

St. George's Anglican Church

News from the Pews

Holy Week and Easter 2025

From the Rector

As I write this letter today, I'm reminded that the word 'Lent' comes from the old English word *Lenten*, meaning "spring," which is not only a seasonal reference to Easter, but also an invitation for a springtime of the soul. However, I find myself more closely identifying with the following drawing from Sandra Boynton.

This has been a long winter, filled with overcast skies, the polar vortex, and more days of freezing rain and snow than I care to remember. I used to love playing in the snow; that is, until I had to shovel it. But now I find myself aching for the signs of spring – aching to see those crocuses fully emerge – aching to see signs of new life emerging from God's creation all around us. Because, in many ways, these signs of new life remind us of what has already happened, and continues to happen every day as God brings about the renewal and restoration of this world.

Sometimes we as the church, particularly the North American church, think of the resurrection as an event that occurred in the past and is limited to the past. Now true enough, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead occurred in the past and is God's own testimony against death. But the resurrection of Jesus is also what empowers us for living. Because if we want to truly live, then we need to embrace what it means to live the resurrected life – a life full of love, meaning, and purpose. For the good news of Easter is not only that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and is alive, but also that the power of the resurrection can transform our lives as well.



Throughout this season of Lent and into Easter, we as the church celebrate that there is new life and new possibilities for you and I right there and right now in this world. Our Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday, April 13th when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession of palm branches with services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Then on Maundy Thursday, April 17th, we'll gather at 7:00 pm to remember the last supper and Jesus' mandate (*mandatum* became *maundy*) to "love one another as I have loved you." After celebrating the Eucharist, our liturgy will include stripping the altar of all furnishings to remind us of how the soldiers stripped Christ of his garments prior to his crucifixion.

We then gather on Good Friday, April 18th, at 10:30 am to hear the proclamation of Christ's Passion and reflect upon his sacrifice for us. The tone is solemn, but not somber, for our emphasis is on the victory of the cross. We will then mark the beginning of the fifty days of Easter on Sunday April 20th at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Continued...

Holy Week provides an opportunity for us to encounter our most powerful and transformative liturgies. They are central to our faith and our walk with Christ and I strongly encourage you to plan on attending as many of these services as you are able. So as we experience new birth and new life around us, it is my hope and prayer that you will find your faith strengthened, your hope renewed, and that you will be blessed with His peace and joy throughout the Easter season!

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Victor Kischak Pastor, Priest, & Rector

From the Wardens

As we come together to celebrate Easter, the most significant festival in our Christian calendar, we also take a moment to reflect on the many ways we've gathered as a church community throughout the year. 2025 has already been a busy and fulfilling year at St. George's, filled with fellowship, service, and growth.

A Look Back at Our Year So Far

- Our Prayer Shawl Guild continues to meet twice each month, providing much-appreciated shawls to parishioners in hospital, and baby blankets to the youngest members in our parish.
- We had 2 teams participate in the Coldest Night of the Year - raising over \$8,000 to support the wonderful work of Hope House!
- We've hosted 2 Saturday Night Suppers, bringing a nourishing, warm meal to our community's most vulnerable members.
- Our Book Club continues to meet monthly, both in-person and online.
- Chi Rho continues to regularly meet at All Saints Church.
- Our "Take Heart" ministry began operating on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings, opening our church to anyone who wants to come inside to quietly enjoy the beautiful nave.
- Our Vestry meeting took place in late February, with Jim Squires and Grace Gomashie joining the Warden team! A huge thank you to Rani Varkey, Giesela Goetz and Bruce Carrick for their dedicated service to St. George's over the last number of years.
- We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper with approximately 125 people in attendance.
- We had our first "Zoom Church" when a snowstorm on February 19th made it much safer to stay home.
- Adults of all ages enjoyed a Square Dance Social, called by Cadence Beck.
- The Community Closet, also organized by our Young Adult Ministry, was launched and is stocked with items that might be needed by those in need who come to the church in search of food, warm clothing or other items, particularly when other service providers aren't open.
- Harry Oussoren provided Church Leadership with fire evacuation training.
- The plans for upgrading our sound and video equipment are underway - the contract has been signed and we await the equipment to arrive!
- We hosted our Spring Soup & Buns lunch raising funds for our Saturday Night Supper ministry.
- Another Newcomers' Lunch took place in late March with 8 new parishioners in attendance!
- Our time as refugee sponsors for the Koujar family is winding up as they approach their first anniversary in Canada.
- Victor's Zoom Lent course was a huge hit with over 30 people attending on Zoom each Wednesday in Lent.

Continued...

That's A LOT! Many thanks to everyone who helps to make St. George's such a vibrant and busy parish! For your calendars, there are a few things to look forward to as well:

- Holy Week Services: April 13, Palm Sunday; April 17, Maundy Thursday; April 18, Good Friday, and April 20, Easter Sunday
- Our Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday, April 26 from 8:00am-2:00pm
- Choral Evensongs will return on Sunday, May 4 at 4:00 pm
- The Bishop's Company Dinner will take place on Tuesday, May 13
- Sunday School Last Day will be June 8th – stay tuned for some fun details!

Happy Easter!

Paul Deacon, Laura Keller, Jim Squires, and Grace Gomashie



Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser



Shrove Tuesday



Chi Rho Meeting, December, 2024

The Rev. Canon Christopher Pratt, St. George's former Interim Priest-in-Charge receiving the King Charles III Coronation Metal from Member of Parliament for Cambridge, Brian May. The citation offered an appreciation for Canon Pratt's governance work with St John Ambulance at the local, provincial and national levels over thirty years of his association with the organization.



Treasurer's Report

The amount received from Identified Givers year to date up to February is up \$17K from February of last year, with open collections being about the same. Total offerings are down, however, \$61,625 of that was from a special one time gift. Without the special gifts, total offerings are up \$17K from February 2024. Parking revenue is similar to last year making the increase to total revenue \$17K without the special gifts.

On the expense side, Maintenance costs are up mainly due to an increment in Insurance costs, Repairs, and Contracts & Inspections. At this time of year, it can be more of a timing issue than an actual increase in the costs. Expenses for Office & Accounting are higher, however the Audit bill was paid in February this year and was paid later last year, other expenses are similar year over year. Building Recovery Costs - Other Users (shown in our budget as a negative expense rather than as income) is up from last year as rentals increase.

Our Expenses over Revenue are higher than last year at -\$96.7K, however much of that is due to the special gift.

How can you help?

The best thing you can do for St. George's is to make regular, generous offerings to the church. You might consider Pre-Authorized Giving if you haven't already. Simply fill out the form (download it from our website or contact the office for one) and your gift will come directly out of your bank account. No more having to remember an envelope every Sunday!

Other ways to donate include:

- Mail a cheque to the church
- Drop off cash or a cheque at the church during business hours (call ahead)
- By e-transfer to bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca
- On our website using a credit card

	Actual Jan-Feb 2025	Actual Jan-Feb 2024	Budget 2025
Total Revenue	\$68,348	\$113,355	\$412,372
Total Expenses	\$171,102	\$152,192	\$569,382
Net Revenue	-\$96,717	-\$31,939	-\$67,750

Holy Week Service Schedule

April 13 Palm Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP)
and 10:30 am (BAS)

April 16 Mid-Week Service: 10:00 am (BAS)

April 17 Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm (BAS)

April 18 Good Friday: 10:30 am (BAS)

April 20 Easter Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP)
and 10:30 am (BAS)

Join us for church
school on Good
Friday

Ways That You Can Support St. George's Church



St. George's depends on the generous gifts of visitors and parishioners. There are a number of ways that you can support our mission and ministries.



The simplest way to give regularly is to sign up for PAG – pre-authorized giving. Your gifts will automatically come to the church leaving you with one less thing to worry about! Simply send an email to bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca to set up PAG.



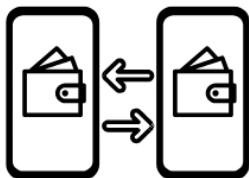
Planned Giving is one way in which St. George's Church maintains financial stability now and into the future. Speak to a Warden, our Treasurer or the Rector about remembering St. George's in your will.



If you prefer the old-school method of giving, rather than leaving cash in the offering plate, order giving envelopes. This way you'll receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. Order envelopes by sending an email to our bookkeeper as well!



The gift of your time supports the church in so many ways. From helping on Sunday mornings as a Greeter or Reader to joining a group or helping at an event, when we give our time and talents, our whole community benefits. It's also a great way to meet new people! There's always something to do – take a look at the bulletin board for events and groups that might interest you!



We accept e-transfers! Simply send your gift to bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca.



Announcements

Making Palm Crosses - Saturday, April 12th 9:30am

Join us as we prepare palms for Palm Sunday. Come for the fellowship, coffee and we'll teach you how to make palm crosses. Looking forward to seeing you.

Palm Sunday Deliveries to Shut-ins

It is our custom to connect with our shut-ins and to let them know that they continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. We are looking for approximately 40 people to deliver a card, palm cross and carnation to our shut ins on **Sunday, April 13th** following our services. Thank you for bringing a smile to our shut ins.

Rani Varkey, Debbie Marchment

Flowers for Easter Sunday, April 20th

We are planning to have a beautiful floral display to celebrate The Sunday of the Resurrection. If you wish to assist in covering the cost of the flowers, we are inviting you to make a donation to St. George's Flower Fund in memory of your loved one(s). By noon hour on Tuesday, April 15 please contact Bruce Mackenzie, preferably by email (office@saintgeorge.ca), or call (519-822-1366), or you can place your request on the collection plate no later than Sunday, April 13. Donations will be included on your 2025 income tax receipt. The list of names and donors will be available at all Easter services. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
**RUMMAGE
SALE**

Donation Drop Off April 24 & 25 1:00pm-8:00pm

**April 26, 2025 | 8:00am - 2:00pm |
99 Woolwich St.**



St. George's Crafter's Guild
SPRING MEETINGS

- Knitting, crocheting, embroidery, card making, beading, etc.
- All skill levels are welcome - we'll even teach you if you want to learn!

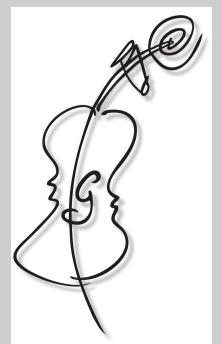
HELLO SPRING

1st & 3rd Sunday afternoons each month
April 6 & 27 (moved one week due to Easter)
May 4 & 18 and **June 1, 15 & 29** (bonus)
1:00 - 3:00 pm
In the Library!



**THE
GUELPH
CONNECTIONS
CONCERTS**

Spring Cycle Begins May 6
Concerts take place Tuesdays
at 4:30 pm
at St. George's
Free admission



Announcements



Take Heart

@ St. George's Church

Wednesdays from 11:00am-2:00pm
Thursdays from 7:00-9:00pm
beginning January 15, 2025

99 Woolwich Street
Guelph ON

www.saintgeorge.ca
office@saintgeorge.ca
519-822-1366



A simple idea.

St. George's Church will be open for anyone who wants to enjoy some quiet time, unbothered, in the beauty of our church.

- enjoy the beautiful windows
- light a candle
- read
- knit
- contemplate
- have a minute to yourself

Come and go as you like. We look forward to welcoming you!

If you would like to support this ministry, we will require at least two volunteers to be in the church while it is open. Feel free to bring your own book/activity—we simply need your presence in case any visitors have questions. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who are interested. If you have any questions, please speak to Laura Keller.



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Toni Atieh, Bryce Sukhdeo, Andrew Wilson



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Please call in advance.

Contact us:

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office@saintgeorge.ca
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Livestream on YouTube
(follow St. George's Guelph)

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