

# St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

## “KEEPING IN TOUCH – December 2022”

Website: <https://www.stthomascambridge.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Thomas.the.Apostle.Cambridge>

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Thank you to Rev Julia Gill and Rev Ross Gill for continuing to lead our weekly services and providing pastoral care for our parishioners while we search for our next wonderful priest. If anyone needs pastoral care, please contact either Canon Karen or, if you would like to speak with the Gills, contact either of the wardens (Rick Furnival or Kathy Brown) and they will put you in touch.

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### COVID UPDATE - A Word from Bishop Todd

Dear friends,

As we move deeper into the fall/winter, we also move into a time of increased respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus. The Ontario Medical Officer of Health has strongly recommended that all people resume wearing masks in indoor settings. As we seek to care for all in our midst, particularly the elderly and the young who are those most affected by respiratory illnesses, it is important that we make good decisions, based on science, for our communal and worship life. **I am strongly recommending the wearing of masks in indoor public settings, including in our church buildings.**

As Christians, we are called to first love God and then to love our neighbour. In doing what we can to reduce the risk of viral transmission, we show in our actions our love for our neighbours.

The last two years have been difficult for individuals, for the church and for our society. As we look with hope toward the beginning of a new liturgical year, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Emmanuel--God with us. Whatever the next year brings, we know that we are not alone. God who came as one of us, remains with us.

In Christ,

+Todd

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend

Bishop of Huron



Although we are not mandating masks at St. Tom’s, we are strongly recommending that per the Bishop’s request, people consider wearing them again for the next few months while we are in the midst of cold, flu and virus season. We are still continuing to keep the pulpit side of the church designated as “distanced seating” for people who, prefer that option and we would ask that anyone sitting in that area please continue to wear a mask for the safety of those around them. Thank you so much to everyone for being careful and taking care of each other!

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### A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

**Thur Dec 1 (7:00 pm)**      **Christmas Carol Sing:** Our friends from The Meeting House, a Christian church who rent our building a few times a month, are planning a Christmas Carol sing and would love anyone to join them who is able.

**Fri Dec 2 (6:30 - 8:00 pm)**      **“Christmas with Reba”:** Join us for another Jackie Grainge/ Celebrity Productions event, celebrating “Reba – Queen of Country”. Tickets are only \$15. Please call Marion at (519) 653-2587 to reserve your seat.  
*Refreshments at 6:30*  
*Show starts at 7:00*

**Sun Dec 11 (1:00 - 2:00pm)**      **Community Christmas Carol Singalong:** After a 2 year hiatus due to Covid, St. Tom’s is happy to once again host the annual “*Anglican Churches in Cambridge*” Christmas Singalong. Join us for a fun hour of your favourite Christmas songs with a little background story behind each one. This year, not only will we have guest musicians from St. Luke’s and St. James’ playing along with Leah, but we are also welcoming a guest singer, Amy Barber, whom many of you will recognize from some of the Jackie Grainge shows.

**Baking for The Bridges**      Let’s bake some tasty Christmas treats for our friends at The Bridges to let them know we’re thinking of them. If you are able to bake up a few goodies and drop them off at the church on Thursday, Dec 15th **between 11am & 12 noon**, we will ensure that they are delivered. **Please note the drop-off time is different this month.**

**Advent Bible Study with retired Bishop Terry Dance:** Everyone knows how remarkable Bishop Terry Dance’s reflections are. If you don’t, here’s your chance to find out. His weekly Advent Study is posted on the Diocese of Huron website in the Media section so you can tune in at a time that works for you. Here’s a link for your convenience: <https://diohuron.org/series/advent-study-with-bishop-terry-dance> Enjoy! 😊

# BISHOP TODD'S VISIT & OUR 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## Bishop Todd Visit - Nov. 13, 2022

### *St Thomas celebrating our 70th Year.*



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make sure that our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration went smoothly.

It was wonderful to have Bishop Todd with us for the morning and everyone enjoyed the potluck brunch.

## AN ADVENT "GIVING" CALENDAR

We prepare for the coming of our Lord by making space ...in our homes, in our lives and in our hearts. It seems very appropriate for us to celebrate God's greatest Gift by acts of giving. This Advent, let's intentionally give away something for each day of this season of preparation. Let's give of our TIME, our TALENT and our TREASURE. It could be:

- ❄ donating possessions which we aren't using
- ❄ giving to a charity
- ❄ giving time or offering help to a person in need
- ❄ volunteering at a local agency
- ❄ giving a smile or kind word to stranger who looks like they need it
- ❄ setting aside time to spend in prayer with Jesus

Come up with your own way of "giving" in the Lord's name. Let the Giving Season begin !!!



## STEADFAST IN FAITH, JOYFUL IN HOPE, UNTIRING IN LOVE

*A Reflection by Bishop Todd Townshend (taken from the Diocese of Huron website)*

“Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love all the days of your life...”

These words begin an Advent blessing that has always given me a sense of calm joy, for some reason or another. In it, we welcome the blessing of God, and we pray that God will make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love. The key to having steadfast faith and untiring love is found in the middle—the blessing of being made joyful in hope.



Joy is one of the words that we expect to see and hear in this season. It is a season that leads to our song, “Joy to the world the Lord has come”!

In this season we will write to people and wish them joy. In the preparations of this season, we will do all that we can to decorate, and shop, and cook, and clean, with the hope that we might bring others—and maybe even ourselves—a little joy.

Sometimes it doesn’t come. Especially if we are the types who have an acute sense of the world’s need. There is a distinct lack of joy in many of us these days, and the world can feel a lot less joyful after the grief caused by the pandemic, by war, by angry polarization, by personal troubles.

We need a little joy, and it can be hard to find. Joy isn’t something you can go out and purchase nor can you generate it internally. Joy isn’t something that comes with an “on” switch. Joy is often a surprise before it is a delight. Like faith and love, it is a gift.

The words of the Advent blessing may give us a hint about the situations into which joy may come and surprise us; the important word might be “in”. Steadfast *IN* faith, joyful *IN* hope, untiring *IN* love. Joy comes when we are in the state of “hope” and hope is something that can only be found when the troubles of life are put together with the gracious presence of God in Christ.

This is a season of song and prayer. I am going to be singing and praying that you will be able to do THE hopeful act: to bring all our troubles to God. To simply warm to the presence of God in silent prayer and to set your troubles and the troubles of the world on the ground next to Jesus, the Risen One.

I will be praying that he will come to you, that he will reach out to you, that you will allow yourself to be held in his embrace, and that you will recognize that God is joyful in this encounter. There is more joy in heaven...!!

When the healing work is done, the Holy Spirit of God will activate a new hope in you, and your gifts will come alive again, ready to be given, ready to be the gift that brings hope to someone else. In that hope, may you all know joy.

*+ Todd*

## Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

Do you have trouble finding Christmas gifts for your family because they already have everything they need? Are you looking for a more meaningful way to celebrate Christmas? What if, instead of buying the usual gifts for people, you buy small “token” gifts and use the money that you would normally have spent on each person to make a donation in their name towards something they would appreciate.



One suggestion is the Anglican charity PWRDF. It's operational all around the world and you can choose where you would like your money to be directed. According to the “Charity Intelligence Canada”, 87% of all money received by PWRDF goes directly to the cause and they have a 5 star rating.

**For the avid gardener in the family** -> \$50 will help a woman in Haiti learn to harvest breadfruit and mill it into flour, improving her food security and earning an income. OR \$100 will support 10 women in Tanzania to grow nutritious food and generate an income by selling surplus veggies at the local market.

**For the women in your family** -> \$80 provides two piglets and training for a woman recovering from sexual violence in the Congo, on how to be self reliant and financially independent.

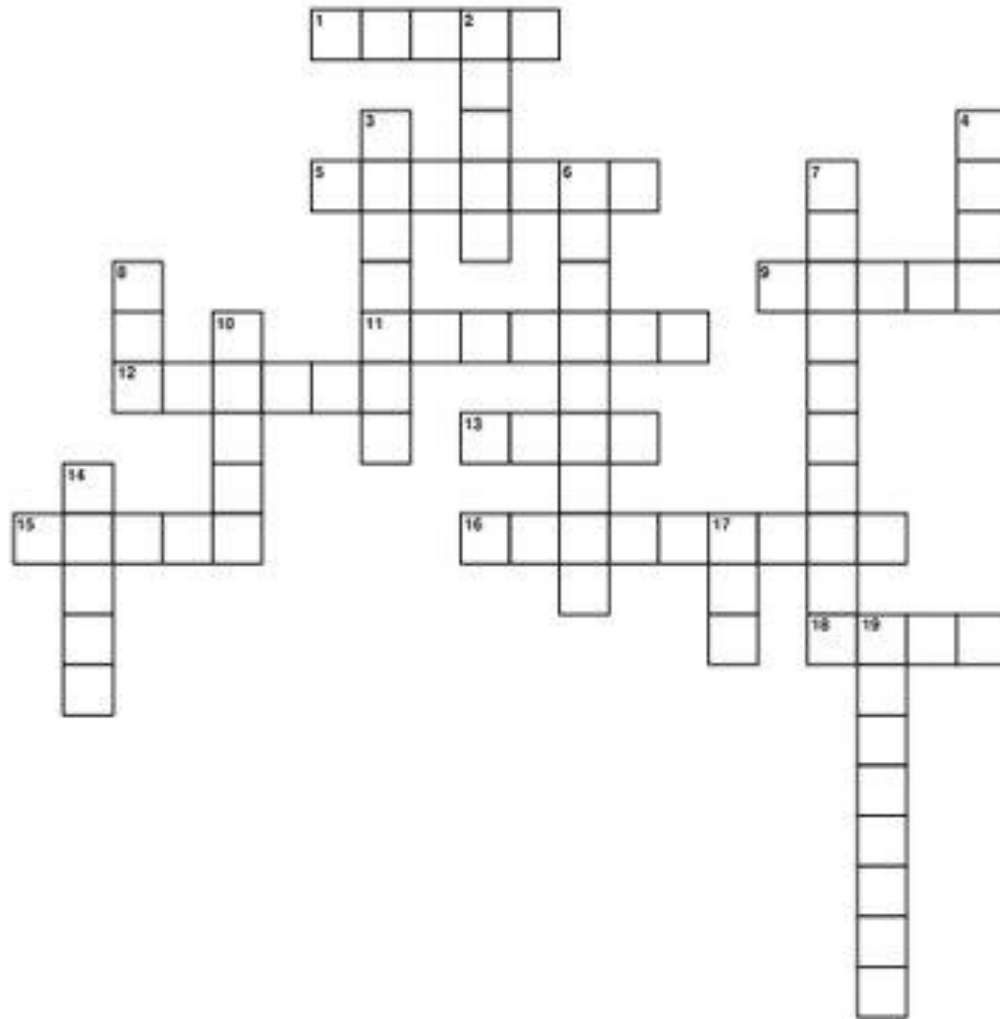
**For the new parents in your life** -> \$25 provides antenatal care appointments and a new baby kit for a mother in Lesotho, South Africa.

**For the environmentalist in your family** -> \$100 provides a purification system to improve the water and environmental hygiene in rural communities.

Or... buy one big “family” gift such as -> **“Buy the whole farm!”** \$530 will support a farmer in one of six different countries by providing 3 goats, 2 pigs, 10 rabbits, poultry farmer training, seed conservation, construction of smart dairy sheds and breadfruit cultivation. What a neat Christmas gift that would make! <https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/shop-pwrdfs-world-of-gifts/>



# How the Grinch Stole Christmas



## Across

- [1] Which direction did the Grinch live from Who-Ville?
- [5] Who wrote *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?
- [9] What did the Grinch hate?
- [11] How did the Grinch get into the Who's house?
- [12] Who carved the roast?
- [13] What would the Who's do after the feast?
- [15] What did the Who's sit down to do?
- [16] What is the name of the mountain the Grinch lives on?
- [18] What happened to the Grinch's heart on Christmas morning?

## Down

- [2] How many times did the Grinch puzzle?
- [3] What kind of trick did the Grinch do?
- [4] What did the Grinch live in?
- [6] Who did the Grinch think he looked like?
- [7] What did the Who's eat at their feast?
- [8] What was the last thing the Grinch stole from Cindy-Lou's home?
- [10] What did the Grinch say wasn't working on the Christmas tree?
- [14] What was the sound the Who's made on Christmas morning?
- [17] What is the name of the Grinch's dog?
- [19] What did the Grinch dress Max like?

**An update from the SELECTION COMMITTEE**

(Chris Coady, Lee Haskins, Rick Furnival, Kathy Brown)



We are happy to advise that we have begun the interview process with a possible candidate. Please pray for everyone on the Selection Committee (both ours and St Luke’s) throughout this process. PRAY for God’s guidance in bringing us the right candidates and pointing us to the right person. Prayer does work!

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**Cambridge Self Help Food Bank**



It’s a sad fact that this year our local food bank needs more help than it’s ever needed before. We will have a donation bin at the church in December for non-perishable food. These are some of the currently most needed items:

*canned meat or fish / canned fruit / sandwich spreads / cereal / gluten free items*

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**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

As of the end of October, our Year-to-date “income” and “expense” finances are as follows:

Income: \$62,843.01  
 Expenses: \$63,257.20  
 Deficit: \$ 414.19



**It is important to note**, however, that the only reason we are close to breaking even is because we have not had to pay the stipend and benefits for a permanent priest for half of the year. Please keep this in mind when determining your ability to contribute to St. Tom’s in 2023, when we are expecting to have a permanent priest with us for nearly the full year.

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**ANSWERS TO  
 “How the Grinch  
 Stole Christmas”  
 CROSSWORD**

