

# St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

## “KEEPING IN TOUCH – January 2023”

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

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

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A big “thank you” and “good-bye” to the **Rev Julia Gill** and **Rev Ross Gill** for their wonderful pastoral care for the past 3 months.

And a big “welcome” to the **Reverend Craig Love**, whom we are very excited to have joining us as our new pastor going forward. Craig is currently a Deacon and will be priested in March 2023. Until then, he will preach and lead us in Morning Prayer. In addition, once a month until Craig is ordained, the Diocese will pay for a priest to come and provide Holy Eucharist for us. As a new priest, his official title will be “Assistant Curate” for the first two years. A big thank you to the joint Selection Committee from St. Luke’s and St. Thomas for their diligent work.



Along with Rev. Craig, please welcome his wife, Melanie, and children, Percy, Nora and Elsie. We look forward to welcoming them into the St. Tom’s family.

Please see Reverend Craig’s letter further down the newsletter.

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### A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

**Thursdays (1:00 pm)**

**Morning Prayer/Service of the Word:** We are very happy that Rev Craig is going to continue holding mid-week services for anyone who prefers a smaller gathering to worship. They will start on the first Thursday in January.

**Sun Jan 29**  
*(after the 9am service)*

**Annual Vestry Meeting / Meet Rev Craig / Potluck Lunch:** Please stay after the service for our annual meeting to review the past year, elect new committee members and discuss important parish issues. Luckily, Rev. Craig will be staying for the meeting and the potluck, so please bring along a dish to share and enjoy a chance to meet him.

## MEET OUR NEW PASTOR → The Reverend Craig Love



As I work my way backwards through previous editions of “Keeping in Touch,” I am encouraged to read the Selection Committee’s recent calls for prayers “for God’s guidance in ... pointing to the right person.” I hope to be this person — a pastor you can trust, a spiritual leader you feel confident growing with.

I was not born into the church but came with decades of experience “in the world,” having learned enough about its many allures to seek beyond them. In 2010, my family began attending St. John the Evangelist, Elora, where we were blessed with life-giving worship services — including soul-stirring singing & honest, engaging preaching. We were also blessed with a few good friends who shaped their lives in the light of Jesus Christ, & who shared their faith with us.

Within a few years of my awakening to life in the Spirit, I felt a calling to ordained ministry. With full support from my family, I turned away from teaching English, despite enjoying considerable success with students. I took pride walking alongside students in their truth-journeys, but as I began serving in the church (including taking part in Bible studies at a rehabilitation centre), I found it even more meaningful to walk alongside others in their faith journeys.

Whether you are a cradle Anglican, or a person without faith commitments hoping to make sense of things, I look forward to hearing from you, & to being present alongside you in the next part of your journey!

Please come & join us for worship, & make efforts to help me get to know you. I look forward to meeting each & every one of you! If you are not able to visit the church, I will be happy to arrange a home visit.

May the light of Christ guide us *all* to exercise our gifts of ministry to God’s glory!

Rev. Craig  
519-498-7882  
[craiglove@diohuron.org](mailto:craiglove@diohuron.org)

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### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

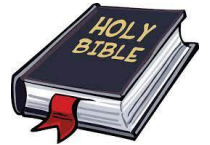
Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

Muhammad Ali

**HERE'S A LIFE CHANGING CHALLENGE YOU SHOULDN'T PASS UP...**



As Canadians, we should be so thankful that we can all afford to own a Bible and that we are free to read it. In many countries, that's not the case. Are you one of the many Christians who have often thought you'd like to read the whole Bible, but the thought of it is so daunting that you've never managed to start? Or maybe you've started but given up after a few weeks because some passages didn't seem to make sense to you and you felt you weren't learning anything? Here's your chance to spend just 20 minutes a day being guided through God's word with an explanation of what you're reading and thought-provoking questions that are very relevant to life today. Treat yourself to a cup of tea or coffee and your soul to a life changing experience. I'm willing to bet that if you try it for just one week, you'll find yourself actually looking forward to it.



**read Nicky Gumbel's Bible in one year: <https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/>**

*NOTE: I do this every morning at breakfast and find it very worthwhile! Kathy Brown*

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**NEW YEAR'S WORD SCRAMBLE**

Unscramble the letters to find words associated with New Year's Eve or starting the New Year.



e m e s s t a r r

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b l n l e n g g n

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u w d o t o n n c

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i n t i a r d o t

\_\_\_\_\_

p a a n c m g h e

\_\_\_\_\_

o a e n t c l r b l e

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r e g s t l g n e

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t e n l r a d o o s c

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e i f r c n o t e l

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h l d g n m t l

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r a a d l e n c

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# Happy New Year !!!

Good morning and welcome to Flight 2023.

We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destruct devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride and resentment should be turned off at this time.

All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith.

Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

God, our Captain, has cleared us for Take-off.

Destination -> GREATNESS!

Wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY  
and new BEGINNINGS!

Stay Blessed and welcome in 2023.

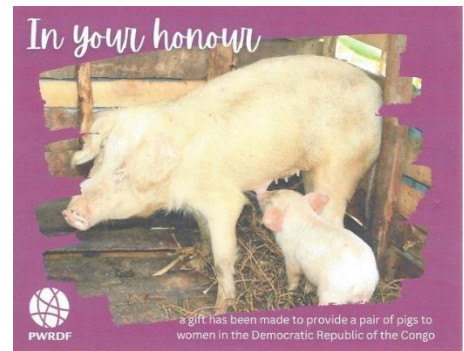




**Susan Grenville is looking for a partner to brainstorm ideas for fundraising for PWRDF. Are you interested? Call 519-897-8563.**

This Christmas, I had a “gift problem”. My sisters-in-law, ages 90 (from New Jersey) and 87 (from Switzerland) were going to meet in London, England for Christmas. What on earth could I gift each of them, and where would I send it? Neither of them ‘needs’ anything tangible. I thought of our recent call from PWRDF to remember their gift catalog, and decided to make a donation in their names.

Both Natalie and Monique are strong, independent women, who long-ago retired from amazing careers in which they always supported other women. I reviewed the catalog, and chose to give them ‘a pair of piglets’ that would be given to a woman who had previously been the victim of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pigs provide a good source of protein for the family as well as income through sale of manure and meat, allowing a woman a chance to provide for her family.



Do you have a friend for whom buying a gift is hard? Consider a donation through the PWRDF Gift Catalog. Choose a “gift” that will be meaningful to the person you are honouring. Your donation is tax-deductible.

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### **DEANERY OF WATERLOO REFUGEE COMMITTEE UPDATE**



The Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee has committed to sponsor a family of four to Canada. They are currently living in Sudan, but the Mum and Dad came from Eritrea a number of years ago. Both children, a little girl, 8 and a little boy, 6, were born in Sudan. The parents both have some English, which will help them when they arrive.

Last June, the St. Tom’s Parish Council committed to join the other 14 deanery churches to support this family. We donated the first \$500 from church funds, and agreed to raise at least another \$1000-1500. In the past 5 months, through donations from parish coffers, the ACW, and individual parishioner donations, our little parish has raised **\$2000** towards the sponsorship. **St. Tom’s parishioners always punch above their weight when a call goes out for charitable support. Thank you for your faithfulness in doing God’s work.**



**If you ever doubted that God exists,  
meet the Very Technical, Highly Engineered Dromedary Camel**

***(not our "usual" type of newsletter article, but it just seemed appropriate for Epiphany!)***



When I'm hungry, I'll eat almost anything - a leather bridle, a piece of rope, my master's tent, or a pair of shoes. My mouth is so tough a thorny cactus doesn't bother it. I love to chow down grass and other plants that grow here on the Arabian desert. I'm a dromedary camel; the one-hump kind that lives on hot deserts in the Middle East. My hump, all eighty pounds of it, is filled with fat - my body fuel -- not water as some people believe. My Mighty Maker gave it to me because He knew I wouldn't always be able to find food.

As I travel across the hot sands, when I don't find any chow, my body automatically takes fat from the hump, feeds my system, and keeps me going strong. This is my emergency food supply. If I can't find any plants to munch, my body uses up my hump. When the hump gets smaller, it starts to tip to one side, but when I get to a nice oasis and begin to eat again, my hump soon builds back to normal.

I've been known to drink twenty-seven gallons of water in ten minutes. My Master Designer made me in such a fantastic way that in a matter of minutes all the water I've swallowed travels to the billions of microscopic cells that make up my flesh. Naturally, the water I swallow first goes into my stomach. There thirsty blood vessels absorb and carry it to every part of my body. Scientists have tested my stomach and found it empty ten minutes after I've drunk twenty gallons. In an eight hour day, I can carry a four hundred pound load a hundred miles across a hot, dry desert and not stop once for a drink or something to eat. In fact, I've been known to go eight days without a drink, but then I look like a wreck. I lose 227 pounds, my ribs show through my skin, and I look terribly skinny. But I feel great! I look thin because the billions of cells lose their water. They're no longer fat. They're flat. Normally my blood contains 94 percent water, just like yours, but when I can't find any water to drink, the heat of the sun gradually robs a little water out of my blood. Scientists have found that my blood can lose up to 40 percent of its water and I'm still healthy. Doctor's say human blood has to stay very close to 94 percent water. If you lose 5 percent of it, you can't see anymore; 10 percent, you can't hear and you go insane; 12 percent, your blood is as thick as molasses and your heart can't pump the thick stuff. It stops, and you're dead. But that's not true with me. Why? Scientists say my blood is different. My red cells are elongated. Yours are round. Maybe that's what makes the difference. This proves I'm designed for the desert or the desert is designed for me. Did you ever hear of a design without a Designer?

After I find a water hole, I'll drink for about ten minutes and my skinny body starts to change almost immediately. In that short time my body fills out nicely, I don't look skinny anymore, and I gain back the 227 pounds I lost. Even though I lose a lot of water on the desert, my body conserves it too. Way in the beginning when my Intelligent Engineer made me, He gave me a specially designed nose that saves water. When I exhale, I don't lose much. My nose traps that warm, moist air from my lungs and absorbs it in my nasal membranes. Tiny blood vessels in those membranes take that back into my blood. How's that for a recycling system? Pretty cool, isn't it. It works because my nose is cool. My cool nose changes that warm moisture in the air from my lungs into water. But how does my nose get cool? I breath in hot dry desert air, and it goes through my wet nasal passages. This produces a cooling effect,



and my nose stays as much as 18 degrees cooler than the rest of my body. I love to travel the beautiful sand dunes. It's really quite easy, because My Creator gave me specially engineered sand shoes for feet. My hooves are wide, and they get even wider when I step on them. Each foot has two long, bony toes with tough, leathery skin between my soles. My feet are a little like webbed feet. They won't let me sink into the soft, drifting sand. This is good, because often my master wants me to carry him one hundred miles across the desert in just one day. (I troop about ten miles per hour.)

Sometimes a big windstorm comes out of nowhere, bringing flying sand with it. My Master Designer put special muscles in my nostrils that close the openings, keeping sand out of my nose but still allowing me enough air to breathe. My eyelashes arch down over my eyes like screens, keeping the sand and sun out but still letting me see clearly. If a grain of sand slips through and gets in my eye, the Creator took care of that too. He gave me an inner eyelid that automatically wipes the sand off my eyeball just like a windshield wiper.

Some people think I'm conceited because I always walk around with my head held high and my nose in the air. But that's just because of the way I'm made. My eyebrows are so thick and bushy I have to hold my head high to peek out from underneath them. I'm glad I have them though. They shade my eyes from the bright sun.



Desert people depend on me for many things. Not only am I their best form of transportation, but I'm also their grocery store. Mrs. Camel gives very rich milk that people make into butter and cheese. I shed my thick fur coat once a year, and that can be woven into cloth. A few young camels are used for beef, but I don't like to talk about that.

For a long time we camels have been called the "ships of the desert" because of the way we sway from side to side when we trot. Some of our riders get seasick. I sway from side to side because of the way my legs work. Both legs on one side move forward at the same time, elevating that side. My "left, right left, right" motion makes my rider feel like he is in a rocking chair going sideways.

When I was six months old, special knee pads started to grow on my front legs. The Intelligent Creator knew I had to have them. They help me lower my 1000 pounds to the ground. If I didn't have them, my knees would soon become sore and infected, and I could never lie down. I'd die of exhaustion. By the way, I don't get thick knee pads because I fall on my knees. I fall on my knees because I already have these tough pads. Someone very Great thought of me and knew I needed them. He designed them into my genes. It's real difficult for me to understand how some people say I evolved into what I now am. I'm very technical, highly engineered, dromedary camel. Things like me don't just happen - - I've been very well planned out!!!

**Posted on Shalom Adventure by: Jeffrey Alan**

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**ANSWERS to NEW YEAR'S WORD SCRAMBLE**

streamers / beginning / countdown / tradition / champagne / celebration /  
greetings / decorations / reflection / midnight / calendar