

St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

“KEEPING IN TOUCH – June 2022”

Current Covid-19 protocol: We are happy to announce that we have removed the space restrictions from the lectern side of the church so we have room to welcome back more of our parishioners. The pulpit side of the church remains marked off for "social distancing" for people who are not yet ready to return to full capacity seating. A properly fitted 3-ply mask is still required for everyone. The services will continue to be live-streamed to our Facebook page for people who would prefer to watch from home and will be uploaded to our website later on.



“Modified” Coffee Hour: We are SO happy to be offering coffee hour again after our church services, abiding by the following diocesan rules:

- ♥ Please wear your mask to go to and from your table and only remove for eating/drinking
- ♥ Everyone must remain seated while eating or drinking
- ♥ One or two vaccinated volunteers will serve the drinks and goodies directly to you at the table
- ♥ Please do not congregate in the kitchen or around the kitchen window

Let’s please follow the rules and keep everyone safe!

There is a “sign up” sheet posted outside the kitchen for people to choose a Sunday to make and serve refreshments. Please check the list and sign up for any of the available dates. If you’re not familiar with our kitchen, you can team up with another parishioner who has done it before. ☺

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

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

A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Thursdays (1:00-1:45 pm) “Mid Week Holy Eucharist”: For anyone who prefers a smaller service with fewer people -> please contact Pastor Steve at (226) 755-0903 if you would like to attend.



Thur June 9 (11am-4 pm) Baking for The Bridges: If you are able to help provide some goodies for our neighbours at The Bridges, please bring them to St. Tom’s in a sealed container on the 9th.

Sun Jun 12 (10:30 am)

Annual MacPherson’s Campground Service: As per tradition, instead of our usual service, we will be celebrating Holy Eucharist together with St. Luke’s at the MacPherson’s lovely campground along the Grand River. Remember to bring a chair, a hat and sunscreen. If you need a ride, call Kathy (519) 624-6451.

Sun Jun 26
(after the 9am service)

FREE Strawberry Social / Goodbye to Pastor Steve / Celebration of 70th Anniversary of ACW: In celebration of their 70th anniversary, the ACW ladies are inviting everyone to join them downstairs after the service for a tasty treat of strawberries and a chance to say goodbye to Pastor Steve as he heads off on his new mission for Christ.

Thursdays (7:00-8:15pm)

1st & 3rd Thursdays
Jun 16 – Aug 18

Bible Study: The Meeting House, who meet in our church hall on Thursday evenings, have invited us to join them for a bible study on First John. The meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, starting June 16 and ending August 18. There will be some personal study time required in between meetings. There are at least 2 St. Tom’s parishioners planning to attend, so you won’t have to worry about not knowing anyone. Hope to see you there.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Now that we are back in church “in person”, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for people to choose a date to place flowers on the altar. Flowers can be placed “in memory” or “in thanksgiving” of loved ones or “in celebration” of a special anniversary.

You are welcome to either buy your own flowers and bring them to the church, or if you give your donation to Sharon Furnival, she is very happy to buy suitable flowers for you and arrange them at the church on the Sunday you have chosen. Please call Sharon at (519) 620-1272 to arrange.

KNOW A STUDENT WHO’S LOOKING FOR A LITTLE POCKET MONEY?

Doreen Kelly’s sister, Glennys Darling lives 2 blocks from St. Tom's and is looking for a student who would be interested in making some money by helping her weed her garden. Please ask anyone who is interested to phone or text Glennys at 226-339-1706.

BRIDGEFORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who attended or helped advertise this wonderful outreach event every Saturday in May! We were thrilled to partner with Tobie from BridgeFort Community Outreach to bring this amazing program to the doorstep of St. Tom’s. Thank you, also, to Ward 6 Councillor Shannon Adshade for supporting this important ministry of feeding our neighbours. *Stay tuned for future outreach dates!*



Pastor's Ponderings

Three years! Three years ago, I came to you like a new-born fawn, wobbly walking and knobby kneed. In my eagerness to serve and excitement to be engaged within the walls of St. Tom's and the immediate surrounding of Galt, I stumbled and bumbled and fumbled my way. It is by your grace and mercy, the immensity of your love and patience shown, I was able to slowly find my "legs", find my place, find my gifts and weaknesses. It is by you, the faithful and gracious members of St. Thomas the Apostle, you encouraged, edified; constantly empowered me to "keep on, keeping on" within the uncertainties of COVID.

I want to thank our Wardens for their servant hearts and for their care, love and leadership.

I want to thank the faithful members of Council for the transparency, honesty and for constantly wrestling faithfully with what God is calling the church to do within the community and within our walls.



I want to thank the Worship team for making each service fun, for making my "work" not work at all! The many moving parts that facilitate a Sunday service is incredible. Thank you for the glorious music, the liturgy on the screen (a legitimate Godsend), thank you for the procession and recession with the Cross, the selection of the readers, the ministry of greeters and fellowship (very important work of belonging)so much work, thank you!

I want to thank the Social Media team and our Administration. The development of our website, the daily readings, the growth of our Facebook page which has been viewed by people around the world, literally!

Thank you, St. Thomas the Apostle, to our newer congregants and to the faithful workers who have been living the Good News of Jesus for the last 70 years at the corner of Tait and Francis! Thank you for developing partnerships, missions and ministries (outreach and pastoral care) that remind our parishioners that they are loved, cherished and to the wider community that the God we serve, praise and follow, loves them, grieves with them and smiles with them.

I thank you for welcoming me and my family and for allowing this pastor to grow and leave as a young buck.

Thank you,

Steve+

An excerpt from Nicky Gumbel's "Bible in a Year" – May 7th Commentary



A water-bearer in India had two large pots, both hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot always arrived half full.

The poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water-bearer one day by the stream:

'I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts.'

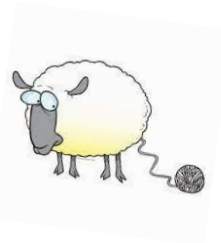
The bearer said to the pot, 'Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'



Thankfully, God uses cracked pots! You do not need to be perfect for God to use you.

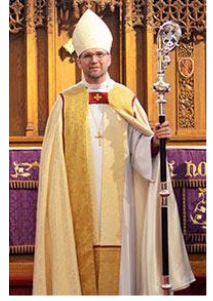
FYI, Nicky's "bible in a year" is a truly wonderful way to explore a little piece of the bible every day, with guided commentary, things to think about and practical applications for real life.

SOME "WOOLLY SUPPORT" FOR OUR GVI NEIGHBOURS??



I'm so happy to let you know that the wool which we donated to the Grand Valley Institution for Women last year was extremely appreciated and the women have "paid it forward" by knitting and crocheting all sorts of items and donating them to shelters, homeless communities, Children's Aid, hospice and a Northern First Nations Community. They've done so much knitting that they have nearly depleted their wool supply and have reached out to ACIC (Anglican Churches in Cambridge) again asking if we are able to provide any more. They are also starting to do needlework and would greatly appreciate any thread that could be donated. As before, they do not need to be new, full balls of wool or thread. They are just as grateful for leftovers. If you have any that you can spare, please bring it to church and we will ensure it's delivered to the chaplaincy program at GVI.

Synod Report Summary for 2022 by Rick Furnival



We continued to be partially remote with some delegates in person. This was a change from the last two years when it was all remote.

Bishop Todd's "Charge 2022"

He started by talking about ("Peter saw a vision" Acts 11.5).

In this mission heaven comes down to earth for God to live among his people, removing pain, war, sin, and suffering.

"It is true that many in the world are experiencing something closer to hell, right now, not heaven on earth. This work of God has not come in its fullness, at least not as we can see it. And it remains tempting to stay with that other image: that we go up to heaven—and escape all this. But no, in these words, we see that the vision goes in the other direction. We see that heaven comes down to earth, to us. This is good news. Come Holy Spirit, Come."

Bishop Todd Townsend

Our theme this year is "**Together on the road with Christ**".

He admits, while God among us is a goal, we mainly view life as going up to heaven. Life can have moments of peace when we feel God is with us, but mostly we live in a more stressful atmosphere. Especially in the last two years, a lot of people have been going through hell.

He stresses that a lot of us just want to get back to normal but he would like to look at what we have been doing, try to keep the good and change the things that are not working.

He has put in four Archdeacons with greater authority to try to help him move forward. They will be paid 50% by Church House and 50% by a local congregation.

From last year the charge will remain the same:

a) a New Church

- we are coming to know all kinds of "newness" as the Holy Spirit brings heaven down to earth
- embrace it wisely
- accept there will be some discomfort together with joy
- we need festivals to release the joy!

b) a Just Church

- climate justice
- reconciliation between Indigenous & non-Indigenous people
- equity for all people
- improving church abuse procedures by incorporating victim-led, trauma-informed approaches

c) a Diverse Church

- incorporating more diverse languages and cultures into services
- there are more than 80 million Anglicans around the world!

d) a Learning Church

- he's created a Huron Learning Church Network to develop life-long learning
- early detection and development of faith and leadership in all Anglicans

Keep our focus the same as above but also look at our five year plan which is something that is on our agenda for the fall. **Please share any ideas you have with us.**

He suggested we commit to: fasting, alms-giving, learning, serving the poor, stewardship - property & people. He also suggested that we may be focusing on property, though important, too much. We need to focus more on the other things.

People should be a primary goal..

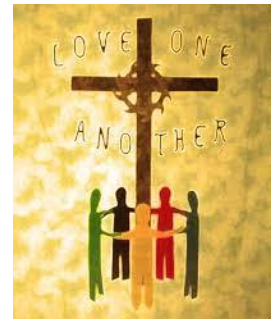
He asked us to reflect on:

What is the most important thing God has done in your life & your church community?

Archdeacon Rosalyn Elm's speech was one of the best this year. She is the Archdeacon for Indigenous people:

- Most homes are multi-generational.
- COVID had a major impact on the indigenous community.
- Lack of internet made communication and learning very difficult.
- They have started ways to help communities get back together. Examples are:
 - A small hot dog truck. People can get together to enjoy a hot dog
 - Music is a major part of their culture, so they have started groups to help people get together to enjoy their music.

Their Mission is: Righting the Spirit, Growing Community Support and Recognizing Grief. She has hope that all the children who died will not be in vain but will create positive change, planting a seed to ensure this will never happen again. She finished by saying: "Love one another as I have loved you." Love Everyone.



One of the other speakers advised they were raising funds to start bursaries for Indigenous students. Goal is 5 bursaries @ \$500 each.

Monica Place is looking to merge with two other community agencies, Carizon and KW Counselling so support can continue when it would normally stop with them.

This is a brief summary of Synod. They passed several changes to Canons.

DEANERY OF WATERLOO REFUGEE COMMITTEE → Our plea for assistance (May 2022)

Every day we read and hear about war and fighting in countries around the world and the millions of people suffering because of these tragedies. Now most of the news is about the war in the Ukraine but many other places such as Syria, Nigeria, Eritrea and The Democratic Republic of Congo have thousands of refugees waiting for a peaceful country to accept them.

Most of us in Canada and especially in Waterloo Region are grateful for the many advantages this country provides for us and although we wish that we could help it seems that there are such overwhelming problems that we do not know how to be of service.

The Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee has been working to help with refugees since 2015 and provides support for one family at a time. A great way to help is to offer to join this group and contribute in any way that your busy life allows. You could be a representative from your church and raise awareness and money, you could drive refugee family members to appointments, you could help with organizing housing and furniture, etc. for the family when they arrive, or be a primary contact for the family to the committee. There is also a need for money to support a family with some help from the federal government for a year. Please consider assisting with this wonderful ministry provided by all the Anglican churches in this deanery. Please contact your rector, your current committee representative or Brian Walters at brianjwalters@gmail.com

The committee thought you might like to hear how everyone is doing now that families have successfully settled in KW.

Thank you to the families who agreed to be interviewed: Rim & Thaeer, Mohamad & Siham, Abdulrazaq & Hiam, Zubeida & Maimuna, James & Esperance.

INTERVIEWS May 2022

Rim Ayaash and Thaeer Abo Nubwt

Children: *Monier, age 9, Anwar, age 7, Amir, age 4 (born in Canada)*

Thaeer says his life changed when he learned English. He felt like Canada was his second home after he learned the roles and found a job. He says “the members of the church are my Canadian family because they helped me a lot and we are still family and friends.”



Rim says her life has changed since arriving in Canada because “I feel safe. People are helpful.” “In our country, no one is smiling. Here, people smile even when they don’t know you. Their smiles make you feel warm. Here I have had an opportunity to study and to do many activities.” At home in Syria she was forced to leave high school. She is now in the top Level 8 of English lessons, and wants “to keep going...maybe to become a pharmacy assistant.” She felt so close to their primary sponsors, but also to other sponsors. She particularly mentions invitations to BBQs and her baby shower, plus other sponsors who took them on trips to the zoo and the aquarium. At the baby shower, she says “You felt like my family... like mother and sisters.”

Mohamad and Siham AlRamadan



Children: *Oday age 17, Qusay age 14, Omar age 9, Hamza age 8, Maria age 5 and Youssef age 2 (Maria and Youssef born in Canada)*

When we were refugees in Lebanon our life was a dark life. No school for the kids, not safe. When we moved to Canada we now feel safe.

We can do anything in Canada and we can go anyplace. We are free here in Canada. We have a family, the kids go to school and we have support for our kids. Nice and safe life in Canada. We have a nice safe future here in Canada.

We have a lot of nice words for the group who helped us from the church. I do not forget any persons who helped our family. I got a second family when I moved to Canada, the group is like our second family. We didn't feel like strangers when we came to Canada. Our whole lives changed for the better.

We feel safe and secure and we feel that we are human beings and we have rights.

Abdulrazaq Al Jazaerli and Hiam Alech (Adult son and mother)

Hiam says that her life has changed 100% for the better. Everything is better with their living situation, including the government financial support. She felt like Canada was home as soon as she felt safe.

Abdulrazaq says that his life has changed forever, especially that he could continue with his education with the respect of his teachers. They also appreciated that helpers searched for a good, affordable apartment for them.

He felt Canada was home when he realized he is safe as a blind person and as a Syrian immigrant. He says they feel equal and respected here. For example, at the hospital, where they were surprised that they did not have to wait for care while Canadians were taken first. He says our committee members make them both feel "really happy".

Zubeida (Zabu) Mohamed Allo

Children: *Maimuna age 8, Milkesa age 6*

Zubeida - mother

I have been through lots of things in my life. Canada was a huge different change for me. I saw how I could change my life. Life in Kenya was not good. I want to leave the past in the back. I am an incredibly strong woman who has created a safe and free life for my children and me. I live as a single parent now in a townhouse with my 2 children. I have decorated my home. It is good. I make good choices with the money I spend. I go to school to continue my education, I have my driver's license and I have just bought a car with the help from some friends. I know how to use my computer. It used to scare me but not anymore! I volunteer with Canada Safe Drive School where I answer phones and emails. I help newcomers with our website and to fill out forms.



Canada feels like my country. I will live here forever. People are kind and nice. They teach you to be kind. I was working and a policeman smiled at me. In Kenya police are not kind. I can't wait to be fully Canadian. I am applying for my Canadian citizenship.

When I came to Canada I had so many damaging memories. I felt like I was going to explode. I made friends with the women who took me grocery shopping. After a while I felt safe to share the worst of my experiences and I felt lighter. It was a turning point in my life. I felt wonderful to get it all out. So many people helped. It changed my life forever.

Maimuna - daughter

In Kenya it isn't too good. Weather in Canada is cold, hot and cold hot! I like it. People are kind. In our old country we had to walk miles to a store and here there are cars, buses and trains to take us where we want to go. In Kenya people walk. It is very hot. Now I have lots of friends in school and I like having lots of friends. I have learned the second language of Canada, French. Now I speak 3 languages. My life has changed for the better.



Nice people in Canada made me feel like Canada is home. I have my own beautiful home. I like Canadian salad, pizza and French fries. Canadian food is good.

When we arrived at Canadian airport our sponsors gave us a wagon with a blanket to sit on. We really liked that and still remember it. They took us shopping. We liked that too. Everyone's kindness made us feel welcome.

Esperance Muhunga and James Bahavu

Children: *Cedric age 10, Ariane age 8, Ryan and Ian age 13 months (twins born in Canada)*

James & Esperance agree that "everything" has changed since they came to Canada. "Our sponsorship was the best!" Other friends they have met did not have the same experience that they had with sponsors. They had a good start because they were shown what to do in Canada. They felt confident because someone showed them how to budget, and "we are still using those papers". James says that "Anyone would be grateful, that they got a "proper beginning".



James started to feel like Canada was home when he got his Permanent Resident Card. Other students in his classes were surprised that he got it so soon after his arrival, because they had waited such a long time. James says it is because their sponsors helped them to do all the necessary paperwork right after their arrival.

Both James and Esperance say that they knew this was "home" when they started to use the bus system on their own, and no longer required sponsors to take them where they needed to go. She says she felt more able to move around and to "google" her way home.



They know that they have had much more help from the Deanery sponsors than other refugees may get from their sponsor group and they want to thank everyone for going above and beyond with "everything we needed for the twins" and for driving lessons for James and additional financial assistance to help with settlement in KW.