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News and events:

This evening at 6:00pm in St. John's Church, Brookbury there is a Harvest worship service which will be their final service of the season.

Next Saturday, September 26th is the Closing and Deconsecration service for Christ Church, Canterbury at 11:00am. The lunch following the service will be at the Bury Cultural Center.

On Sunday, September 27th services are 9:30am in St. Paul's Church, Bury and 11:00am in St. Peter's Church, Cookshire. We are very happy that Mary and Craig McBurney are again offering Sunday School for the children. It will be in St. Paul's Church hall, Bury from 9:30 to 10:30am.

Also on Sunday, September 27th there is a Deanery Evensong in St. George's Church Lennoxville at 4:00pm.

Our Happy Birthday wishes to Joey Jacklin tomorrow..

Change of order: Sunday, October 4th there will be the annual EDV Parish meeting in St. Paul's Bury at 9:30am which will be followed by Holy Eucharist at about 10:30am, or slightly earlier, and then a potluck lunch after the service. Please try to attend.

Also on Sunday, October 4th there's a Gospel Hour, with a Harvest theme, at 2:00pm in St. Augustine's Church, Danville. Refreshments will follow the service.

Messy Church for families with children will begin on Wednesday, October 7th. Please register with Canon Lynn for the planning of supper. It will be held in St. Paul's Church hall in Bury from 5:15 to 6:45pm.

There will be a meeting of all the Deanery churches which are members of the team ministry model on **Saturday, November 7th** at St George's Church in Lennoxville from 10:00 to 12:00. This will be an information and discussion meeting with an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Treasurers and wardens are expected to attend, but the meeting is open to all interested members of the Deanery.

Sentence: *God has called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. See 2 Thessalonians 2.14*

Collect: Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

- We pray for God's people throughout the world; for Dennis, our Bishop, for Lynn, our Priest, and for all who are in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church. We pray for discernment as we seek to know what God's mission is for us in the Diocese and that God will guide us in our search for a new Shepherd to lead us in the years ahead.

- In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer, we pray for St. Barnabas, North Hatley, for The Venerable Edward Simonton and lay readers Kathryn Stafford, Beverly Dame, Page Dame, and Joan Drinkwater; also for Christ Church, Eustis and St. John's, Waterville, and for The Rev. Ruth Charleau; we pray for our Companion Dioceses, The Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and the Diocese of Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, we pray for Archbishop Percy Coffin and the Diocese of Western Newfoundland; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Rt Revd Humberto Maiztegue of the diocese of Southern Brazil.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; we ask blessings Joey Jacklin on his birthday; we pray for the congregation of Christ Church, Canterbury as they prepare for the closing and deconsecration of their church.

- We ask, O Lord, for your comfort and healing for all who are sick and suffering in any way, and for their families, remembering especially: Joan Dougherty, and Gordie Coates.

- We pray for the refugee crisis in Europe; we pray for a world of peace and justice for all. **Amen.**

More News & Events:

Opening to the Spirit Retreat – Friday, October 16 at 5:30pm until Sunday, October 18th at 4:00pm

All are invited to join the authors of the weekly "Opening to the Spirit" column for a time of spiritual reflection, relaxation, worship, and nature. Options available during the retreat include: walking the labyrinth, collage-making, writing, singing, guided meditation, mindfulness, and more. Come to engage; come to relax; come to create. Cost of the retreat starts at \$200 and included overnight accommodation in Eastman, six meals, and all workshop materials. Please contact lynndillabough@gmail.com for a registration form or more information. Registration deadline is October 1.

Used Book Sale, October 22, 23 and 24 Benefits the Bishop's University/Champlain RC Refugee Student Sponsorship Committee. The sale will take place at The Lennoxville United Church, 6 Church Street on the following days: Thursday, October 22 from 4 – 8 p.m.; Friday, October 23 from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. – noon with a \$3 bag sale from noon – 1 p.m. All proceeds go to supporting sponsored refugee students.

A Reading from the Book of Esther... So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request."⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?"⁶ Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Psalm 124 page 884

A Reading from the Letter of James...¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
James 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark...³⁸ John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me."⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us.⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.⁴² "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea."⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame

than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.⁴⁹ "For everyone will be salted with fire."⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."
Mark 9:38-50

A short reflection on the Letter of James reading: James wrote to the early Christians, and to us, to see our sin and trouble and sickness in a new way, as *occasions* for God's gifts, and these gifts are confession, intercession and healing. These are what we might call spiritual practices. We are sinners. This is our human condition. Sometimes we sin against someone else by what we say or what we think or what we do. You and I share this in common. We are sinners. There is only one way beyond our sin, and that is confession. Another spiritual practice is intercession. Intercession is praying for others. If you have ever known that others are praying for you, you will know how powerful this is. A third spiritual practice is healing. Healing has acquired a bad reputation in our time by the hucksters who prey on the weak...the gimmicks of those who want to profit at the expense of the desperate...the healing, in front of television cameras that is so foreign from the One from Nazareth who healed and then would say, "Go in peace...your faith has made you well...don't tell anyone about this!"
The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up. That verse has at least two meanings. When Jesus healed, he would sometimes say, "Rise up and walk." There is another meaning: *the Lord will raise them up* may also refer to the resurrection, which is, through the lens of faith, the ultimate healing. Sometimes there is physical healing. I believe this has occurred in the lives of some people. I have no other way of explaining why they are still with us. Sometimes there is relational healing--healing within families, among friends, within a church. Sometimes there is spiritual healing--God comes into our lives and our sins are forgiven and we are made whole.

Chuckles: As a new school principal, Mr. Mitchell, was checking over his school on the first day. Passing the stockroom, he was startled to see the door wide open and teachers bustling in and out, carrying off books and supplies in preparation for the arrival of students the next day. The school where he had been principal the previous year had used a checkout system only slightly less elaborate than that at Fort Knox. Cautiously, he asked the school's long time Custodian, "Do you think it's wise to keep the stock room unlocked and to let the teachers take things without requisitions?" The Custodian looked at him gravely. "We trust them with the children, don't we?"

Two social workers were walking through a rough part of the city in the evening. They heard moans and muted cries for help from a back alley. Upon investigation, they found a semi-conscious man in a pool of blood. "Help me, I've been mugged and viciously beaten." he pleaded. The two social workers turned and walked away. One remarked to her colleague, "You know the person that did this really needs help."

If at first you don't succeed, don't try skydiving.

