

Anglican Church closing



Written by Bob Owen

Monday, 26 March 2012 09:47

Trinity Anglican Church in Colborne is closing.

Trinity People's Warden Patti May confirmed the news on March 26 after making the announcement to the church congregation on March 25. The church was directed by Anglican Bishop Linda Nicholl to close and unless there is a change, the final regular service will be Easter Sunday, April 8. The church has asked its Anglican Priest Ed Cachia to request that Sunday prayer services continue to the end of April.

The church has less than the required 50 families but members thought it was safe from closure because of its ties with St. George's Anglican in Grafton. Trinity Church officials asked the Brighton Anglican Church if the Colborne group could rest under it as a chapel of ease. The Brighton church felt it could not do that at this time.

While the church may not remain open there may continue to be Anglican worship in the community. Trinity officials asked the Anglican authorities if the congregation could move and remain under church auspices. They were denied. But Rev. Barbara-Ann Ramer, minister at the Prospect Community Church has offered to conduct Anglican services each Sunday and it is expected that some parishioners of Trinity will take up her offer to continue worshipping using the Anglican liturgy, thus keeping an Anglican presence in the community. Others may go to St. George's in Grafton.

It seems ironic that the church has been ordered to close on the one day in its calendar which celebrates the Jesus dying so that others might live. The Bishop requires that the members of the congregation vote to close the church, another irony when there is no will within the group to do so. It also seems contrary to logical thinking that Anglicans will be required to leave the church in order to worship using its doctrines.

Anglican congregations have worshipped in the frame building on the south side of King St. E. for 165 years. There have been some recent financial problems due to the church being taken advantage of by a tenant of its manse. But aside from that, the parishioners have been paying the bills.