

# ANGLICAN ORDINARIATE FOR THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES FALL AND THANKSGIVING 2014

BULLETIN/VOLUME 11, No. 4



**BISHOP ORDINARY TO THE FORCES**

**THE RIGHT REV'D PETER COFFIN STB, MA, DD**

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BGen the Ven J. Fletcher, CD

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LCdr the Rev'd J. Gosse  
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CANON RECRUITER

LCol the Rev'd T. Meaker, CD  
CANON TREASURER

Major the Rev'd Canon D. Friesen, CD,

LCdr the Rev'd A. Cooke, CD

LCdr the Rev'd E. Swayze, CD

Maj. the Rev'd S. Samson, CD

This bulletin is an informal document for the members of Clericus, intended as a means of communication and as an expression of our fellowship. It is issued under the authority of the Anglican Bishop Ordinary. **To submit an article, please email [madpadre@gmail.com](mailto:madpadre@gmail.com).**

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## A Word From Our Archdeacon

### ***We Do Not Strive In Vain***

Vanity of vanities, all is vanity; utterly pointless, absolute futility; or as we heard read to us with great verve by Canon Staples at the beginning of the September Chaplain General strategic council, meaningless, meaningless, utterly meaningless. Whichever version one chooses, the message from Ecclesiastes is a rather disconcerting way to begin the first strategic planning meeting of the fall after the summer break. The Chaplain General reflecting upon recent international developments, the crisis in the Ukraine, the emergence of ISIS, the Ebola outbreak, underscored how significantly the overall security situation has changed in just a few months. The ongoing, and at times seemingly self-perpetuating, violence in the Middle East in particular could readily sway one into agreement with the sentiments of the Preacher. His claim that there is no remembrance is understandable when one observes the willingness of people to resort, time and time, again to violence to attempt to achieve their goals. It is within such a context, however, that faith becomes so vital. Unlike many faiths and philosophies we believe that there is purpose in God's creation and that our lives and actions have meaning. Everything is not just a repeating, endless cycle without hope for change and a better future.

Our reading from Ecclesiastes concluded with the verse "there is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of latter things yet to happen". Though the opening of the reading resonated in many ways with our current situation it would be hard for the ending to be further away from describing our experience. Remembrance is in general central to our faith and



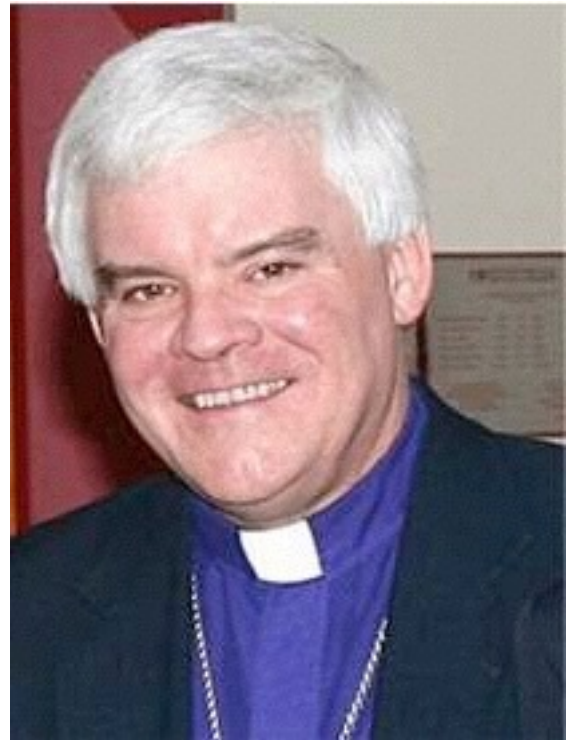
Col. the Ven. Nigel Shaw  
Ordinariate Archdeacon

most particularly at this time. Though I have lived in Canada for more than 40 years I have never developed any real love for winter. Yet despite that fact that the fall season reminds us that winter is just around the corner it has become one of my favourite times of the year. It is the combination of the incredible beauty of the changing colours combined with the focus on remembrance and thanksgiving that I find so endearing. I have long felt that there is a powerful synergy between the church's feast of Thanksgiving and the civic commemorations on Remembrance Day. The first evokes the gifts of grace so freely given to us by God, while the second focuses on the sacrificial gift of their lives given freely by so many Canadians in the past. The two combined remind us of how truly blessed we are and to what service we are called. This year in particular, as we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of WWI, we are reminded of both the cost of change and its possibility. Who in Europe a hundred years ago could have conceived of the modern European Union and the ending of centuries of warfare between the countries of Europe? I take hope from this remembrance of changes that have occurred that through the grace of God, and the willing commitment of our own efforts, change is also possible for the seemingly insoluble problems that confront us. My prayer for us this Thanksgiving is that we will through the grace of God have the courage to confront the challenges before us and will be upheld by our remembrance of the many gifts and blessings that we have received.

## A Word From Our Bishop

### ***Giving Thanks for Each Other Thanksgiving 2014***

*We always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4*



Though we have a celebration of Thanksgiving at this time of year, based on our time of harvest, the giving of thanks and the living of thankful lives should be a daily disposition. One of the things for which Saint Paul was particularly grateful was the faith community and in all of his letters he expresses the joy that he feels as he holds the Church in remembrance, as do I when I think about you.

I am fortunate to be able to visit various churches and other faith communities, one of the many blessings of a multi-faith military chaplaincy as well as in my pluralistic community. This week I was honored to be invited to an event hosted by the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt who was being visited by their new Pope – Tawadros (Theodore) II of Alexandria. Some 30 years ago when I was a parish priest at Christ Church in the western side of Ottawa we shared our facilities with the Coptic Christians. Five years later they built Saint Mary's and then another on the other side of town with a third recently established. In 1950 Coptic Christians in Canada numbered 5,000 and now there over 50,000 and in March, 2013 Bishop Mina was appointed as the first Canadian Coptic Bishop. It is a fast growing community.



***Coptic Cross***

During the turmoil in Egypt these past couple of years I attended vigils and gatherings on Parliament Hill with my Coptic Friends as they mourned persecutions and recent martyrs. During the event honoring the Pope I sat with an old friend who has often hosted Anglican Diocese of Ottawa events at Saint Elias Cathedral of the Antiochean Orthodox Church centered in Lebanon. Father Ghattas told me that his congregation has been growing dramatically due to the exodus of Christian from the Middle East. I had heard that years ago while visiting in Israel and Palestine and especially in Syria where I met with the Minister of Emigration – not Immigration. And now we hear of the

killing of Christians, Yasedis and Moslems in Iraq and Syria. Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, prophesied that the day would come when we "might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives" (The Benedictus – Luke 1:68-79). We can give thanks that it is so for us in our country and indeed in many places, but not all. We need to pray for the persecuted everywhere and in all circumstances. We need to ensure that all are accepted and honoured and appreciated in our own neighbourhoods. And we need to get to know our neighbours better and to give thanks for each other.

I felt honoured to be with our brothers and sisters of the Coptic faith. (Padre Todd Meaker had a similar experience as Pope Tawadros visited Halifax.) This is an ancient Church founded by the apostle Saint Mark and the venue of early church councils, monasticism, deep spirituality and evangelistic zeal throughout North-East Africa and now in the diaspora. It is a church where youth are very present and active. There is indeed much that we can learn from our neighbours from many places, as we too were 'from away'. And there is much that we can learn and appreciate from those who were here long before and with whom we have yet to be reconciled. Let us rejoice in and give thanks for each other's company.

"But above all" let us give thanks for His "inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And we beseech thee; give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts



may be unfeignedly thankful and that we may show forth thy praise not only with our lip but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.” Amen

May your Thanksgiving be blessed and may it be so every day.

+Peter



A young copt takes a selfie with Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church, left, when he was at St Marc's Coptic Church in Montreal, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014 (Photo from the Montreal Gazette).

## **Around The Ordinariate**

### **A Chaplain Sets Sail Into New Ministry**

Since our last newsletter LCdr. The Rev. Canon Andrew Cooke has retired after a long and faithful career in 3 navies. He joined the Royal Navy as a 'boy sailor' and has served in the RCN as a chaplain and was deployed for almost continual sea-going ministry with the United States Navy. He then returned to be a fleet chaplain and home with Valerie in Eastern Passage. For some time Andrew was the Warden of Lay Readers. Since then he has been doing interim ministry in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI. We wish Andrew and Valerie well and give thanks for their devoted service to our Lord, the Chaplaincy and the CAF. They have been a blessing to us.



Padre Andrew Cooke presides at a Memorial Day service in Halifax, at a cemetery for US POWs of the War of 1812, in 2009.

### **Military Chaplains To Be Remembered in Toronto**

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great War, the Anglican Cathedral of St. James, Toronto, will present a multi-faith exhibit saluting the long and noble history of Canada's military chaplains.

*Called to Serve: An Exhibit Honouring Canada's Military Chaplains of All Faiths* will be open to the public free of charge from November 6 to 16, 2014.

Reaching back into history, the comprehensive display will chronicle the Canadian chaplaincy's evolution from its largely Christian origins before the Boer War to the inclusive multi-faith mosaic of men and women it is today. *Called to Serve* will tell its powerful story through photographs, paintings, press clippings, posters, letters, poems, uniforms, insignia, liturgical apparel and artifacts, as well as testimonies from across generations and across the land. Included are samples of embroidery and stitchery created by women at home.

**Where:** Cathedral Church of St. James, northeast corner of King and Church Streets, Toronto

**When:** Thursday November 6 to Sunday, November 16, 2014, all day every day from 8:00am to 6:00pm

## **A Message From The Canon Treasurer**

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(1 Timothy 1.2b)*

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your ongoing support of our mission through your faithfulness, prayers and monetary donations. As well, I would like to provide you an update on some administrative developments that have occurred since our Clericus meeting in May which may have an influence on the pattern of our giving to the Ordinariate starting in January 2015.

This past September the Ordinariate changed the administrative process for dispersing our bishop's annual honorarium. In the past the Ordinariate issued two cheques of 10 000 CAD during a fiscal year in support of his ministry. The timing of each cheque was regularly adjusted in a given year based upon the availability of funds. I am now pleased to announce that as of this past



September our National Church has partnered with us and offered administrative support in order to disperse the bishop's annual honorarium in twelve (12) equal amounts on a monthly basis from the funds we provide.

With this change will come the need for the Ordinariate to have regular times it submits cheques to the National Church. I project that the Ordinariate will issue these cheques, in the amount of 10 000 CAD each, in January and September in order that the National Church will have the funds available to disperse the honorarium to our Bishop in the months that follow.

With these changes, I ask you to prayerfully consider the pattern and timing of your donations to the Ordinariate in the months prior to January and September.

For ease of reference, and as discussed at Clericus, here are three (3) ways to make a donation:

- a) [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org). Type: **Anglican Military Ordinariate** into charity search, then select it for easy donation (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/anglican-military-ordinariate/>);
- b) GCWCC – the Anglican Ordinariate number is [868473315RR0001](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/anglican-military-ordinariate/); or
- c) cheque mailed to Canon Treasurer: 37 Darlington Drive, Middle Sackville, N.S. B4E 0H4 Attn: Canon Meaker.

Thank you once again for your faithful witness and support.

I remain your servant in Christ,

Todd+



# **The Day And The Next: A Retired Chaplain Reflects on Life and Ministry Back In The Parish**

*By Fr. Jacques Vaillancourt*

For everyone else, it was just an other unremarkable mid-October day, in the Year of Our Lord 2010. I crossed the gates of Wainwright, without any fanfare, one last time, in uniform. The car's rearview mirror reflected: solid friendships forged over twenty years ... a shadow box full of military memories ... and no rucksack, at-the-ready, on the back seat.

The next day lasted a year-and-a-half; a difficult transition out of the military, back to where it all gratefully began, thirty-two years ago ... the civilian church. Bobbi, my wife, rejoiced in the anticipation of not having to move every three to four years. Our daughter, Jacqueline, (now beginning her third year at the University of Calgary) to her own surprise, enjoyed her last two years of high school.

Camrose is a semi-rural, traditional, prairie city of 17,000 with a rich Lutheran heritage. Saint Andrew's, my parish, in my tenure, has strong ecumenical partnerships which are a pastoral "force multiplier". I offer my new diocese analytical capabilities, a focused work ethic and a keen understanding of what positive team ministry looks like.

And, as no good deed goes unpunished, I was quickly 'promoted' to Canon and then to Archdeacon. I am presently involved in occasionally mentoring new priests and serve as a senior advisor to the Bishop. Diocesan projects like a developing relationship with the Diocese of Buye in Burundi, fit in well with my ministry, after the experiences of five overseas military deployments

The high school key-note speaker told the graduating class of 2012 that their only "constant" would be "constant change"! Their challenge would be to thrive, contribute and succeed in this complex and always evolving socio-economic context.

I have adapted, in order to move forward in faith, a familiar Chaplain Branch mantra: 'honour with gratitude the past, fully engage in the present, and look with

trust to the future'. Change is still not easy for me. Yet, I am discovering that God is constantly present even in change.

The Venerable Jacques deGuise Vaillancourt, CD  
Archdeacon for Rural Ministry  
Diocese of Edmonton  
Rector  
Saint Andrew's Church  
Camrose, Alberta

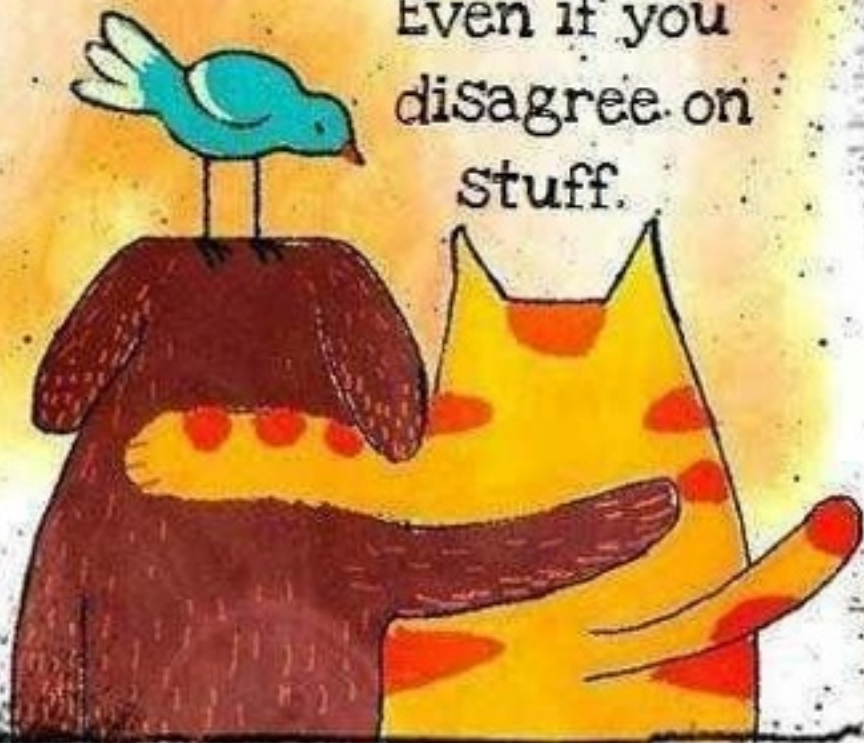


Fr. Vaillancourt at St. Andrew's, Camrose, blessing a newly planted chokecherry tree together with the Bishops of Edmonton and Buye

# Be Kind to one another

Ephesians 4:30-5:

Even if you  
disagree on  
stuff.



calejd'art



# Centering Prayer and Labyrinths

*By Padre Robin Major*

I offer to you a report on the celebration of Holy Cross Day on 14 September, 2014 at St John's Anglican Church, South March, 325 Sandhill Road in the Diocese of Ottawa.

Let me begin with background concerning why I offer this report. Ever since learning Centering Prayer from Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault in the Spring of 2000, I have been trying to practice this kind of surrender of all into resting more deeply in God. I have also found in the songs of Taize and the walking of labyrinths two beautiful outward expressions of this very same inner longing to surrender all. While there is a strong Roman Catholic tradition in each, there is a surprising Anglican connection. In terms of Centering Prayer, Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault is both an Episcopal priest and one of the world's foremost teachers in this movement. As for Taize, its founder, Brother Roger, was actually an Anglican. As for the labyrinth revival that is emerging, I will leave the Anglican connection to a quote from Oprah: "Lauren Artress, an Episcopal priest and psychotherapist [is] largely considered responsible for sparking the labyrinth movement..." ~ O Magazine

After spending the last four years at 5 Wing in Goose Bay Labrador where Taize was largely unheard of and there was neither a Centering Prayer group nor a walking labyrinth, one of the many joys of learning I would be posted to Ottawa was that of the contemplative situation in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. I discovered there are numerous Centering Prayer / Christian Meditation groups and labyrinths in and around Anglican churches in the Diocese of Ottawa and a vibrant Taize monthly prayer service within the Roman Catholic community.

I have personally found a home in the centering prayer group at St John's Anglican Church, South March, and walk their beautiful outdoor labyrinth before the meeting. I also offered to show the group members how to make affordable portable hand labyrinths and after this was asked if I would offer



a workshop to the children of the parish the following Sunday. While every Sunday is special, this one was unique in that it was the first time the community had held the Eucharist outside on the walking labyrinth. As part of their 175th Anniversary celebrations, there were two dedications done of the garden landscaping with tall ornamental grasses around the labyrinth and of the new memorial bench donated by The Ian Henderson Foundation. Mr. Henderson himself was present at this event and in conversation I discovered he made use of this very labyrinth as a part of the grief reconciliation services he offers to the community.



I share this good news story as a beautiful example of the depth and diversity of our Anglican traditions. I am not suggesting everyone should run out and join a centering prayer group or find the nearest labyrinth and start walking while singing Taize song, though of course no harm would come in doing so. From afar or quite near, may we all find our own way of celebrating these Anglican emergences not as threats to our heritage but as fresh expressions of these ancient approaches to resting in God.

# Remembering Anglican Chaplaincy In The Great War

*By Padre Michael Peterson*

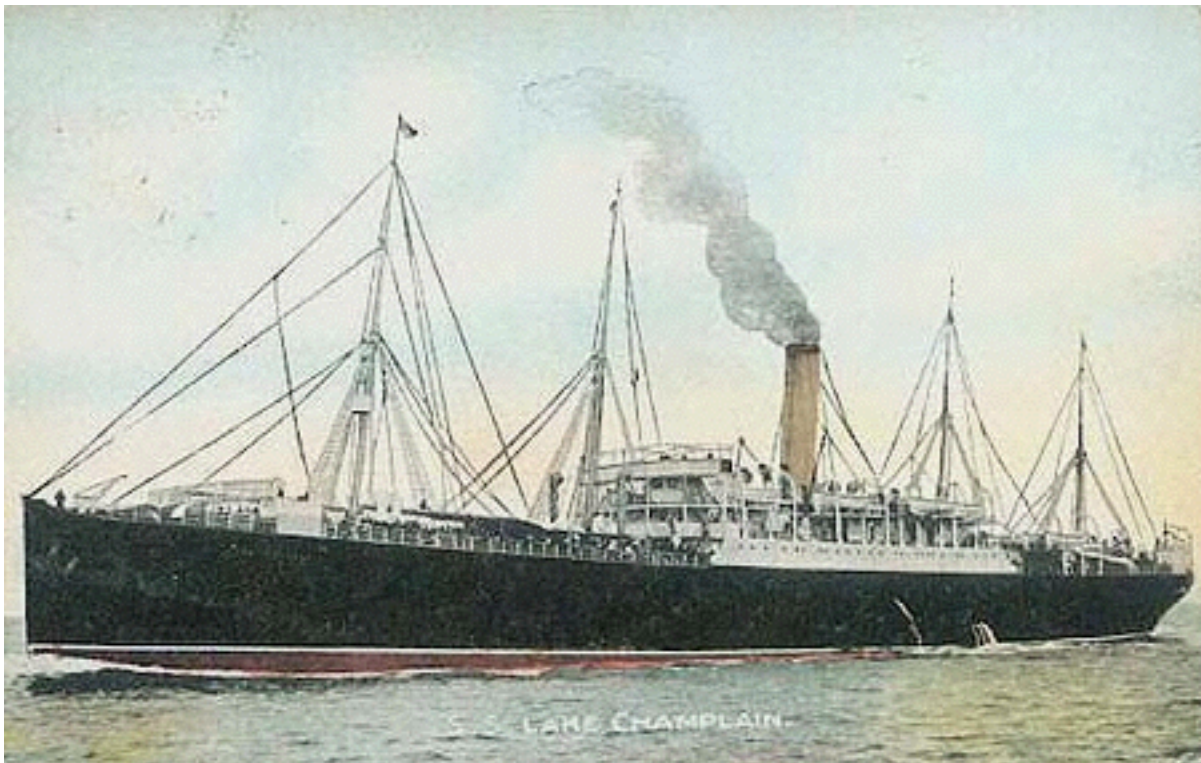
To mark the centennial of the First World War, the AMO Newsletter continues a series of vignettes of Canada's Anglican chaplains and their ministry throughout that conflict. Each instalment in the series will recall a time one hundred years prior to the writing of each Newsletter.

Once Canada raised the first elements of the Army it would send to Europe, the next task was to get them from Valcartier to staging and training camps in England. It took the last week of September 1914 to embark over 30,000 men and women (Nursing Sisters were included in the First Contingent) and 7,500 horses, plus artillery and horse-drawn and motor vehicles, into nearly forty merchant vessels. There were not enough trained stevedores in Quebec City, and as one officer described it, "chaos reigned supreme", but the troops took charge of the job, the Contingent was loaded, and the last ships departed from Quebec on October 1st.



*Troops of the Royal Montreal Regiment embarking at Quebec City, 1914*

Canon Scott describes the crossing as a time of good weather and high spirits, but he got friendly with the ship's telegraphers, and learned of ominous reports, such as the German capture of Antwerp, which suggested that the way ahead would be a hard one. Scott recalled that thoughts of perils to come "gave everyone on board a special sacredness in my eyes, and one felt strangely inadequate and unworthy to be with them". Chaplains conducted evening services ending with the national anthem and patriotic speeches, and organized recreational events, but found that busy training schedules continued even on Sunday. As Duff Crerar notes in *Padres in No-Mans Land*, those chaplains who took a "censorious attitude" to activity on the Sabbath during the crossing did not make good impressions.



*The SS Tyrolia (one of her several names), which carried the 4th Battalion CEF to England.*

One of the Anglicans crossing the Atlantic that October was Major Charles Frederick Piper. A native of Hamilton, Piper was old for a chaplain, having enlisted at age 56. Most likely he was chosen for deployment because of his prewar experience in militia chaplaincy. He left service in the Diocese of Niagara, where his ministry included St. Luke's, Smithville, and other parishes. He was served the Fourth Canadian Infantry Battalion of the CEF, which had been

formed from volunteers from the Hamilton and Brantford areas. The 4th CIB came over on the SS *Tyrolia*, a Canadian Pacific Line steamer. Piper's new flock followed a demanding schedule. The 4th's War Diary describes a typical day on the *Tyrolia* as follows. "They were up at 6 a.m., breakfast at 7 a.m., and while the men ate the officers exercised. At 9:10 a.m. was parade followed by Officer's Signalling Class. Lunch was served at 11:45 a.m. followed by afternoon parade, more signalling classes then supper. The 1<sup>st</sup> Post was at 8:30 p.m., Last Post at 9:00 p.m. and at 9:15 p.m. it was lights out." There was likely some room in this schedule for Piper to conduct evening services and talks.

The first ships reached Plymouth on 14 October and the Contingent took a week to disembark, again in great confusion. The *Globe* reported that troops felt "immense relief" to be off their ships. Some units, such as a regiment from Edmonton, employed their padres to lead divine services once landed, services which were attended by Plymouth's townspeople. Soon the Canadians were entraining for Salisbury Plain, where mud and a harsh winter in canvas tents awaited them. Padre Piper would not last long with the 4th CIB. He was sent to Shornecliffe Camp in England to command the pool of chaplains there, a frustrated bunch awaiting assignments to units in France. Piper got himself out of this administrative chore in August 1915 by posting himself to No. 5 Canadian Hospital in Egypt. He finished the war with the rank of Lt. Col. and returned to Ontario, serving as a Canon and Rector of St. John the Evangelist Church, Thorold. One of his claims to fame is helping translate the 1918 Book of Common Prayer into Ukrainian, a project funded by the philanthropist Margaret Gooderham and the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. Canon Piper died in 1937 and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Thorold.