

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION

When I became a military chaplain, I was told that there was a custom of chaplains having an axe handle to carry in place of a rifle when on the march. So, I went out and selected an axe handle, carved out a recess in which to mount the brass cap badge of the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment, and used my rotary tool to inscribe a shortened version of Ephesians 6:13: "Therefore take up the whole armour of God and stand firm." The axe handle is not a weapon—I carry it in place of a weapon. When on the march, infantrymen carry C-7 rifles: instruments of death and destruction, capable of firing up to 900 5.56mm rounds a minute with an effective range of 500m. The padre carries a metre-long piece of wood with a Bible verse on it.

In the army, we train soldiers to apply deadly force in defence of Canada and her allies' interests. Soldiers are inculcated with a warrior spirit. When the army is deployed, violence becomes the instrument of state policy. Sometimes, in order to fight evil, we must commit evil acts ourselves. This can take a toll on those who bear arms: I counsel soldiers who struggle with the guilt that comes from the application of deadly force. So, I see my stick as a symbol, just as I see myself (and all chaplains) as a symbol. In the midst of an institution that exists to train soldiers to kill, the padre is the one person who never picks up a weapon and who stands in the midst of the fighters to remind them that they are more than killing machines. For me, one of the fundamental roles I play as a chaplain is to be a sign of hope in the midst of human frailty. Make no mistake: even though I might be surrounded by highly trained and fit soldiers who have a panoply of deadly weapons at their disposal, they are signs not of human strength but of our weakness.

In this respect, we are not so far removed from the people to whom Paul proclaimed the gospel so many years ago. The dominant power of the day was the Roman Empire, which sent its legions to the four corners of the known world to conquer and subjugate. Everyone knew the might of Rome and even the most ignorant understood that the ones with the strongest army would hold sway. Even the Christians in the cities where Paul evangelised believed this.

It is no wonder that Paul used such military imagery to talk about the faith. "Be strong in the Lord...put on the whole armour of God...fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith...the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit." Taken literally, it sounds like Christians are to dress up like Roman soldiers and to proclaim the gospel at the tip of the sword.

But this is exactly the opposite of what Paul meant. Sadly, too many Christians have read it literally and proclaimed the faith through violent means. But Paul is saying that our armour is not made with human hands at all. Our armour is God's power, God's truth and righteousness, faith, salvation, and the Spirit. We are to proclaim a gospel of peace, not of subjugation. This is a difficult teaching (not unlike the teaching we read about in this week's Gospel). We would rather rely on our own might but, instead, we are invited to rely on God's power. The irony, however, is not unlike the irony I mentioned above about the army and its weapons: our power—God's power—is not found in violence, death and destruction, but is instead found in vulnerability, love, and peace. Put down your weapons, therefore, and put on the armour of God, that you may withstand the ways of the world and preach the gospel of peace.



## THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

*To be a Spirit-filled and life-giving place where strangers  
become friends and friends become disciples.*

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# SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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**Sunday 23 August 2015**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

### SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

### PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith  
rector@parishoftyendinaga.org

### QUEEN ANNE PARISH CENTRE

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/tyendinagaanglican](http://www.facebook.com/tyendinagaanglican)

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission, for the glory of God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to:

- Celebrate all that God has done for us through worship and witness with others.
- Respond to our call to be disciples of Christ by sharing our faith, rooted in the Word of God, with others and encouraging others to become followers of Christ through word and action.
- Practice good stewardship of our human, financial and environmental resources, working to ensure that all of God's Creation is viable for future generations.
- Grow ourselves and others by reaching out to our communities, following Jesus' example of generous caring, giving, and welcoming.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Friendly Manor Visitors**—The next Friendly Manor visit is on Thu 27 Aug. Visitors are invited to join Brad afterwards in Deseronto for lunch and a conversation about how the ministry is going.

**Parish Council**—The next meeting is Wed 2 Sep at 7 p.m. in the QAPC.

**Food Bank Donations**—We gather non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of each month and donate them to the Food Bank. The Food Bank is experiencing a significant increase in the number of families it serves so this is a material way we can help our neighbours. The next Food Bank Sunday is 6 Sep.

**Evensong to Commemorate Her Majesty The Queen becoming the longest-reigning monarch in British history**—Sun 13 Sep, 4:00 p.m., Christ Church. An offering will be taken to be directed to the MBQ Christ Church Utilities Fund.

**Amsterdam Trip**—Our visit to St Ann's will take place 18-20 Sep. Hotel reservations are made. If you need a ride, there will be car pooling available.

**Guitar Raffle**—A raffle for the benefit of the parish is being held on 20 Dec for a BR-180 Blueridge Guitar, with case, strap, capo and picks, all of which have been generously donated by Margie Anderson (and which are valued at around \$2,000 new). It would make a wonderful Christmas gift for a musician. Tickets: \$5 ea. or 3/\$10. Margie has books of tickets if you are able to help sell them and she welcomes suggestions of places who might sell them for us. If you'd like to know more about the guitar, a review can be found here: <http://www.acousticguitar.com/Gear/Reviews/Blueridge-BR-180A-Review>.

**Rectory Rental**—The rectory is available for rental on a weekly basis as a cottage for tourists, fishermen, etc (and may be rented for shorter periods in the off season). Check out the website at [cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage](http://cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage) and please tell your friends who might need a place to stay!

**The Mohawk Guild**— The Mohawk Guild is a longstanding organization that is committed to the service of our community. The Guild meets at the Parish Hall (1295 Ridge Road) on the last Wed of the month at 7 p.m. Please join us in our efforts. For more information, please call Bev Hill (613-962-5183) or Shirley Maracle (613-962-6137).

## PRAYERS THIS WEEK

### *Anglican Communion*

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
The Diocese of San Diego (IX, The Episcopal Church)  
The Rt Revd James Mathes

### *Diocese of Ontario*

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton  
The Parish of Hastings  
The Revd Janet Weller  
The Revd Mike Rice

### *Companions*

St Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, the Very Rev'd Neal Longe  
HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the Rev'd Canon Denis Mulliner

### *Parish of Tyendinaga*

#### Servers

Pray for the families of: Jason, Jenny, Foster & Ariel Brant; Joan Brant;  
Karen Brant; Kurtis, Allison & Kody Brant; Kyle & Donna Brant

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
James 1:17-27

Psalms 45:1-2, 7-10  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## **Stewardship Reflection**

"This teaching is too offensive," we read in today's gospel. A faithful steward knows that there will be times when things might seem offensive and still "hangs in there."

## **Financial Report**

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$ 977</u>
Shortage	\$1,482

Based on the 2015 budget and the number of identifiable givers, the following is what is required of each giver in order to meet our needs:

Weekly: \$40                      Monthly: \$173