. This approach has worked in the past in several parishes in which Phelan worked.
2. **Do a better job explaining our liturgy.** You may notice the laminated pew cards. They are there to help explain what goes on in an Anglican service. The word 'liturgy', which describes ordered public worship, means, "the work of the people". We feel the presence of God in worship when we better understand the meaning and purpose of liturgy.

**Phelan+**

**From the Wardens**

Rev. Phelan is part-time at our parish and is already working full-time hours, thus**, Rev Phelan asks to be free of parish related engagements, between Sunday afternoon until Tuesday morning,** when the office reopens. This includes all emails, texts and calls.

**Holiday Time**

A cartoon of a person holding a bag

AI-generated content may be incorrect.It is that time of year again when our Rev Phelan is off on a much-deserved holiday for the month of September. We will be having different people cover the services at our church in his absence. In case of pastoral emergency people can call The Reverend Margaret Morrison at 705-644-9545 or The Reverend Terry Bennett at 705-329-0289; otherwise, the wardens and the office will know how to reach other clergy should the need arise.

**Our Regular Services**

Sunday, August 24th, Pentecost XI at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Phelan Scanlon leading. Here are the readings for this week –Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; Hebrews

12:19-29 and Luke 13: 10-17. This Friday’s Service at 10 am is a BCP service.

**September Incumbents**

Here is the schedule of leaders for the services held during Phelan’s holiday.

September 7 – Ross McLean

September 14 – Bishop Poole (Eucharist service)

September 21 – Rev Margaret Morrison & John Mitchell

September 28 – John Mitchell with Connie and Rob Knighton

**Prayer Group**

Join us to pray on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Rector’s office

**New Parish Summer Office Hours**: The office is open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Fridays 9:00am – 12pm. On Wednesdays from 12-2pm the homeless are offered frozen meals, gift cards and clothing if available. All donations are appreciated!

**Parish Council:** Our last Parish Council Meeting was on July 8th where we discussed the finances of the church**.** The minutes from the meeting are posted on the bulletin board in the hall. Our next meeting will be on September 9th at 6pm.

A church with stained glass windows

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**WARNING**

Watch out for falling balloons in the church! They are left over from Ascension Sunday! Still waiting for the final few to descend!

**Day by Day**

Day by Day is a daily devotion booklet that has suggested readings, inspiring stories, thought provoking questions and of course prayers. The **Aug/Sept/Oct** booklets are now available at the Greeter’s table with a suggested donation of $1 to help cover their cost. **Only a few left!**

**Birthdays For August**

Happy August birthday to Kathleen Jay, Dave Hough, Iris Jones and Jackie Stirrup! We want to celebrate with YOU, so please let us know when your birthday is.

A cartoon of a toothbrush with paste

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Outreach**

We like to offer them frozen prepared meals such as soups, pasta dishes or stews. This week we also had baked goods brought in and purchased frozen meals which are also appreciated. Our freezer needs refilling. If you would like to add food to our freezer, please be sure to write on it what it contains and the date so we can keep our freezer current. We can provide you with containers if needed. **We have also had requests for toiletries (small toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, new fresh socks, etc).** We are now out of bags to send the donations home with them. Thank you to all who donated!

**Garden Group**

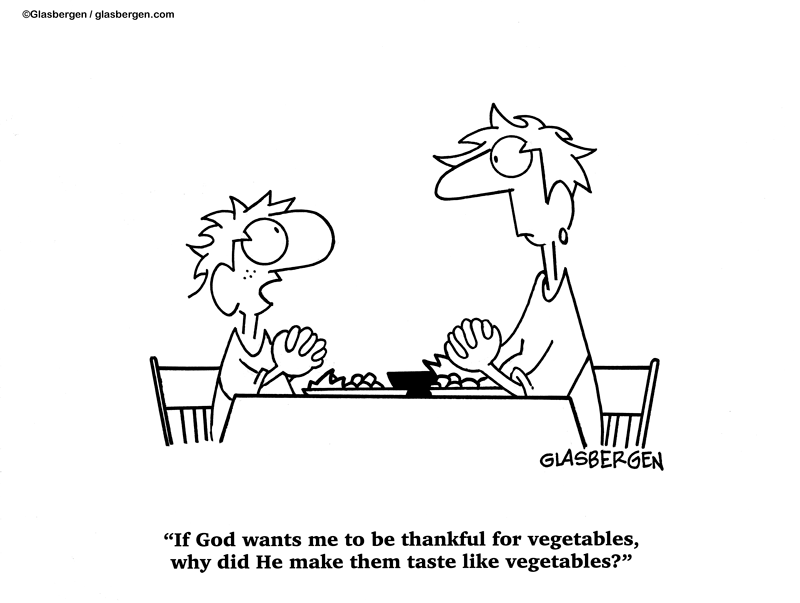
Our Garden group meet each Wednesday at 10 am and stay for an hour and are looking for new recruits for next summer as two of our volunteers will be stepping down. **Can you spare an hour a week for our gardens?**

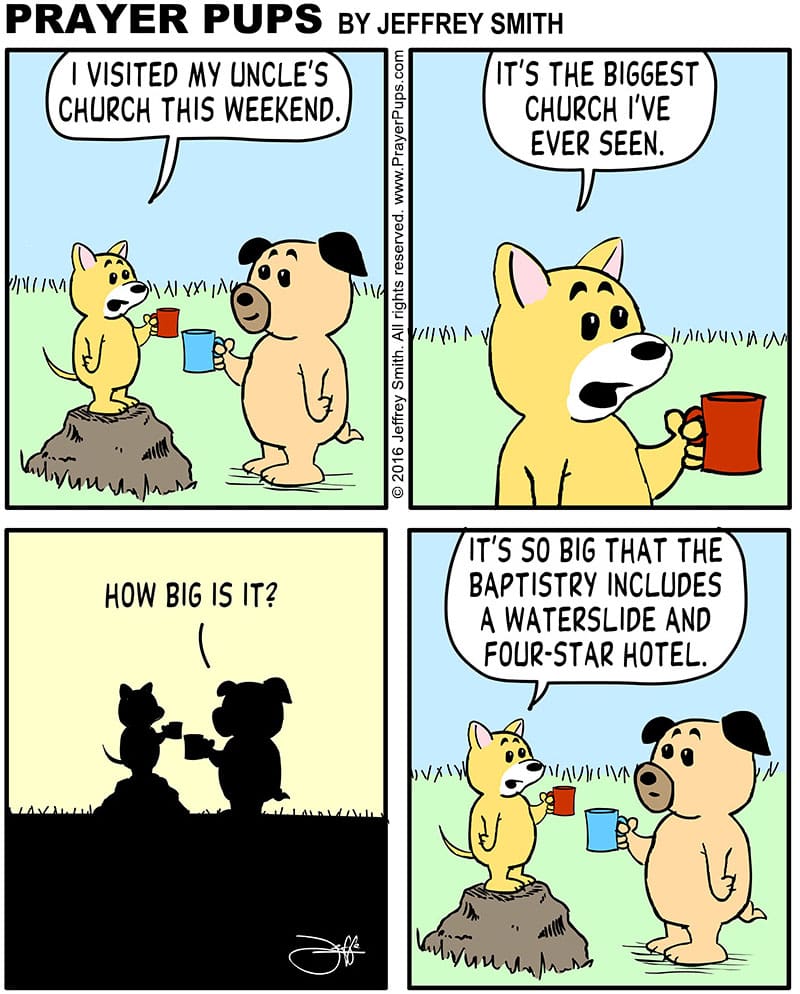
**Messy Church**

This coming season, please promote and support Messy Church to the extent you can. Numbers have been falling off a bit and we would like to see that change. The first full session will be Friday, October 24th from 5:30 to 7pm (Halloween is the last Friday; can't do it then). Normally, Messy Church is the last Friday of the month. In September there will be a dinner and a registration night; more to come about that.

Cartoon of a person speaking into a crowd of people

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Please see Ann Marie in the office to get a letter for a police check to work with the children.

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A cartoon of a person at a podium

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**A person in a hard hat using a flooring tool

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**We have raised

$3285.50

to date!

Don’t forget that if you put your name on the donation envelope, it will go towards your yearly tax receipt! Thank You!

**Hello Church Family! July/August**

****Weather permitting, you’ll hear harp music floating through the air on the first and third Fridays, from 11:30am - 12:30 pm. Come bring a coffee or tea, and relax in the beautiful church courtyard, recreated by Peggy! (Rainy days I will be in the church sanctuary.)

On random Saturdays, I will be plucking those harp strings streetside, serenading the market goers and passersby.

All Welcome! Iris