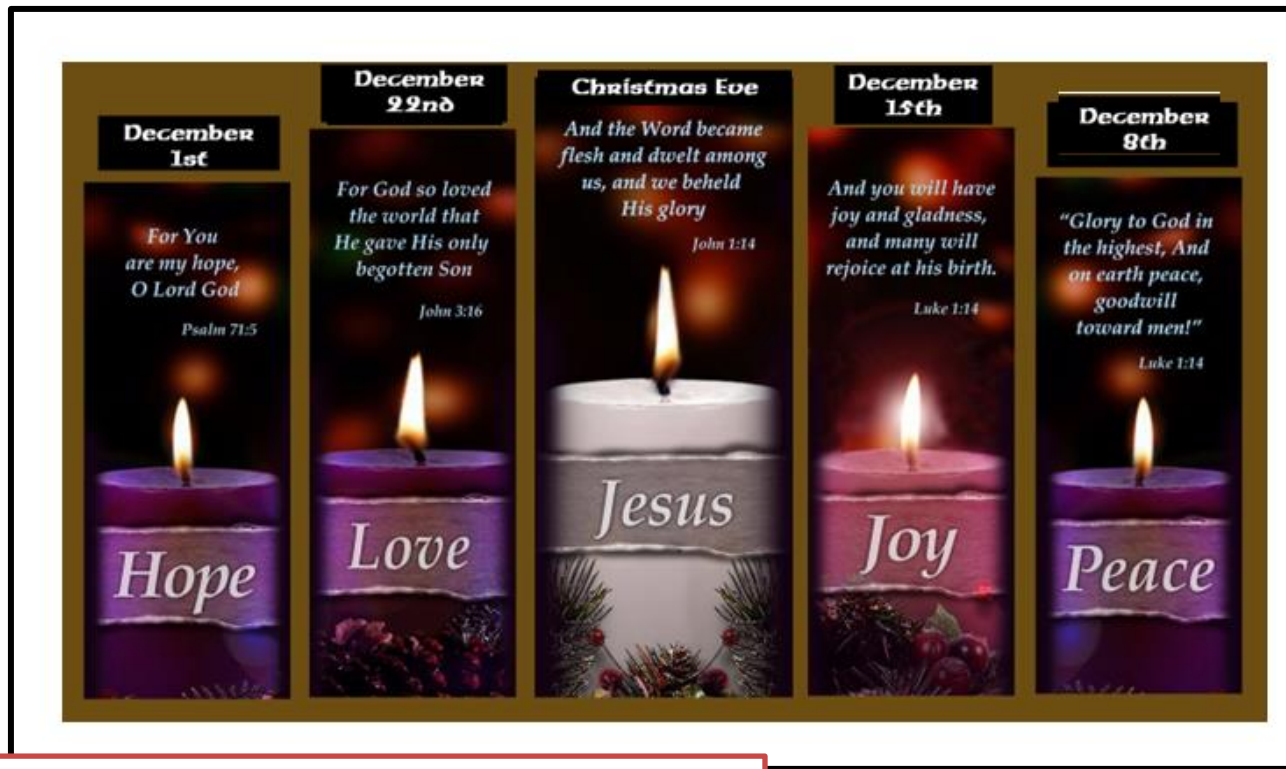


THE LOOP

Church Phone – 519 – 485 – 0385

E-Mail - stjamesoffice@execulink.com

St. James' Anglican Church Newsletter December 2024



Once again, we have reached the end of a calendar year, December, but we are also at the beginning of a liturgical year, Advent. We begin the Liturgical Year on the First Sunday of Advent then move to Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Proper Time, and again, finish with the Reign of Christ the King. This issue will wrap up our business and reports for the year of 2024. We look forward to 2025 plans and events.

Thank you to all who submitted reports and ideas for this newsletter. Your Editor, *Veronica*

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An Advent Poem by John Bell

Light looked down and saw
the darkness
"I will go there" said light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
"I will go there" said peace".
Love looked down and saw hatred.
"I will go there", said love.
So he, The Lord of Light,
The Prince of Peace,
The King of love,
Came down and crept in beside us.



The Call of Advent

As Advent rapidly approaches, I would like to share with you one of my favorite Advent stories. The Author is unknown, but if we are honest with ourselves the message is certainly is not.

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified.

Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled."

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he

got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

All of the applicants presumably knew Morse Code, otherwise they would not have bothered applying for the job, but only one of them was aware and heard the call. All of us presumably know Christ, but we sometimes become preoccupied with our own concerns, we tune ourselves out, and completely miss Him, not recognizing the one standing among us, calling out to us. Advent is the time of the Christian year that we are called to prepare for the coming of Christ. The call is to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas. Before we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let's listen and reflect on the grace and the power of what has been done for us by God. We need to prepare by opening our hearts to the wonder and the mystery of God becoming human for us in the person of the Child of Bethlehem. And we need to do that by prayer. Before we celebrate, be aware of all God has done for us and what it is we celebrate. Give thanks for the real meaning of Christmas. Don't wind up in a position of simply acknowledging an event. Become part of the event. And you can only do that through being aware of all of God's grace and prayerful preparation to meet God in the person of Jesus Christ. This is what Advent calls us to. A call that longs for the reign of God in peace and justice, in hope and in His gracious love. Pray that our Lord may open your eyes, mind and heart to God's call to us.

Marty+

November Needle and Craft Group Report

Since the Group returned September 10th, the Group has been very busy. Some members crocheted "The Bag" of many purposes for fund raising for our community outreach projects.

One member was knitting scrubbies for sale while our quilters helped to complete a quilt. Others worked on individual projects.

At the same time members with help from family and friends crocheted and knitted poppies for our Remembrance Day project. Two panels and an extension for the panel made last year were completed for the windows at Town Hall. Fifteen poppy wreaths for windows were made and sold (by donation) to uptown businesses. As a result a donation was given to the Ingersoll Legion Poppy Fund. At present, the Group with the help of congregation members is busy planning for the Cookie Sale.

The Needle and Craft Group of many talented members believe strongly in helping others and as a result are able to assist community programs. We continue to welcome new members to join us for fellowship and lovable work. Drop in Tuesdays between 1:30 - 4:30 at the Annex to see what we are about.

St. James' Anglican Church

Christmas



COOKIE SALE!

Saturday, December 14 9AM - 1PM
At The Annex
231 Thames Street South

Proceeds for St. James's Outreach programs:
Interchurch Food Hampers Program, Salvation Army Foodbank, Cycles of Life,
Huron Farm Workers' Support Oxford County

Submitted by *Margaret Burford*

ACW News



ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

The year of 2024 has been a challenging one for our ACW meeting attendees with many extreme illnesses, accidents with surgery and a few changes of circumstance. We have only been able to have a couple of meetings throughout the year. 2026 will bring better things for sure.

We were able to provide \$500 to the Interchurch group in Ingersoll in early April. The need is great and has gotten more so as this year of high expenses has progressed. We so look forward to the day when we can set up shop in our new building and hold a variety of events/classes/speakers and whatnot. Think of any idea that you believe might enhance our presence and offer a spiritual/educational uplift to our downtown presence. We'd like to flush out the ideas and start planning for dates (even though the startup is vague fight now). Remember every woman in our church is a member of ACW (Anglican Church Women or All Christian Women) by right of birth. Bring any or all ideas you have and share them so we can plan ahead.

We have just taken pre-orders, brought in and distributed the church calendars for 2025. We did order a few extras this year and one can be yours for only \$7.00. Please contact Susan Winlaw at 519-532-7852 to get yours asap. The pictures of the churches across Canada are beautiful. The ACW provides the calendars used at our Wee Cottage for the Rector and secretary offices and for the Wardens and general use in the main hall.

Submitted by: *Susan Winlaw*,
ACW President



BAC News



The St. James' BAC continues to meet on a monthly basis, for breakfast, at Louie's Restaurant in Ingersoll. We average approx. 13-14 men attending each one of the breakfast sessions.

Next breakfast date will be **Wednesday December 11, 2024 at 9:30 am** at Louie's.

Submitted by *Scott Naisbitt*

+++++

Prayer List

Prayers of the People, By the People, For the People.

St. James' prays for our families, friends, and loved ones who are ill or recovering from illness or are in need of prayerful support. Grant them healing and strength. May they find Peace. Lord, we pray for:

**Garnet, Little Jack, Murray, Clara,
Nickolas, David, Joan, Matthew,
Catherine, Elizabeth, Anne, John, Janey,
Judy, Dorothy, Linda, Eleanor,
Percy, Marilyn, Susan, Jo, Little J.J., Deny,
and Linda**

+++++



**Myra Ann Shier
Don Cole**



Altar Guild News



Advent and Christmas Altar Flowers

The Altar Guild will be placing evergreen baskets on each side of the Altar again this year in Celebration of Advent and the Christmas Season. Should anyone wish to give donations towards these baskets in memory or celebration of loved ones, please call Donna Hunter at 519-485-2655 or Andrea Cryderman at 519-485-2455. Thanks for your continued support.

+++++

The Inter Church Kettles

As usual, St. James' Parish was assigned one day on the roster at two locations (Tremblett's Independent Store, and, Foodland Grocery Store) to supervise the kettle collection for Inter+Church.

Our day was Thursday November 28th and the following parish members looked after collecting the well needed funds –

Pierre Beaumier, Deb Landon, Rosemarie Brokenshire, Don Teichrob, Margaret Burford, Andrea Cryderman, Marnie Cryderman, Trudy Groot, Sue McCullough, Mike Watson, and Veronica Jackson.

Each shift was one hour with Deb and Pierre signing up for two shifts!



Vision Committee News



Since the Fall edition of the Loop, we have been working diligently at getting the required permanent easement in place so that construction could begin on our downtown property. The following is a list of actions that have been underway since our last report:

- the property survey, which is one of the requirements for easement application, is complete and paid for with both parties (St. James' & Kursoul) sharing the \$5,000 cost equally
- the permanent easement is required by the Town of Ingersoll before a Building permit is issued, however, only the County of Oxford has consent authority
- the formal application to the County of Oxford Planning Department is complete. It includes an agreement between both parties, the above mentioned survey, and paid application fees for both parties in the amount of \$2,795
- the County of Oxford has confirmed receipt of the application and they are currently circulating that document to its various agencies
- we have been advised we may not get on the County agenda until February of 2025. Whatever the hearing date turns out to be, it is followed by a decision from the Land Division Committee which in turn is followed by a 21 day appeal period. This would easily translate to a March/April start of a six month construction interval
- in view of this further delay, on November 6th we wrote a three page letter to the Chief Building Officer for Town of Ingersoll appealing for relief so that we could begin

construction. The letter was copied to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Mayor, all Councillors, our construction company, architect, project manager, Bishop and Archdeacons. We were pressing for relief since there is no physical access between our renovation space and the hallway easement on the second floor

- on November 21st we received a reply from the Chief Building Officer where he offered us the concession of us applying for a separate Building Permit/Alteration Permit which would allow us to begin upgrading the planned basement structural upgrades
- this separate permit, would allow us to begin construction by completing the basement structural upgrades while we wait for easement consent from the County of Oxford. The Chief Building Officer has waived the normal Permit fee and only requires we pay a \$193 admin fee.
- we have conferred with all parties involved and determined there is unanimous agreement to move forward with this approach
- our construction company will move forward with a review of all pricing from the trades and suppliers as all quotes are currently stale dated. They will also create a construction agreement which of course will be properly review before signing
- with all of the above achieved, construction could begin as early as late January and will nicely fill in the time gap while we wait for the easements to be attached to the respective property titles

Onward and forward my friends!

Submitted by: *Michael Watson*,
Vision Committee Chair on behalf of Vision Committee members:
Rev'd Marty Keatings, Pierre Beaumier, Margaret Burford, Veronica Jackson, Bob Welt.

**ALWAYS BELIEVE
GOD IS GOING
TO ANSWER
YOUR PRAYER.**

Advent Study for 2024

Hope and Surprise

Reflections for the season of Advent

with the Very Reverend Ken Gray

Hope and Surprise: Reflections for the Season of Advent

PWRDF invites you to journey through Advent with the Very Reverend Ken Gray, former Dean and Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral in Kamloops, B.C. Ken brings his experience in environmental ministry and climate justice advocacy to this year's resource. His daily personal reflections on life and theology are also enhanced by favourite photos, lyrics and hymn texts. †

Introduction

In 1955, writer C.S. Lewis published, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*. He borrowed the title from William Wordsworth's 1815 poem *Surprised by Joy*; a poem that holds in tension both joy and grief; a joy that wants to be shared and a grief for a loved one who is no more. Lewis wrote that joy is like a "signpost" to those who are lost, pointing the way forward.

As we begin the Advent season this year, it is a challenge to identify the signposts of hope and joy in a world that seems evermore polarized and in conflict; where grief is a daily reality for so many. And yet...that is what the Very Rev. Ken Gray invites us to do in this year's PWRDF Advent resource. Through scripture, reflections, photos, prayers and song lyrics, he invites us to find hope in the small everyday wonders of our lives and the lives and work of our PWRDF partners. And he invites us into the anticipation and surprise and joy that is the Advent journey.

"Advent," he writes, "is that exciting season of the church year when we look to the future from our place in the present. Advent invites us and prods us to pay

attention to what is going on, locally, globally, all around us, and within us. As the children's song goes: 'God is a surprise.' So be ready, to be surprised. Prepare for what is unpredictable."

In the weeks ahead, you are invited to hold in prayer all that brings you hope and surprise. For a child is about to be born, and that is reason for joy.

In *Advent Hope*,
Suzanne Rumsey
Public Engagement Program Coordinator

P.S. The "signpost" that is the name, The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is changing to *Alongside Hope*. Who we are and what we do, however, is not changing. This is reflected in the tag line for the new name: *Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world*. The transition to our new name is a process. Thus, as with this resource, you will see that we will continue to reference PWRDF for a time.

About the author

Now in retirement from over 35 years of lay and ordained ministry throughout the Anglican Church of Canada, the Very Rev. Ken Gray devotes much of his time to environmental advocacy, teaching and writing, blogging, and photography. You can follow his blog at <https://take-note.ca/>. His images may be viewed at <https://grayintheforest.smugmug.com/>. He recently co-edited and published *Partnership as Mission: Essays in Memory of Elie Johnson* (November 2023) available from Wipf and Stock Publishing, Eugene. He lives with his partner, Kathie, and dog-blogger Labradoodle Juno, in Summerland BC.



Week 1: Advent 1: Hope

Sunday, December 1
Monday, December 2
Tuesday, December 3
Wednesday, December 4
Thursday, December 5
Friday, December 6

Week 2: Advent 2: Peace

Sunday, December 8
Monday, December 9
Tuesday, December 10
Wednesday, December 11
Thursday, December 12
Friday, December 13

Week 3: Advent 3: Joy

Sunday, December 15
Monday, December 16
Tuesday, December 17
Wednesday, December 18
Thursday, December 19
Friday, December 20

Week 4: Advent 4: Love

Sunday, December 22
Monday, December 23
Tuesday, December 24

Right Click on the photo above to open the PDF with all of the daily entries for Advent.

This PDF will also be sent out by email on Sunday December 1st

OR

You can access it from our church website.

OR

Fill in the email form at PWRDF's website - <https://pwrdf.org/Advent2024/>

From A Past Loop

As many of you know, when Inez Fishwick was alive, she loved to pass on "tidbits" and original poems for our issues of The Loop. Here some of Inez's Christmas favourites –

Christmas

symbols

Evergreen Tree: Titus 1:2
Eternal Life

Star & Lights: Matthew 2: 9-10
Star that told of Christ's birth

Candy Cane: Luke 2: 8-9, John 10:11
Staff of shepherds who visited the Christ child/Christ is the good shepherd

Bells: John 10:16
Ring out to bring lost sheep back to the fold

Holly & Berries: Titus 1:2, Luke 22:44
Green - Eternal life, Red - Blood of Christ

Gift: Matthew 2:1,11, John 3:16
Wise men's gifts to the Christ child/God's greatest gift to us was the Savior

What Is Christmas?

An Inspirational Message
By
Helen Steiner Rice

*It's more than a day at the end of the year,
More than a season of joy and good cheer –
Christmas is really God's pattern for living,
To be followed all year by unselfish giving.
For in giving to others and in being kind
Man finds true joy and peace of mind –
And peace on earth will come to stay
When we live Christmas every day.*

CANDY MAKER'S WITNESS

Source Unknown



A candy maker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy. White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior.

It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. as a candy cane—a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear."

I pray that this symbol will again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus and his great love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominate force in the universe today.



Nursing & Retirement Home Services



The Ingersoll Inter-Ministerial Group of Ingersoll priests, pastors, and ministers arrange a schedule for representatives of member churches to provide a worship/fellowship service to the following locations –

Long Term Care Residences – Secord Trails, and, Woodingford Lodge; Retirement Residence Oxford Manor.

This past week on November 28th, St. James' provided a service at Oxford Manor Retirement Residence.

Thank you to – Carolin French, our amazing keyboardist who provided the music selections; Donna Hunter who assisted at the service; Rev'd Marty Keatings for providing in advance of his paternity leave, material to share with the residents; and, Wardens Mike Watson and Veronica Jackson for organizing and delivering the worship service.

It is always a pleasure to bring folks together and share our faith!

Thank you to all our parish volunteers!



Inter-Church Report



Two of our parishioners, Kendra Thouless and Bob Welt, both volunteer their time and work closely with this local agency.

The following information was shared with us at the November Parish Council meeting –

“Ingersoll and District Inter-Church anticipates providing 350 families with Christmas Hampers this year in the Ingersoll, Thamesford, Beachville, Embro and Mount Elgin areas. Perishable and nonperishable hampers along with gifts. Throughout the year we also provide financial support in the community; housing, utilities and uninsured medical needs. Rent assistance is up by 80 percent and Utility assistance has risen by 280 percent since last year.

We are a 100 percent volunteer organization. All your donations stay in your community with minimal overhead costs. If you are interested in donating you can e-transfer donations to interchurch2005@gmail.com, please include your name and email address if you would like a tax donation receipt. Once the postal strike is over, cheques can be mailed to Ingersoll and District inter-Church 56 Thames St S. Ingersoll N5C 2S9; or cheques in an envelope can be put into the Christmas Kettles at Foodland or Tremblets' Independent stores.

Your support last year was overwhelming, and the need in our community will be very high this year again.”



Fundraising Concerts



CHRIST
in Christmas
CONCERT - 2024

Saturday, December 7th at 7:00PM
Sacred Heart Church, Ingersoll

Join Ted Comiskey as he sings
the songs of Christmas with
Bob Breen, Peter Cox
& Jim Gonder.

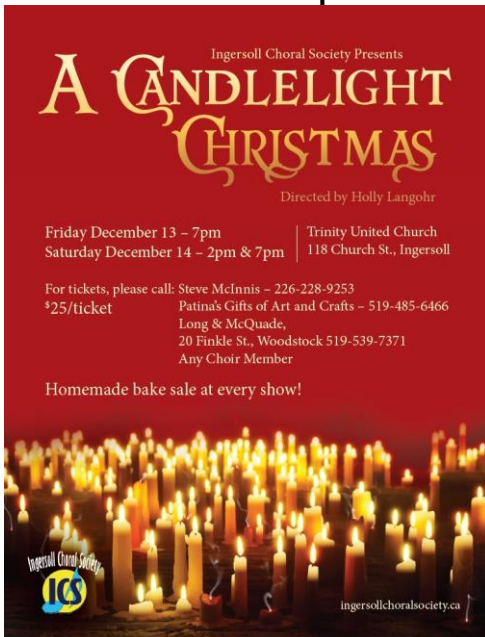
\$20
per person
(under 12 free)

All proceeds to support
Ingersoll & District
Inter-church services to
the less fortunate.

Tickets Available at:
Patina's
Lesser Jewellers
and
Inter-Church Board
Members

Inter-church

The Inter-Church is excited to announce the second annual Christmas Concert with Ted Comiskey and local musicians Peter Cox, Jim Gonder and Bob Breen. This event will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Saturday December 7, 2024. Please contact 519 857 7458 or visit Patina's on Thames Street to purchase tickets.



Ingersoll Choral Society Presents
A CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS
Directed by Holly Langohr

Friday December 13 - 7pm
Saturday December 14 - 2pm & 7pm

Trinity United Church
118 Church St., Ingersoll

For tickets, please call: Steve McInnis - 226-228-9253
\$25/ticket
Patina's Gifts of Art and Crafts - 519-485-6466
Long & McQuade,
20 Finkle St., Woodstock 519-539-7371
Any Choir Member

Homemade bake sale at every show!

Ingersoll Choral Society
ingersollchoralsociety.ca

Saturday, December 14, 2024 7:00 pm
118 Church Street, Ingersoll
(Trinity United Church)

Ingersoll Choral Society presents A Candlelight Christmas, directed by Holly Langohr
For tickets (\$25/ticket), please call:
Steve McInnis: 226-228-9253
Patin's Gifts of Art & Crafts: 519-485-6466
Long & McQuade (20 Finkle St. Woodstock)

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm and 7 pm

Two Services Tues. December 24th
Family Service at 4:30 pm –
Rev'd Marty Keatings officiant
Carol Sing at 4:15 pm

Evening Service at 7 pm –
Rev'd Sue McCullough officiant

Both services will be held at
The Masonic Hall



CHRISTMAS DAY
WORSHIP SERVICE

Wed. December 25th

Said Service of Holy Eucharist
10:30 am at The Annex
Rev'd Sue McCullough officiant



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday December 29th

Service of Holy Eucharist
10:30 am at The Masonic Hall
Rev'd Sue McCullough officiant

Sunday School News



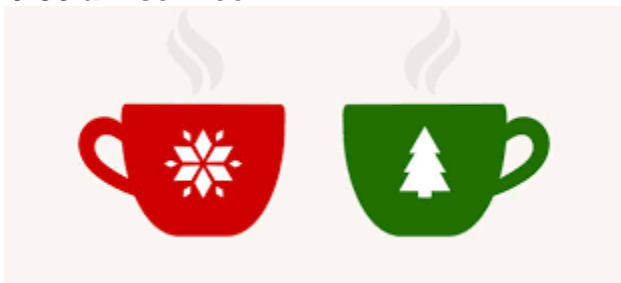
Sunday School teachers, Pat Harrison and Veronica Jackson, are looking forward to ushering all our Sunday School Kids through the Season of Advent.

There will be Sunday School lessons and crafts every Sunday in December (except Dec. 29th).

Please encourage your children and grandchildren to come and join us as we explore the themes of Advent – Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.



**Please join us on –
Sunday December 15th for a fellowship
coffee and tea gathering after our
10:30 am service.**



Parish Council Report



Our final meeting of 2024 was held earlier in November. Reports were submitted by the representatives of various committees that sit on council. Our present council is made up of – Pierre Beaumier, Rosemarie Brokenshire, Joanne Barker, Bob Welt, Susan Winlaw, Kendra Thouless, Marnie Cryderman, Kristy VanKooten-Bossence, Rev'd Marty Keatings, Mike Watson, Veronica Jackson, and recording secretary, Amy Thistle.

As we approach a new calendar year, and our annual vestry meeting at the end of January 2025, we will be looking for new and/or additional members to sit on parish council and act as deputy wardens/wardens.

We will be looking for individuals who are prepared to attend 5 to 6 meetings over the course of the year and contribute to committee work. Meetings are in the evening (usually a Tuesday) and can be attended virtually if you are unable to make the meetings in person.

Please consider putting your name forward for a position as a parish council member or a warden for 2025.

Submitted by : The Wardens & Deputy Warden

*Veronica Jackson, Mike Watson,
Pierre Beaumier*

Advent/Christmas Window Painting

Keeping with the arrival of the Season of Advent, a group of St. James' parishioners decided to decorate the windows of our building at 130 Thames St. S. Deputy Warden, Pierre Beaumier, created the designs which were traced onto craft paper, and then these templates were traced onto the windows. There was a great team of artistic helpers as well as a support team! We were extremely happy to have everything finished and in place for November 16th, the Ingersoll Rotary Club's Santa Claus Parade, and the BIA's Lighting of the lights evening on November 21st.

If you haven't had a chance to see the windows, take a walk down Thames St. in the downtown core.



Pictured above – Top row centre – Mike and Pierre; Middle row left to right – Randy and Shelley; Phoebe; Sue and Randy; Bottom row – finished artwork
Support Team not in photos – Amy and Veronica

Upcoming Events & Dates



EPIPHANY PARTY #2 **SATURDAY JANUARY 5TH 2025**

At the MASONIC HALL

Our first Epiphany Party was organized by Rev'd Sue who wrote in December of 2023 - *"Who's up for a potluck dinner and singing our favourite Christmas songs/hymns until we're hoarse, and before we tuck them away for another year?? Well, then come and join us at the Masonic Hall. We will gather at 5:30 pm, sit down and share a potluck meal at 6 pm and then sing, sing, sing!!! To save time in cleaning up, please bring your own cutlery and dishes. We will provide beverages and cups.*

Please email or the office to let us know you are joining us so that we can set up enough places."

So keep this date in mind and sometime before Friday January 3rd, let Amy know in the church office so we can plan on how many people from your household would like to attend.

It is a party for all ages and in addition to food and song, there will be games!



The Epiphany of the Lord Church Service will be held On Sunday January 5th with Reverend Sue as the celebrant.

Vestry Information



Our annual Vestry meeting will be held on **Sunday January 26th**. The meeting will take place immediately after the worship service at the Masonic Hall.

Please bring a brown bag lunch and coffee, tea and juice will be provided by the church.

All groups within the parish that have reports to submit, should have them emailed or hand submitted to our office administrator by **January 10th**. Please note, all groups should also have their treasurers submit financial statements to the office as well. We realize that some groups have not been overly active in the past year while waiting for our new church premises to be completed, but according to Canon Law from the Diocese of Huron we must meet all the conditions set forth in Canon #18.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

4. A meeting of the Vestry of each Parish shall be held not later than February 28 annually unless given special permission from the Bishop. Notice of the date, time and purpose of such annual Vestry meeting shall be given at each service held by the Parish during three successive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. For greater clarity, a Vestry meeting may be held following the main service on the third successive Sunday on which notice of the meeting has been given. Business of the annual Vestry meeting shall include, without limitation, the review of the financial statements of the Parish for the fiscal year just ended, the approval of the annual budget of the Parish and the appointment of accountants or auditors of the Parish for the upcoming financial year.

Thank you in advance for being prompt with this information so that the Vestry Report can be circulated by **January 19th**, a week prior to Vestry.

Welcome Baby Ben

Bennett (Ben) William Robert Keatings was born October 28, 2024 weighing 8lb13oz. His early arrival meant he made it home in time for Hallowe'en and Charlotte's birthday (who, by the way, is very smitten with her little brother.) Ben is currently the spitting image of his big sister as a newborn, so it will be interesting to see how much they continue to look alike as he grows. He currently spends his days sleeping, eating, outgrowing his clothes, and dodging all the cold germs Charlie brings home from kindergarten. He loves warm baths and snuggles more than just about anything else, and he looks forward to charming you all with his big smiles very soon.

Thank you for all your prayers and well wishes, and know that you have ours as we enter into this most holy season of Advent.

Pax Christi,
The Keatings Family
Marty, Deanne, Charlotte, & Ben



Top Photos - Master Ben Keatings and sister Charlotte
Bottom Photo – Ben with his three sisters and his niece

A Thank You Message from Reverend Marty

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My wish is that you all be blessed with a happy and holy Christmas this year. As we celebrate the most important event in human history, the incarnate Word made flesh and dwelling among us, may its remembrance bring you much peace and hope. Two thousand years ago the Holy Family could find no shelter except with the animals in a cold dark stable. May they, this year and every year hereafter, always be welcomed into our homes and hearts.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support of our Parish. A special thanks to all the volunteers who are so devoted and have worked so hard to care for our parish, I am deeply grateful. To Sue+, who graciously offers us her time and talents, and who may be depended upon to help whenever and wherever she can. To our dedicated Wardens and staff, without whom our Parish would cease to function. To the faithful members of the various ministries in our Parish, especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our Parish lively, thank you so very much, God knows all the good you do. Please know that I, and the whole Parish, are very grateful for your gifts of your time and talents. And finally, thank you to all the members of our Parish family. Without your support, prayerful and financial, our ministry would cease to be. I pray that God bless you all with His mercy and grace.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isa. 9:1). Christ is the light by which we walk the way of life, the light by which we are able to discern good from evil. Always look to Him with faith, hope and charity. Guide your friends and your family toward Him. In Him we hope. In Him we have our salvation.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas with Grace, Peace, Joy and Love.

Marty+



**Office Hours over
the Holiday Season**

Church Office

Reminders

Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday –
9 AM to Noon

Office Closed

December 23rd to
December 27th inclusive December 31st
January 1st
(reopens on Fri. Jan 3rd)

Phone Number

519-485-0385

Email

stjamesoffice@execulink.com

Web Site

<http://www.stjamesingersoll.com/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/people/StJames-Anglican-Church-Ingersoll-Ontario/100064560229242/>

Priest Contact Emails

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rector.stjamesingersoll@gmail.com

Interim Rev'd Sue -

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Tax receipts for 2024

We encourage donors to donate early to ensure they receive a 2024 tax receipt.
Donations must be received by December 31, 2024 to be eligible.



Season's Greetings

