



*Leeds Anglican Ministries
Stronger Together In Christ
Parish of Lansdowne Rear*

October 17, 2021

Welcome to our yearly opportunity to share resources and thoughts, as we discern how God is calling our church community to serve in the year ahead.

This year, we are joining congregations across the Anglican Church of Canada, accepting our Primate, Linda Nicholls', invitation to 'Surprised by the Spirit' conversation circles. "What surprises do we need to grieve? What surprises do we need to celebrate?" Praying about and discussing questions like these will help us to acknowledge the surprises of the past year; and listen for what the Spirit is telling us about the path ahead.

We are living through some very difficult times, with much uncertainty about what the future holds. In 1st Thessalonians 5, writing to a community which is also in the midst of difficult times, St. Paul exhorts the people to "encourage one another and build up each other." As Trustees of this congregation, we trust St. Paul's words, and believe it is so important for us to take opportunities such as this to share with each other. Our mutual participation and encouragement is essential to the ministry and mission to which we are called.

In this package you will find

- A resource for a time of grief - End of Life Planning: A Guide to Will Preparation and Funeral Instructions
- A gift for a time of celebration - a candle with a 'Surprised by the Spirit / *Spark*' firefly holder (alt : a candle to give spark to your life)
- A resource with information on Truth and Reconciliation, Creation Care, ways to give in the wider Anglican Church, and lists that may help with thinking about how to better 'be' church, not just 'go to' church
- Our 2021 Narrative Budget, which is based upon our Ministry Plan for this year and has financial information updated based on the year to date, and includes an estimate of lay ministry gifts of time
- A financial summary for the congregations of Leeds Anglican Ministries for the first 3/4 of 2021
- An intention card for 2022, inviting you to pray about and, we hope, indicate how you feel called to support your congregation's ministry in the year ahead. We fully recognize that there are a number of factors that make it difficult for all of us to plan both our use of our time and our gifts, and our capacity to provide financial support, but we believe this makes it all the more important for each of us to pray and think

about this and communicate that intention for the best possible planning for our congregation as a whole. We also realize that this is something that many of us may not have done before. If you are not comfortable with sharing this information at this time, we encourage you to have a conversation with the clergy about this practice and to make a written intention for yourself, even if you do not submit it

- A guide to proportional giving
- A 'Spark Discussion Guide'

We invite you to have telephone or safely-distanced in person conversations with other members of the congregation about the questions in the discussion guide, and then to submit them in writing - in person, by mail or by email, or to call one of the clergy with your input by October 27th so that we can share our input with our National Church by the November 1st deadline. We will also have an opportunity for conversation about this, in lieu of the homily, at our in-person worship on October 17th at Athens and on October 24th at Oak Leaf.

With our prayers for you in the surprises you are grieving, and our joy with you in those surprises you are celebrating,

Congregation Trustees:

X - Warden

X - Warden

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