

WESTMINSTER CHIMES

St. James Westminster Church ♦ 115 Askin Street ♦ London, ON ♦ N6C 1E7



Easter 2022

It's hard to believe this will be my last Easter Sunday in full time ministry! Once again this year, we will be holding an Easter Sun(Son)rise service at 7:00 a.m. on Easter morning. Now I realize just saying 7:00 a.m. has perhaps caused some of you to drift away. Give me a chance to pique your interest in telling you two of the most meaningful moments for me in ministry, and both happened at Easter Sun(Son)rise services.

In the early days of ministry in Medicine Hat/Redcliff in southern Alberta, I was introduced to the idea of getting up at sunrise on Easter morning for an outdoor service in the park in Redcliff. The tradition there was literally sunrise, which could be mighty early and mighty cold. Still, on the day in question, some 30 or 40 shivering souls, wrapped in parkas and draped in blankets dared take on -15° weather at 5 something in the morning!

It was a joyful time and suddenly, early in the service, we all stopped and looked at the same thing. A herd of Pronghorns (think small deer) had strolled to the edge of the park from the grassland between the highway and the park. Together, they stood in silence, watching these silly humans with their mugs of hot chocolate and frostbitten noses as they praised God for the gift of Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

If you think this was the “hair of the back of your neck standing up” moment, you would be wrong. We continued the service and God's creatures continued to watch. As the leader, I said a hearty “Amen” at the conclusion of the Blessing to end the service.

Little Easters

By Karen Henkel

A wise woman once told me that we experience 'little Easters' all the time. Sometimes weekly, sometimes daily.

Our 'little Easters' follow the dead weight of our human struggles. Disappointments, loss, frustrations, fears.

But we rise again each morning with the sun.

And we rise again with THE SON who walks with us.

A new day and a New Way.



The Pronghorns stood for a moment, turned, and several dozen strong raced across the prairie. The chill went down my neck. To think that God sent these animals to share in our worship of Him on this most holy day has always been too much for me to really fathom. It does remind me that God created all things and all of creation worships God!

Fast forward to my time in the Parish of the Thames. We held our Sun(Son)rise service on the front steps of tiny Christ Church Lakeside. Seems the folks of Ontario are a little more sensible when it comes to time. We would start at 7 am!

Now I always went to Lakeside by going north on Highbury, turning east at Ballymote and going to the Thamesford Road before north, a jog east, and a jog south to find Lakeside (yes I got horribly lost the first couple of times I went there!)

But this morning, for some reason I continued north on Highbury to Bryanston and then swung east. I almost swung off the road. As I made the turn, the clouds that had been vying for control of the morning sky were suddenly gone and the majestic sun broke forth in a blaze of glory.

I stopped and with tear-filled eyes, I prayed as I watched the glowing ball of brilliant yellow rise fully into a crystal clear sky. I thought I knew what Sun(Son)rise was! Turns out I didn't, until I met that glorious spiritual moment. It took several minutes to compose myself and then drive on to Lakeside.

Now I can't promise you a moment like this on April 17th. I can tell you that I have never had anyone who attended a Sun(Son)rise service say they wished they had stayed in bed! In fact, most people who come once, come every year and are always surprised by the silence and quiet beauty of this pause in a busy world to think about what God did for us at that moment.

This year, we will again use a liturgy called "The Stations of the Resurrection". In the style of The Stations of the Cross, we will journey outside into our community and mark different elements of Easter as we walk together. I pray that you will consider joining us. It is an experience I don't think you will soon forget.

Blessings,
Keith

Easter Memories

By Libi Clifford

I have to admit that I only have a couple of Easter memories. My mother was a wonderful but predictable cook, so Easter dinner would have been ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, and a lime with cottage cheese jellied salad. The dessert, served only at Easter, was always an Angel Food cake with a crushed pineapple, whipped cream and dry vanilla instant pudding frosting. It tasted better than it sounds and was a highlight! Easter was one of the few times that we had extended family with us for dinner so it was always special.

Following the medieval tradition, I always had new clothes to wear for Easter Sunday. The picture triggered memories of the Easter I was 7. I felt very grown-up in my new suit, white gloves, and new sailor style hat with its blue ribbon and trim. I was allowed to pick the hat myself and wore it often. I also remember chasing it down the street on a windy Sunday. Formal clothes were required for church in the '50s, even for children.

A few years later, I was confirmed at Easter wearing a white dress and the required veil. I'm not sorry to say that there are no pictures.



From the desk of your Family ministry Team



Just a quick word... as you know we are back to in-person Sunday School as of Easter Sunday. We are excited! It has been 2 long, hard years and we have missed you! It will be great to gather in person for Sunday school, church, and other events!

We are also excited that Huron Church Camp or Camp Huron is back! As you know Camp Huron and Saint James have had a long history together... just ask Carolynn Fryer about her impromptu stay as a camp counselor – lol!

Historically the last week of camp has been Saint James' week. In past years many campers, staff, and volunteers have all been at camp that week. This year it is camp week 6 for Saint James. We are

hoping that Saint James families (kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, friends, etc., will all sign up for week 6 at camp!

It will be so much fun!!! As my great nieces, Beatrice and Maggie Keay told me today, "We are excited to be going to Camp Huron for the first time and we would love for lots of friends – particularly from Saint James - to join us!!!"

Sign up soon!

Camp Huron website: www.camphuron.ca

Emmaus Road

Contributed by Gail McCall

My grandmother, Mabel Whitehall, 1877-1959, wrote many poems and often shared them with the churches near home, which at the end of her life, was around the corner on Cathcart. This one (as is our church window), is about the road to Emmaus.

Two men met on a country road
Upon a day of rest
And journeying, each to other told
The faith that he professed.

One worshiped in cathedral dim
With incense, tapers tall
With black-robed fathers chanting prayers
And symbols over all.

The other in a chapel plain
Poured out his soul in prayer
Nor felt the lack of priest by rite
To bring his Saviour near.

But as they spoke of holy things
So simple, so profound
Their faith transcended form and creed
And found a common ground.

Long ago, the Master walked
With two, Emmaus road
And on their yearning, aching hearts
Great blessing He bestowed.

And down a quiet country lane
I think that yesterday
He came, and walked with two again
Illumining their way.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (From New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Reflection on our Deanery Studies

By Bette Cunningham

The Pandemic of the past two years has been very hard on us spiritually and has, indeed, interfered in our ability to attend churches, or to engage in that sense of community that our Anglican Churches have always known. By community efforts, I am talking about ACW meetings, parish BBQ/dinners, Bible Studies, and other activities.

Some of the community efforts in which I always participated were the studies offered during our Holy Seasons of Advent and Lent, be they studies on the history of the church, Christian music, special Bible Studies, or our faith. So for the first six months of the pandemic, we seemed lost and fragmented.

Not for long. Here in the London Deanery, we have been blessed to have a leadership that chose to leap forward and embrace the changes that were being forced upon us. Instead of going backwards, or standing pat on the situation, our leadership made it an opportunity to jump into the fray of the future and embrace new technology and the opportunities it opened up.

I am a seeker and have always been, especially about my faith, so my life was pretty empty during those first six months. And this is where the London Deanery jumped in. Through the wonderful world of technology, our clergy in the London Deanery spun straw into gold. Under the leadership of our Bishop Todd Townsend, they sought out ways to come to us when we couldn't go to them and discovered a simple (???) technology program called ZOOM. Never heard of it, you say??

Well through the wondrous world of the computer, they have been able to connect us over the miles and offer first-rate Christian authors and academics from not only here in Canada, but from the United States, to bring us many different perspectives on our faith, not just as Anglicans, but as Christians. This has enabled our Deanery to offer book studies, speakers, services, and even concerts in what could have been a very spiritual drought. It has been such a joy for me to participate in these studies.

This season of Lent we were offered two studies. The afternoon, clergy-led discussion, was entitled "From Wilderness to Water; exploring Discipleship for the 21st Century", wherein after a brief introduction by a Deanery cleric, we would go into small break-out groups where we took a section of our Baptismal Covenant, mulled it over with specific questions in mind, and talked about how we felt and understood the covenant and how it pertained to our own beliefs today. Whoever told you the Anglican Church never changes was wrong.

Through this discussion I found out that a new question had been added to our Baptismal Covenant in 2013

which made it even more relevant to today's world. That is:

- ◆ "Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the church?"

Were you aware of this addition, or like me did you just listen but not hear? Something for you to think about.

The other study offered was in the evening and it was entitled "Thank God It's Lent". This study was led by our own Bishop Todd as well as Bishop Will Willomon from North Carolina. The study forced us to look at our own humanity, our own relationship to each other, and our relationship to the church. A few jewels that had special meaning for me:

- ◆ What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of it is your gift to him.
- ◆ Our witness is twofold: first, when we love God; and second, when we love others
- ◆ The Bible is a witness to the way our community has gotten glimpses into the community of God
- ◆ Don't just look at one interpretation of the Bible. There is no one interpretation. We need to wrestle with it. To discern it.

As I write this, it is Sunday, April 3rd. In Rev. Keith's sermon, he reminded us that each of the gospels might tell the same story but each is different. Everything we read in the Bible is open to interpretation and I think it is incumbent upon each of us to look at it, mull it over not only in our heads, but in our hearts and souls.

We are so fortunate to have all of this offered to us. I implore each of you to participate in all that is offered. So may I invite you to join our next ZOOM study, fulfilling Bishop Todd's vision of Huron Diocese being a learning church?

See you on my computer screen.



*What you are is God's gift to you.
What you make of it is your gift to him.*

Stations of the Cross – Come Journey with Us

There is an old legend that says, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, his mother Mary would often walk the way her son had walked on his journey to the cross, pausing here and there to recall something that had happened at that spot.

From these walks grew the early Christian practice of walking the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, in Jerusalem, a tradition that continues to this day.

When they returned home, those early pilgrims to Jerusalem talked about their experiences, and soon many people began erecting “stations” of the cross on the walls and grounds of their own churches so worshippers could make the journey whenever they wished.

Everyone is invited to view our very own Stations of the Cross. Early in Lent we delivered large posters to eight different households, asking them to set apart a special time, a holy time for colouring. Our artists came from our church school and youth members, and in many cases, their parents, aunts, grandparents, and friends joined in!

Thanks to the Katos, Murphys, DeSouzas, Frenchs, Keays, Golab-Vanattens, Lenyells, and Ryans for making time to participate—every swirl and stroke of colour, a prayer for all of us inside the church and outside the church!

Yes, the posters are being weather-proofed so anyone and everyone can view them from Sunday April 10-17, 2022.

We will also post them on our YouTube channel and social media. Thanks to Aidan Dawson and Oscar Abley for their help with this. Thanks to Karen Lemanski for her printing advice and Brian Hillier for photographing the posters so they could be reproduced on a surface for display outdoors.

You will find our Stations of the Cross in the Bruce Street parking lot, along the back of the church.

We hope and pray that you will make time to view them and that they may give you time to pray, reflect, wonder, and ponder as we journey with Jesus on the road to his last days... and beyond.

May God be with us, every step of the way,

Blessings, from Laura Manias, Judy Jones,
and Gerry Adam.



My Dad at Easter
April 18, 1954
By Peggy Roffey

Lean and lithe, a tall man
posture trained by his air-force years
but he must have bent far that Easter Sunday
to hold my hand, cup the flowers

dewy morning and mid-April warm
he led me from daffodil to daffodil, iris to iris
pausing as I drank in the honey
of their golden flutes, lapping folds

he in his gray suit
shirt white and crisp
me fresh and frilly
in new Easter clothes

while Mom dressed the baby
tamed brother's cowlick
we made our small pilgrimage
chiming quietly in homage to beauty

and though the years, his failings,
and their marriage
broke him down
I believe my Dad held dear
that Easter sweetness we knew together

knew we'd always find each other
in the scent of iris and daffodil
he ever young and full of hope
me always four and full of bliss

and Easter gardens somewhere
unfailingly
sun-filled
radiant with new and risen Life



Easter Lilies
By Cela Thaxter

"Easter lilies! Can you hear
What they whisper, low and clear?"

In dewy fragrance they unfold
Their splendor sweet,
their snow and gold.

Every beauty-breathing bell
News of heaven has to tell.

Listen to their mystic voice.
Hear, oh mortal, and rejoice!

Hark, their soft and heavenly chime!
"Christ is risen for all time!"

***Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!***

In his great mercy
he has given us
new birth into a living hope

through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

From the Wardens



We recently received some furniture and other items from the recently closed Trinity Anglican Church in Lambeth. We have some kneelers, some chairs for the chancel, a lectern, and more, but maybe the most noteworthy is the original altar used by Trinity Anglican. The Rector suggested that it would make a beautiful Credence Table and we agree. St. James Westminster

is proud to be the new caretaker of all the beautiful pieces. Thank you!

The committee to investigate and report on video streaming has met. We have made inquiries of other churches who presently stream services. Their responses have been educational, and we are now asking experts to price the required items (cameras, monitors, laptop, switching board and software). The committee will continue its work.

Some outdoor maintenance and repair work has been identified and will be tended to as we move into warmer spring weather. Specifically, the board fence in the back yard needs repairing, and the lawn needs topsoil and grass seed.

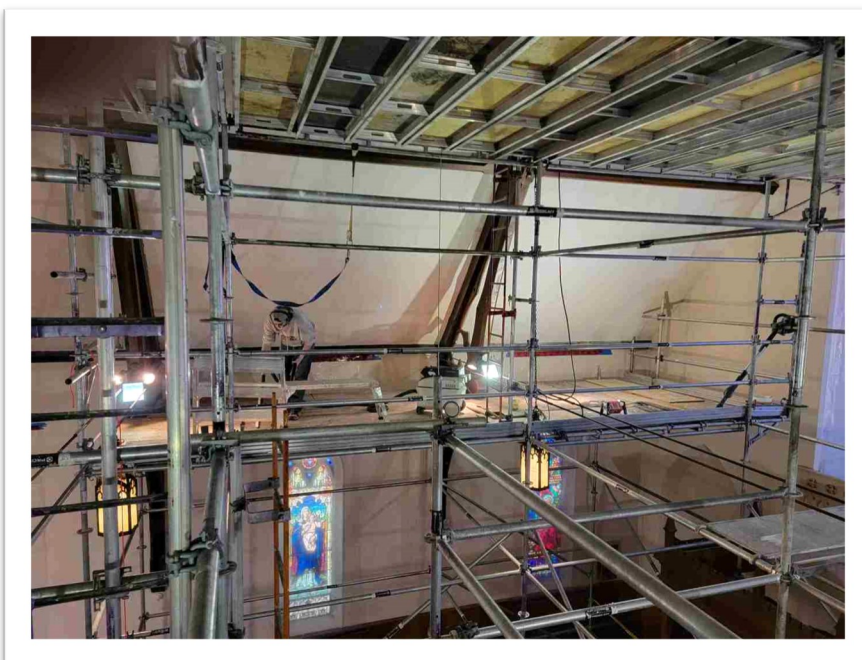
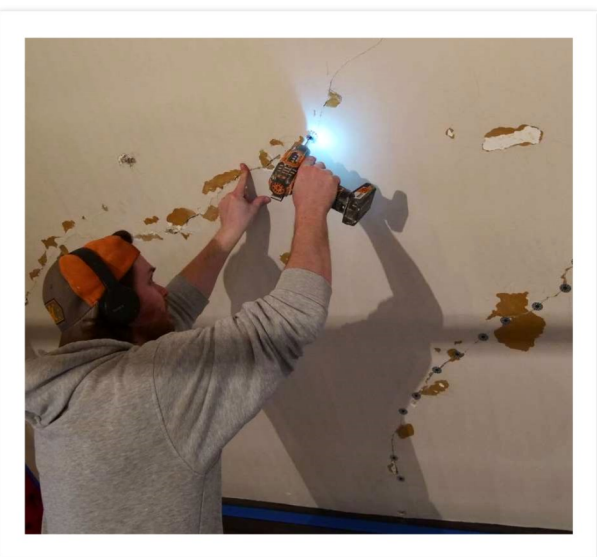
Our plastering and painting project has now come and gone! The scaffolding came down on March 30th, which was a week ahead of schedule. Thank you to TM Platforms for a building such sound structures. They had an efficient team of builders putting them up! George Harde

and his son Zack of Corner Stone Drywall did a great job on the plastering, using washers and mesh with the new plaster to ensure that the plaster will remain in place for years to come. Sylvie and Warren of Limited Edition Painting and Decorating Inc. rearranged their schedule to get their crew to do a fine job in completing the painting of the panels for us.

Matthew Ling (Run the Tools construction group) kicked off the project for us by seeking out and lining up these companies to bring the work together. Matthew and his wife, Julie, provided support throughout – installing protection for the windows, the needlework panel, the organ and pipes, and addressing many smaller projects along the way. Thank you to Harold Ford for ensuring we had a clean place to worship. There was lots to dust and shine and our efforts continue. While we are happy to see the most precarious of the plaster in our ceiling fixed, we hope to see more improvements to the plaster and paint throughout the church in the future. Now that we have all spent some time looking up, we are certainly noticing more bits and pieces that need some attention! More to come!

Financially, we have started the new year in a good way. Weekly offerings are close to what has been budgeted, and we hope that this trend will continue. We would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity and ask that you continue to remember St. James Westminster.

Happy Easter to all,
Barb Robinson and Jim Sercombe



Outreach



Thanks to Loretta and the youth for decorating and putting together these breakfast bags for Indwell that we delivered recently.



Holy Week and Easter Services at St. James

Holy Week Services

- Monday April 11, Eucharist at 7 pm
- Tuesday, April 12, Eucharist at 7 pm
- Wed., April 13, Eucharist at 10 am & 7 pm
- Maundy Thursday (April 14), Eucharist at 7 pm
- Good Friday (April 15) Liturgy at 11 am

The Deanery of London will hold a Saturday evening service of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral at 7 pm. The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Bishop of Huron, will preside.

Easter Sunday, April 17th

- Stations of the Resurrection and Eucharist at 7:00 a.m.
- BCP Choral Eucharist at 8:30 a.m.
- BAS Choral Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.

