

St. John in the Wilderness

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday November 13, 2025

Present: Rev Sherry DeJonge, Brian Bradford, Sandra Fraser, Brent Anderson, Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Susan Halliday, Brian Fogg, Doug Winch, Mike Moloney

Regrets: Leslie Grieve, Brenden Fraser, Aruna Anderson, Ingrid Schmid, Sandy Dawson, Kathy Morris

Scribe: Mike Moloney

Opening – Rev Sherry DeJonge opened with a reflection.

Reviewed previous Minutes, (no corrections)

MOTION to accept by Sandra seconded by Susan PASSED by All.

Business arising from the minutes.

None.

Rector's Report

Sherry is working with the Archdeacon to get Nancy and Sandra fully licensed to visit nursing homes and shut ins.

The Archdeacon communicated to Sherry that both wardens started in 2020 and the normal term is 5 years. We are looking at changing out one of the wardens this year at the 2026 vestry and the other warden at the 2027 vestry.

Sherry is going away December 7, 2025. Morning prayer will be led by Nicole.

Upcoming Services 2025

Sunday, 23 November – Reign of Christ Sunday

8.30 am – BCP Holy Communion

10.30 am – BAS Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 30 November – First Sunday of Advent

8.30 am – BCP Holy Communion

10.30 am – Advent Lessons and Carols, with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 07 December – Second Sunday of Advent, with Lay Reader leadership

8.30 am – BCP Morning Prayer

10.30 am – BAS Morning Prayer

Sunday, 14 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8.30 am – BCP Holy Communion

10.30 am – BAS Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 21 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30 am – BCP Holy Communion

10.30 am – Christmas Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, 24 December – Christmas Eve

7.00 pm – Family Service with Eucharist

9.00 pm – BAS Holy Eucharist

Thursday, 25 December – Christmas Day

10.00 am – BAS Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 28 December – First Sunday after Christmas

8.30 am – BCP Holy Communion

10.30 am – BAS Holy Eucharist

Wardens' Report

Doug Winch presented a plan to replace the Church HVAC with a Heat Pump with electric backup, replace the Hall AC with a Heat Pump and use the current gas furnace as a backup and replace the Rector's office HVAC with a mini split Heat Pump. The cost of this work would be a donation from Doug in the memory of his late wife Charlene. This capital project will significantly reduce our usage of Natural Gas and its corresponding CO2 emissions; it will also address reliability issues we have had with some of our current equipment. The council graciously accepted his donation. The work is expected to start November 24, 2025.

The snow contract is signed for 2025/2026 with Lakeshore Lawn & Landscape Ltd. – they have done our snow removal for many years.

Vestry will be February 1, 2026 with a snow date of February 15, 2026. We are targeting all reports to be submitted by December 15, 2025.

Sandra will again be organizing this year fund scripts. Watch bulletin for more detail.

Sandra will also be planning the Christmas Family outreach this year. See bulletin for more detail.

Property Committee – Brian B.

Thanks to Mike and Brent for setting up the PA system from St. Bart's on October 14, 2025. It is now up and running at St. John in the Wilderness. It was about 18 hours of work to seamlessly wire the speakers around the church. Thanks to Peter and Brenden for consultation on microphone work. God bless the former Parish of St. Bart's for their donation.

The red carpet in the Church was shampooed October 21, 2025. A big thanks to Brian B and Peter.

Thanks to Mike for the replacement of our secretary's computer on October 24, 2025. It will take less time now for Heather to boot up and do her work. Thank you again Heather and Mike!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the church deep clean on Saturday October 25. We had more than 20 parishioners come out during the week and on Saturday to clean inside and outside. The floors, carpet, pews, Sanctuary wood, high-level fans, every drawer in the kitchen, the stove and oven, windows, front siding, eaves, leaves and gardens. The place looks fabulous!

Thanks to Brent, Mike and especially Brian B for completing the installation of the cold air return ductwork in our storage room on October 30, 2025. This should eliminate the need to leave the storage room door open to mitigate the musty smell in there due to lack of air movement.

Leaves were raked this week. We are now looking at recovering the church kneelers. We are also looking at possibly getting Canon Davis wireless microphone system to continue to improve our own PA system. We will know more about availability after they have their December 2, 2025 Deconsecration Service. New picture frames have been purchased so we can hang missing rector's pictures. We are waiting for a quote for the replacement of the church front doors.

ACW Report (Reported by Deb)

Leslie Grieve reported she can no longer come to council meeting due to health limitation.

St John in-the-Wilderness ACW is hosting a Christmas party at John's Restaurant. It is scheduled for Noon on December 3, 2025. It is open to all Lambton ACW groups to attend. They will be accepting new children's or women's unwrapped items to be donated to the Women's Interval Home.

The Bake sale will be November 29, 2025 from 10AM to noon.

Treasurer's Report

We had a great operating revenue month which was almost \$14,400. Expenses are very good. This is mostly due to our interim priest.

All our outreach cheques are currently in the mail or being given in person. We issued \$2,200 to the Inn of the Good Shepherd, Women's Interval Home, and Alzheimer Society Sarnia. We also issued a \$3,200 cheque to St. Claire Child and Youth and a \$1,000 cheque to Pathways.

The honey money brought in \$2,860.

Our final apportionment payment of \$8,493 has been submitted which brings our total apportionment for the year to \$25,378

MOTION to accept by Brian B seconded by Deb PASSED by all.

New Business

St John in-the-Wilderness church is having a Christmas Sing Along event Dec 19, 2025 at 7PM

The Joint Lessons and Carols Service at All Saints in Sarnia has been cancelled this year!

Correspondence

Other Business

None

MOTION to adjourn by Brent.

Closing

Closed with a prayer.