



# St. Peter's Anglican Church

Reaching out to St. Peter's Community  
776 Brimley Road, Scarborough ON, M1J 1C6

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 @stpetersscarborough  
 "St. Peter's Anglican Church Scarborough"

## Thanksgiving Edition

Welcome to the eleventh edition of St. Peter's Newsletter



### A Thanksgiving Blessing

One of the realities that has become evident through this tumultuous year is how important it is to be thankful for the little things in life. COVID-19 has challenged our complacencies around how we can gather with friends and family. Something that was easily done in the past, requires thought and planning. And I admit as an extrovert, I have missed our social gatherings at St. Peter's, especially around specific celebrations. But I feel so deeply blessed by gathering together in worship. Although we cannot sing, we can see one another and join in a tangible act of communion.

We have also learned to give more obvious thanks to those who support our communities with essential services during a devastating virus. Health Care workers have had to isolate themselves from their own families in order to keep them safe. And some have lost their lives to the disease. Indeed, all First Responders take risks every day for the benefit of others. And of course, we are thankful for all the people of St. Peter's who have supported one another in a variety of ways and those who helped shape our safe return to worship.

I know there are those who are wishing we were able to move forward with amalgamation at a quicker pace. We sometimes need to dig deep to be thankful for a slower course ahead. I used

the image of a wolf pack in a recent sermon; the weakest of the pack lead the pace and the stronger are in the middle and at the end. To the wolf pack staying all together is more important than having the fastest mark the pace. We can find thankfulness in a community that wants no one to be left behind.

Is it always easy to be thankful in trying times? Of course, it isn't easy, but it is faithful. God's Spirit is among us giving us the courage to believe and have hope. And God with us no matter what, is the most important cause for thankfulness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



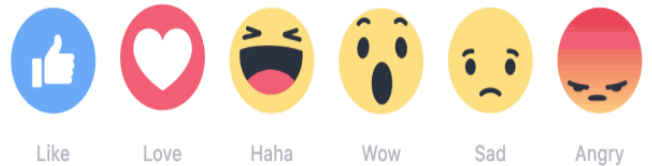
The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft  
*Priest-in-Charge*

### Our Return to In-Person Worship

Although we are travelling through the uncertain times of COVID-19, we are happy to be able to join once again for in-person worship. We continue to welcome all parishioners and visitors to our new 9:30 a.m. service.

If you choose to attend our service in person, you are most welcome. If you are **not** on our parish list, we ask that you call or email the church office before coming to any of our Sunday services to ensure sufficient spacing. Remember to bring a mask or face covering and practice physical distancing at all times.

Additionally, a Facebook live-stream of the service has been setup for those who prefer to enjoy our worship from the comfort of their home. Visit our website at [www.stpetersscarborough.ca](http://www.stpetersscarborough.ca) to find the link to our service, as well as the service bulletin that you may use to follow along. We are continuously learning how to provide the best care for our parishioners and wider community. Be sure to let us know how we're doing, either by phone or email. Hand-sewn masks are also available following the service courtesy of Lisa Turner and her volunteers. Thank you for all of the support in advance.



### Emergency Food Pantry

Our Emergency Food Pantry continues to take place on Fridays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. For the thanksgiving season, we have begun a Fall Food Drive in support of the pantry.



### Happy Thanksgiving

Y Q R E B O T C O K R G  
 O J T S E V R A H X C R  
 R C H M T U R K E Y V A  
 E O A K O Q G Q U P Q T  
 H F N N I K P M U P A I  
 S A K S O T F R I I S T  
 I M F E Y I D I P G D U  
 B I U S T W T O N T T D  
 O L L S Y P C I P B G E  
 R Y A M Q U S F D I C O  
 F E S Y N S D K H A E X  
 F F V R E K O L Q B R E  
 A U O L G B V B S T G T  
 A C B M I R G L I P K R

GRATITUDE  
 PUMPKIN  
 HARVEST  
 FROBISHER  
 PILGRIM  
 TURKEY  
 FEAST  
 FAMILY  
 CORNUCOPIA  
 BLESSINGS  
 TRADITION  
 OCTOBER  
 PIE  
 THANKFUL

Submitted by Gail Thompson  
 Outreach Coordinator

## A Thanksgiving Reflection

Every year at this time we note the shortening of the days, the cooler temperatures and the changing colours of the leaves. The local squirrels are fattening themselves up for a long, cold winter and we note the absence of certain birds which have already flown south for warmer weather. In these changes we see the glory of God's work in nature and we are aware that the seasons are changing.



In my family, like many families, Thanksgiving is a time for gathering together, for finding joy and comfort in the company of loved ones and in sharing beloved and familiar foods. These yearly rituals bring us happiness and contribute mightily to our well-being. But these past six months have been very different and difficult, indeed. In this year of COVID-19, Thanksgiving will be different in many ways, and not all of those changes will be welcomed. We heard the Prime Minister speak earlier this week and say that large Thanksgiving gatherings are out, and so for many of us that will mean that expectations surrounding the traditional Thanksgiving dinner will have to be re-designed. That's the sad truth. The good news is that a re-designed Thanksgiving dinner need not be a dismal affair nor a disaster.

But Thanksgiving itself, the meaning of it and the importance of it, will not change even though the celebration of the day might change this year. The subtexts that run through all Thanksgiving dinners and festivals, whether expressed aloud or not, are the feelings of thanks for the blessings of the past year and of hope for the remainder of the year and for the coming year.

We are a thankful people. We are thankful for the evidence of God's love working in our lives. We see evidence of God's steadfast love for us all around us, from our close relationships with family, friends and fellow parishioners, to the abundance of our fields and farms and the beauty of His created world. We are thankful for God's presence in our lives and in the lives of our loved ones and in nature. We are also a hopeful people. When we place our trust in the Lord, we can hope for better days ahead, and with God's help we will make those better days a certainty for all. God's help is available to all who reach out to Him.

This year, when you are beginning the lengthy process of planning for your Thanksgiving dinner, think of those people whom you know who might have to spend Thanksgiving alone or in difficult circumstances due to social distancing restrictions or loss of employment. It would not take much time out of your day to pick up the phone and make a call. You might not be able to invite the person to dinner, but you could offer to leave some food items on their veranda or outside their door - some cookies or muffins or even a serving of a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings in a take-out container. You could make a donation to the food bank, or to the Scott Mission which provides Thanksgiving meals to the needy, or to any other charitable organization. These small acts are evidence of God working through us to help others in need, and performing these small deeds makes Thanksgiving a veritable Christian feast, indeed.

In the continued spirit of thankfulness and Christian love, take some time during this Thanksgiving season, and always for that matter, to thank the individuals in your life who have made your life easier. You will not know the names of many of these people: the grocery clerks who came to work during the dangerous early days of the pandemic, so that you could purchase food, the clerk at the gas station, the cleaners at the hospitals and others whose employment is usually invisible, poorly-paid, and upon whom we have just found out that we depend greatly. In doing so, you will be demonstrating God's love.

Finally, despite the different circumstances of this year's Thanksgiving, may you continue to experience the joy of God's love working through you and may you continue to be a blessing to the other people in your life and in the world around you.



**Lisa Turner**  
*Altar Guild Directress*

**The Bishop's Company**

# Cabaret

an evening of online inspiration and music

**Guest speaker**  
The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls

Joined by musicians from throughout our Diocese including Cormac Culkeen, Nathan Hiltz, Father Ken McClure, Rachel Mahon, The Toronto Council Fire Drummers, The Wine Before Breakfast Band, The St. Bede's Gospel Choir, and more to follow!

Friday October 16, 2020  
Time: 8:00pm-9:30pm  
Location: Zoom (details to follow)

All are welcome to this free event. Be part of a new opportunity to bring our whole Diocese together for an evening of hope and community. An offering will be requested during the presentation. Go to [www.bishopscompanytoronto.ca](http://www.bishopscompanytoronto.ca) for more details.

**S A V E T H E D A T E**

**Virtual OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY CONFERENCE 2020**

**No One is Disposable!**

*Keynote Speaker:*  
**The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty**  
Area Bishop of York-Simcoe  
Diocese of Toronto.

The COVID-19 pandemic has helped to reveal the extent to which our society treats many of its members as disposable. As Christians, we are called to a different way. Join Anglicans and others across our Diocese in exploring how we can honour and care for all.

*"There are many members, yet one body... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it."* - 1 Corinthians 12:20, 26.

Workshops on justice for migrant workers, dismantling anti-black racism, restorative justice housing initiatives and more.



**Saturday, October 24 • 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
via Zoom (a link will be sent to registrants). Admission: Free, but donations are welcome.

Please register by Friday, October 23  
[www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference)



**Social Justice & Advocacy Committee**

REJOICE ALWAYS:  
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING:  
IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS:  
FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR  
YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.  
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 -

# Happy Thanksgiving

**Thanksgiving Donation**

Please consider donating to St. Peter's for Thanksgiving. The life of our church solely relies on free-will offerings. Our financial program is based on weekly or month giving's through the envelope system. At this difficult time of COVID-19, your monetary donation is worth more than ever. All donations enable us to provide adequate spiritual services to our community and beyond. You will make a difference to help us show God's love to all. Please consider donating via cheque, cash (drop-off only), or online. Visit here to donate online: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-peters-church-scarborough/>. All monetary donations are graciously accepted.

**TAKE THE LEAP WITH US.**

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16*

LOFT stands for "Leap of Faith Together" and we're there every day providing support and hope to people with serious mental health challenges, addictions and dementia. Often, they are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Our goal is to help them live safely at home or with us.

Your gift today enables us to be there for those who need us the most.  
Give securely online at [www.loftcs.org](http://www.loftcs.org) or designate your gift through Faith Works.

**LOFT** Like and follow @loftcs

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*"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"*

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.