

# St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

## "KEEPING IN TOUCH – May 2024"

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

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

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### A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

**Wednesdays (1pm)**

**Bible Study:** The weekly joint bible study will be held at St. Thomas for the month of May. Note: The study is based on the upcoming week's readings, so you do not need to have attended in the past to join in. It's a very lively group and everyone is welcome!



**Thursdays (1pm)**

**Midweek Holy Communion Service:** Pastor Craig invites you to join him every Thursday afternoon for a smaller, quieter gathering for worship followed by a time of discussion and learning.

**Sun May 5 (7:00pm)**



**The Poolton Brothers Rock & Roll "Radio" Show:** Live radio hits from the crooners, the great white way, the silver screen, the rockers and more at Trinity Anglican Church. No tickets needed -> donations by free will offering to support their roof replacement.

**Thur May 9 (11:15am)**

**Toyota Plant Tour (sold out!):** Just a reminder for everyone who signed up for the ACW Toyota Plant Tour to mark it on your calendar and see further details on page 3.

**Thur May 23 (1:00pm)**

**ACW Speaker:** You are invited to join the ACW as we welcome Miles Schell, retired Chaplain at the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener to come and chat with us about his ministry with the prison.



**Fri May 24 (7pm)**

**"Abba -> Hits of the World's Super Group!":**  
See details on page 3.

**Sat May 25 (9-11:30am) St. Luke's "Plant and Craft/Boot Sale"**

**Sat June 8 (6 pm)**

**Bishop's Friends Dinner:** See details on page 6.

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

This year the Day of Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 19th, fifty days after Easter. Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples along with “devout Jews from every nation,” fulfilling God’s word through the prophet Joel: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh” (Acts 2). The Book of the Acts of the Apostles records the work & ministry of the Holy Spirit among the early apostles, but God’s work in Christ continues wherever faithful people follow Jesus on the way to the new life. It continues whenever the good news is shared — that those who turn to God in truth & humility will be transformed, the love of Christ spreading farther & farther in the world, God’s family multiplying, the old order of sin & death passing away.



My prayers for you this Pentecost are that the Holy Spirit fills you, that, even in the face of obstacles & the evils reported daily in the news, in Christ you will overcome all despair, abounding in hope & joy, our lives showing forth the power & faithfulness of God.

Pastor Craig+😊

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## EVENT UPDATES....



The **ACW’s English Tea & Bake Sale** was a HUGE success! The ladies worked non-stop from 9am until 3pm, serving approximately 90 hungry guests. Everyone was extremely impressed with the beautiful displays of sandwiches, scones and sweet treats and in the end, the ladies raised over \$1,400! Well done! 😊

## FUNDRAISER FOR WATERLOO DEANERY REFUGEE COMMITTEE

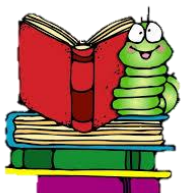
**Thanks** to all who participated in the raffle for a \$50 Tim Hortons Gift Card. The draw winner was **Kerry Timmins**, who incidentally had also sold the most tickets!

*The Deanery Committee is still looking for donations to support the most recent family we have sponsored. You may put your donation into an envelope, mark it for ‘Refugees’, and put it in the collection plate.*



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## FREE BOOKS



If you remember, we set up a lovely little library a few years ago, but apparently we don’t have many “readers” in our congregation. Since there have only been a handful of books borrowed by an even lesser number of people, we’ve decided to “re-house” most of the books and let Pastor Craig use the extra book cases, which he has assured us he can put to very good use. Over the next few weeks, please take a look at the books which have been set out in the church hall and if there are any you fancy, please take them and keep them. Also, if you know of anyone else who would appreciate them, please feel free to pass them along. 😊

## TOYOTA PLANT TOUR



Thanks to everyone who signed up for the "St. Tom's Toyota Plant Tour" on **Thursday, May 9th**. We've completely filled all 20 spots. Please mark your calendar to **arrive at the church by 11:15 am**. We will then carpool to Toyota, leaving the church by 11:30, arriving at the "security check in" no later than 12:00. Please note:

- Please bring valid photo id with you
- There is approximately 150-200 metres of walking from the Experience Centre to the trams. Walkers and wheelchairs are fine to bring, and will be parked in a safe place while riding the tram.
- Bring a bagged lunch to eat on the way over since the tour starts at 12:15 and we won't likely be back at the church until at least 2pm.
- Picture taking is only allowed in the Experience Centre. Personal items, including cameras & cell phones must be locked up during the tram tour. Leave purses, etc. locked in your vehicle.

**If anyone chooses to drive directly to the plant, please let Kathy Brown know ahead of time so we're not waiting for you at the church.** Also, please arrive no later than 12:00 noon at the "Experience Centre" accessed from Gate 2, or you may miss the tour. If needed, Kathy's cell number is 519-573-3503.

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**\*\* ABBA! \*\***

### **Hits of the World's Super Group**

*Including Mama Mia, Dancing Queen, SOS, Super Trouper, Fernando*



***Doors open: 7:00***

***Show starts: 7:30***

The St. Thomas Anglican Church ACW ladies are excited to announce that Celebrity Productions will be back in May for an evening of fun and singing with your favourite Abba hits. As usual, your \$15 ticket also includes some wonderful goodies before the show starts. Bring along a friend!

*Please call Marlene at 519-623-4736 to reserve your seat*

## MINISTRY AS A REVERSE-THREAD BOLTS ENDEAVOR

Recently I read an article where the writer compared the work of ministry to reverse-thread bolts. He began the piece, “You know which direction to turn a bolt: clockwise to tighten, counter-clockwise to loosen. Unless, of course, you’re working with a reverse-thread bolt. Then you have to do what’s opposite to the way you think. Ministry is a reverse-thread endeavor”.

In the work of spiritual care here at the shelter and in the community more broadly I recognize this very much to be the case. Here things so often move in a counter-intuitive or seemingly counter-productive manner. And sometimes I find myself completely stuck and at-a-loss. I think that’s because I live – we all live – in this world where slogans like ‘Got it all together’, ‘Going somewhere’, ‘Nailin’ it’, and ‘Reaching my goals’ are the credo’s that hold all the sway. Success in life is about moving forward and upward – as individual persons, in our relationships, and in the lives of our family. Success in work means achieving results that are measurable, tangible and firm. But ministry is a reverse-thread endeavor. It is all about letting go of things like timelines and deliverables. Or if not exactly letting go of them, then at least reconceptualizing them.



- The reverse-thread of ‘Got it all together’ is slowing your pace, lingering in a moment of silence with someone trying to compose their thoughts in an inner storm or to find the right word from a jumbled mess of words and phrases. You’re kind of at the mercy of the moment and their mind. But there is a dignity acknowledged in me taking time with someone and waiting with them, listening to them.
- The reverse-thread of ‘Going somewhere’ is that here, people are often in a time in their lives where they find themselves to be in a personal wilderness, so that many feel bewildered and thrown off-balance and alone, not sure which direction to even begin to move toward. In my branch of chaplaincy our stated aim is to ‘bring the presence of Christ where it is not expected’ and I find this description to be especially apt with my presence among these travelers.
- The reverse-thread of ‘Nailin’ it’ is someone who feels they haven’t done anything particularly well in a very, very long time. To be with this person in their sense of defeat, not needing to force a brighter mood with empty platitudes or happy-talk, but really listening and empathizing with them where they are at this moment – this is the first and critical posture to take. From here it is sometimes possible to share a different perspective, to sow hope and the possibility of a genuinely better tomorrow.
- The reverse-thread of ‘Reaching my goals’ is people for whom even modest goals can feel like an impossibly steep climb, far out of reach. My role here again can be to listen with lots of time, not in a hurry. After listening and prayer I often find I can sense the words that I should offer.

Spiritual care in this environment is rarely about big wins or delivering solid measurables. It’s much more like tending to a crop than hitting a grand slam home run. You bring water, you prune a little, you fertilize, you pick a few weeds. Lots of silence and serving and work. Any progress at all is indiscernible at first, but over time you do begin to see growth. I’m still so often ill-adjusted to the painful slowness of the pace of things, the awkwardness of the silences. Even still, I think I’m learning

and growing. And once in a while I catch a glimpse of the fruit that is growing too in the lives of others – most of the time out of sight under all the scruff of foliage.



But I think that's how it is with all of us most of the time. We all need something outside ourselves. No man is an island. So reach out, realize that no group of people, no act of service, is beneath you. Do small things with great love, as Mother Teresa used to say.

**Cheers and God bless you. Keep the candle burning.**

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## **LOOK WHAT OUR DIOCESE IS DOING -> A UNIQUE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

The Anglican Diocese of Huron and St. Paul's Cathedral are a part of an exciting affordable housing initiative in downtown London that will see one of the office buildings repurposed to feature 94 residential units. The property is located at 195 Dufferin Avenue and stands on the diocesan land leased to Sifton Properties Limited, which owns the building.



The project of conversion, officially announced on April 15, is a partnership between Sifton Properties, Homes Unlimited (London) Inc., the Diocese of Huron and St. Paul's Cathedral. Sifton Properties Limited will donate the building and oversee reconstruction phases for Homes Unlimited, who will assume operational responsibilities for the property.

Construction is planned to begin this summer, and the occupancy of 80 one-bedroom and 14 two-bedroom units is expected by fall 2025. The collaboration is seen as an innovative not for profit private partnership model that may contribute to the City of London goal of creating 3,000 new affordable housing units.

For the Diocese of Huron, the project represents the opening stage in the process of transformation of its downtown properties with the idea to reclaim Cathedral's vital role in London's spiritual and social life.

"St. Paul's Cathedral and the Anglican Diocese of Huron recognize this as an environmentally and community leading choice for the property. This is the first step in a multi-stage plan that will see the reimagining of this block into a creative centre hub and neighbourhood in collaboration with the City of London" says Bishop Todd Townshend.

For this purpose, the Diocese has teamed up with **Trinity Centres Foundation**. They will work together on creative reimagining of St. Paul's and surrounding area, but also of other sites across Huron. More good news to come!!

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## **WISE WORDS**

*(shared at one of our recent bible studies)*

If you can't sleep, don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd.





## "BISHOPS'S FRIENDS DINNER" HISTORY

As you have heard in the church announcements over the past month, the Bishop's Friends Dinner is being held on Sat June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Waterloo University Renison College. The tickets are \$100, part of which you will receive a tax receipt for. In case you're wondering what this annual dinner is all about, here is it's history:



*Over 30 years ago a group of men gathered together and decided that they had an opportunity to support the ministry of our bishops and the group "Bishop's Men" was formed. Today, the work of that visionary group continues through the "Bishop's Friends" which welcomes all in our Diocese. Our Bishops of Huron have as part of their ministry the full pastoral care of our clergy families and other forms of outreach. That ministry requires the strong support of the people of Huron to provide the necessary resources to fulfill this mission. There is no Diocesan budget item for this important ministry of caring when unforeseen events create emergency requirements and the need for support. The Bishop's Friends represent that vital support in Huron.*

For tickets or more information contact the Regional Dean Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Hendry at the office of St. George's of Forest Hill: 519-744-4751 or on cell: 226-978-1546 or order online at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bishops-friends-dinner-saturday-june-8-2024-tickets-888026018727>

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### St. Thomas the Apostle's 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Check-up



Income 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024:	\$21,637.41
Expenses 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024	<u>\$26,906.75</u>
Gain/shortfall to end of April 2024 ( <u>loss</u> for this quarter):	(\$5,269.34)

Here is a snapshot of what our finances look like as of the end of March. As you can see, we are currently running behind. Please give prayerful thought to what you are able to contribute towards our upkeep and mission. As summer approaches, if you aren't already enrolled to have your donations made by automatic monthly debit, please consider switching to this very convenient option. It saves you from remembering each week, and ensures that as we are paying our bills, we have a steady income over the summer months while many parishioners are away on vacation. If you are interested in learning more, please speak to Kathy Dooley or Susan Grenville. It's very easy to set up.

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