

Westminster Chimes Advent 2025



From the Rector's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

After a year filled with joy, challenge, beauty, and no small amount of uncertainty in our wider world, Advent arrives once again like a deep breath. It is the season when the Church gently invites us to slow down, to listen more carefully, and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Advent always seems to meet us right where we are, offering a quiet but steady reminder that light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

This year I have found myself thinking often about how much strength we draw from community—especially this community of faith. In a world that can so easily leave us feeling scattered or isolated, the simple act of gathering here at St. James Westminster is itself a declaration of hope.

We worship side by side; we share meals and music; we surround one another with prayer; we welcome new families and bless new beginnings.

Every Sunday (and many days in between), I see signs that God is forming us into a people who carry one another's joys and burdens alike. To belong to a community like this is no small gift.

Advent carries a holy tension within it—a dual horizon that shapes our waiting. We look back toward Bethlehem, waiting once more for the birth of Jesus, the child who reveals God's humility and love. But we also look forward toward Christ's coming again, when all creation will be restored and made whole. Advent teaches us to live faithfully in the "in-between"—to let the hope of Christ's birth warm our hearts, and the promise of Christ's return steady our steps in the present. We are invited not simply to wait, but to wait with purpose.

You will notice during this season that I wear my blue Advent stole, the one bearing the symbols of Alpha and Omega (the Greek equivalent of A-Z). I am including a picture of it in this letter because it speaks so clearly to what this season is all about.

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St. James Westminster Anglican Church

Every time I place it over my shoulders, I feel its weight as a reminder that Christ holds our beginning and our end—our past, our present, and our future. It is a symbol of the very hope that Advent calls us to embrace.

As we journey through these four weeks together—lighting candles, praying ancient prayers, and singing the hymns of expectation—may we rediscover the strength that comes from walking this path as a community. And may we remember that the God who has come to us once in love will come again in glory.

May Christ, our Alpha and our Omega, our beginning and our end, bless us this Advent season, draw us closer to one another, and fill us with a hope that does not disappoint.

Yours in Christ,
Michael—Rector, St. James Westminster



A note from our Wardens

Whenever you hear directly from your wardens you just know the message is about money and... in this case, you'd be right.

The issue we would like to bring to your attention is that we have noticed that the total amount of gifts from those of you who give by pre-authorized givings has been predominately static since the program was initiated. Yet, as no one will be surprised, inflation has significantly increased all our costs every year. It didn't take us long to determine the most probable reason why the amount of pre-authorized gifts has been flat. Both of us realized that neither of us had revisited the amount of our gift since we signed up for the program. We think most of you are in the same boat.

If you are wondering what you should be giving now, in order to equal what you decided to give 5 years ago, since 2019 the total inflation index for Canada has been approximately 21.5%. So for every \$100 of gift in 2019 the amount with the same buying power in 2025 is \$121.50.

If you are wondering how much the church expenses have increased through that same period - they have increased 38%. Yes - 38%.

Please know that what ever form, or amount, your gift to St. James takes, you are a loved member of our community.

It is easy to change the amount of your gift - just call or email Rebekah in the main office. There are also forms at the entrances but you still have to get those to the main office.

Elaine Jones and Jim Mays



What Does St. James Mean to You??



We recently asked the Parishioners of St. James to share some highlights or things that they appreciate about St. James and what St. James means to them. Thank you to all who shared! Look for the blue stars throughout this edition to enjoy these words of encouragement!

The Pray Ground is special; and the walkway that was made so we can see the children coming and going with ease. They are visible to the congregation which makes me smile, and the children become used to being in a child friendly space in the larger church. – Karen Henkel –

Winter apparel

We are collecting donations of new & used hats, gloves, scarves for My Sisters Place and for the Men's Mission. Please feel free to put your donations in the boxes by the entrances to the church.



Receiving Communion at St. James – Preparation for Children

Starting on January 11th, the clergy of St. James will be leading a short teaching time about communion with the Sunday School. Parents who would like their children to begin receiving Holy Communion, or who would simply appreciate more information about this important step in their child's faith journey are warmly invited to join us.

These sessions will help children and families explore the meaning of Communion, its place in our worship, and the responsibilities and joys that accompany this sacrament.

Children who feel ready will be formally welcomed to begin receiving Communion at a special service on February 1st (Candlemas). We encourage you to consider whether this is the right moment for your child to take these spiritual steps. For questions or further conversation, contact Rev. Ann.

Melodies and Messages 2026

St. James Westminster Bible Study Series, Melodies and Messages, will start January 2026, focussing on a group reading of the Gospel of Luke and related hymns. Questions regarding the week's readings are sent out ahead of time to prompt discussion. Participants bring their own Bibles and we often compare different versions of the same passage. St. James provides copies of the blue hymn book.

The group meets weekly for 90 minutes. If you are interested in joining, please email Peggy Roffey proffey@uwo.ca, by December 23. She will then canvass the group and decide on a day of the week and a time best for the majority.



St James is an affirmative special place to worship! Father Bruce is a wonderful Priest who cares for all of his flock.
– Wayne Burke –

I find the interior of the church very conducive to prayer and peace. It is a holy space. I'm also very thankful for the other parishioners. I enjoy their friendship and fellowship. I was baptized as an adult at Saint James so that has a very special meaning for me as well. – Lucy Buck –

Advent Candlelight Services

On Tuesdays, December 9 and 16th, at 7:00 pm in the church, The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan will offer candlelight communion services.

Come out and enter into the quiet and meditative Taizé music that is part of this contemplative service of Communion. A spiritually engaging opportunity to include in your Advent season.



Toonies for Turkeys

St. James is once again collecting loose change (and bank notes) to go toward the Christmas hampers distributed by Church of the Epiphany. Please drop your donations in the designated offering plate in the church, starting December 7th.

If you wish to write a cheque, please **make the cheque out to Church of the Epiphany with a Memo "Food bank"**. Thank you!

We also continue to collect food donations for the Epiphany Food Bank. Please leave food donations in the shopping cart in the Vestry (between the Church and Hall).



Unexpected Homecoming: My wife Joyce Recker and I moved to London this past June. We had been happily retired in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where I belonged to Westminster Presbyterian Church and sang in several choirs. But the political situation after Donald Trump's re-election drove us away.

I expected it would be hard to find a suitable new congregation and church choir. After joining the London Pro Musica Choir, rehearsing with them at St. James Westminster, and thereby meeting several members of the church choir, I decided to attend a 10:30 Sunday service.

I've never been an Anglican. Yet, to my joyful surprise, I instantly felt at home. Father Michael's warm and personal greeting; a rich liturgy with informal style; a lovely worship space with resonant acoustics; and, especially, the vigorous and polished musical leadership provided by Stephen Holowitz and the choir—all of this, combined with the congregation's commitment to inclusion and social justice, spoke to my heart.

I joined the choir in mid-October and have been happily singing in the 10:30 service ever since. Thanks so much for welcoming me.



— Lambert Zuidervart —

After approximately four years of being members at St. James, it's good to be able to reflect on why we are so appreciative of our church family and to share those thoughts with you.

Knowing that we were looking for a new church community, our daughter Erika, who also worships at St James with her family, suggested that St. James would be a good fit for us. So during the pandemic, when few churches were open, we began worshipping here. Although it was initially difficult to meet and mingle because of the restrictions, we quickly felt at home, and still vividly remember John and Esther Sizeland welcoming us on our first visit.

Once we decided to join, we both became involved by joining the choir. Apart from giving us an opportunity to sing, it gave us both an immediate "family within the broader family". Since then, Patricia is involved in Project Hope, Kids Camino, and Parish Council, and Pete is part of the BIG committee. We are truly blessed to be a part of this parish. St. James is a welcoming family with a strong sense of mission.

We appreciate the openness and inclusivity that is practiced, and being relatively new Anglicans, love the meaningful worship practices and rituals, the music, and the absolutely beautiful worship space, or as Steve Holowitz called it, "our sacred space". It's good to be a part of St James, our spiritual home.



— Pete van Geest and Patricia van Reenen—

Use of Church for Personal Events: FYI

Church congregations often rent space to groups, and organizations, as well as to church members, for additional revenue and to build connections with the community. Though they may want to offer discounted prices to members, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) frowns on charities showing preferential treatment to their members, which it sees as giving them undue benefits.

What are Undue Benefits?

According to the Income Tax Act, registered charities exist for the public benefit and cannot give anyone an undue benefit. This means that they cannot transfer property or other resources (including use of facilities) to anyone who does not deal with the charity at arms' length or who is the beneficiary of the transfer because of a special relationship with a donor or charity.

Perhaps it is helpful to remember that membership at St. James (an organization with charitable tax

status) is not akin to membership with a social club (which does not have charitable tax status). There are not a list of benefits that "members" receive by virtue of their fellowship at St. James. This area is one where we have to respect the line between our Christian fellowship and Caesar's laws. While weddings, memorials and other rites are part of our community's Christian fellowship, members are not entitled to the use of the facilities for these events without any form of charge.

Notes and information taken from:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/charities/policies-guidance/policy-statement-024-guidelines-registering-a-charity-meeting-public-benefit-test.html#toc12>

<https://cuc.ca/congregations-leaders/legal-issues-reporting/rental-policies-rites-passage/>

What are Collects and Why Do We Use

Nestled amongst the towers of skyscrapers on Park Avenue in New York City is St. Bart's Episcopal Parish Church. Sixteen hundred people attended on the Sunday following 9/11. The congregation was shocked, exhausted, and many were grieving. While the words and actions of the worship service provided strength, Rector Bill Tully recognized that an extraordinary gesture was appropriate. He offered the words written by Henri-Frédéric Amiel in 1868 which were relevant in 1868, in 2011 and still in 2025. They are rich with meaning that are often forgotten during our journey and will remain true to the end of time.

As the world struggles with the increasing loss of respect for those who travel the way with us, take a moment to reflect on the message and embrace the words **swift to love, haste to be kind and the blessings of the Lord** to use as your guide throughout your travels.

*Life is short, and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
travel the way with us.*

*So be swift to love, make haste to be kind
and may the blessings of the Lord be with you.*

Henri-Frédéric Amiel, 1868

Did you know...

A **Collect** is a short, structured prayer used in Anglican worship that “collects” the intentions of the gathered community into a single unified expression. Typically prayed near the beginning of the service, especially during the Eucharist, the Collect is part of the **Propers**—the set of prayers and readings that vary by day or liturgical season.

History and Development

The Collect has its origins in early Christian worship, developing in the Latin rites of the Western Church by the 5th century. It was used to “gather” the congrega-

tion in both a literal and spiritual sense, focusing their attention before moving into the Liturgy of the Word. Cranmer, in the first Book of Common Prayer (1549), preserved many ancient Latin collects in beautifully translated English, and his versions remain foundational in Anglican liturgy to this day.

Form

Traditionally, a Collect follows a five-part structure:

1. **Invocation** – addressing God (often naming a divine attribute)
2. **Acknowledgement** – describing what God has done
3. **Petition** – stating the request being made
4. **Aspiration** – the hoped-for result or spiritual aim
5. **Conclusion** – ending through Christ (e.g., “through Jesus Christ our Lord...”)

For example, the Collect for Purity begins: “*Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known...*”—naming God and our need, leading to a request and theological affirmation.

Modern Use

In contemporary Anglican worship, Collects are used to mark the rhythm of the liturgical calendar. Each Sunday and holy day has its own appointed Collect, often echoing the themes of the season (like penitence in Lent or joy in Easter). Whether in traditional or modern language, Collects continue to hold a central place in Anglican identity—balancing rich theology, concise expression, and poetic beauty.

At St. James Westminster and other Anglican parishes, the Collect remains a moment of gathering: not just to begin the liturgy, but to centre the hearts and minds of the faithful on God's presence and purpose for the day.



As the first anniversary rolls around of being entrusted to be one of your wardens, the appreciative thought that reverberates for me is of the many hands that make this community work!

As your warden, I get to see the big picture. And what a picture it is! There are groups of volunteers who keep our music program so vibrant, who contribute to our growing youth program, who keep the beauty of our services, who are there to help when members of our community, and the greater community, need help, who plan and execute events for our enjoyment, who

keep the building functioning and improving, who keep the grounds beautiful and all the others who execute the very much needed, but perhaps not so easily named, tasks.

I am also appreciative of those who donate a portion of their weekly revenue so that the church can function. Giving your hard earned, very much needed, cash is no small thing. Yet we do so collectively and generously. I appreciate being part of this vibrant community, our community, of St. James Westminster. — Jim Mays —



★ Earlier in November I was greatly moved when my wife, Iris and I went to St. James for the annual Remembrance Day service; with music supplied by my friends Stephen Holowitz and trumpeter Paul Stephenson. As it has been every year, the music was most perfectly chosen and performed; a perfect pairing of words and music in the service.

This is what is especially important to me at St. James. My love affair with church music is long-standing; in our earlier years living in northwest London, I became the volunteer organist for St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and later for the Church of the Transfiguration.

Early in 1973 we moved to our current home (still in Northwest London!) and set out to find a new “church home”, especially one that didn’t need a volunteer organist! The perfect fit was St. James (Westminster), with a very well-versed musical rector: Derwyn Jones, and Organist/Choir director John McIntosh (my friend and university colleague)

For the next couple of decades I supported the church choir as an occasional chorister and provided some original compositions for the choir library. With John McIntosh we were fortunate to have had a music director so totally dedicated to every aspect of church music, even down to crawling between the organ pipes (with help from Don Rake) to build and maintain our pipe organ! John left a significant legacy both to our church and to the Faculty of Music at Western.

As part of his service to Western, John was able to attract a very gifted new organ student from St. John’s, Nfld. Brent Fifield, a CBC performer with a national reputation, who became John’s assistant at St. James for a few years, and became our music director when John retired. Brent moved on to the Faculty of Ed, teaching positions in Hamilton, and further church positions in Hamilton and Cambridge.

In 2001 I was asked to be a part of the selection committee to choose a new director of music for St. James. I was surprised to see applications arrive from as far away as Great Britain and Vancouver! By the closing date, however, we were without any candidates. Karen Schusler (organist at Wesley-Knox) suggested that I contact Stephen Holowitz, the organist at our neighbouring church on Springbank Drive. Stephen didn’t even know our job was available!

Stephen was properly auditioned, and interviewed, and the rest is a very happy history! Steve and I have worked together now in several performances and other projects, and he never ceases to amaze me!

Two words sum up Steve’s enormous reserve of musical talent: **VERSATILITY & INTEGRITY**

Whether playing jazz, leading a choir rehearsal... any musical style... he does it all. Together with our incredible clerical team and support staff... what a crew! Why would I go to any other church!

– Peter Clements –



www.camphuron.ca

**Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

Christmas Blessings from Camp Huron!
Online Registration opens
February 26, 2026, at 6 pm.

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him,
so that you may
overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13*

St. James' People: Elizabeth King



With every interview for the Chimes, it comes home even more clearly: Every Life a Story. Elizabeth King has been a very active Londoner and St. James Parishioner for fifty-two years and has hardly slowed down since she moved here in 1973.

When I interviewed her, she had recently been involved, as a Director of London's 145 Vimy Legion, in wind-

ing up this year's November 11 Poppy Campaign. The same week, she'd had dinner that past Wednesday at Archbishop Linda Nichol's house and had recently helped her get a new cat from the Humane Society. After our interview, she was heading off to her Friday night Royal Scottish Country Dancing session (she does that on Wednesdays as well).

Elizabeth was born in the town of Northshields in Northumberland, England, the youngest of five children to her Father, Harry, and Mother, Bertha. She was truly the baby, having been born ten years after her next oldest sister, June. Now the only surviving member of her immediate family, she has vivid memories of their lives during World War II. Her bother Harry fought with the British Army, her brother Arthur with the Navy.

Her hometown is on the River Tyne, a major shipping site, so her father continued his work there all through the war. Because of this industry, their town was a significant target for German bombs. Wherever you were, whenever you heard the sirens, you ran for shelter with your gas mask on. For Elizabeth, it was often the brick bomb-shelter at the back of the row-house she lived in. Along with the neighbour who lived upstairs and neighbours nearby, she would crowd into it and wait in fear. Her mother, however, always refused to join them, saying she preferred to die in her own house. It was a very scary time, she says.

In particular, she remembers the children's bedroom in Northshields, which had its own fireplace; on especially cold nights, her mother always brought coals up to it. Once, the police came to their house to say a light could be seen coming from that bedroom – the smallest bit of light from the little fireplace shining through a crack in the wooden shutters. Total blackout was required because of the threat from German airplane bombers.

Her mother had significant hearing loss, so she relied on the vibrations from the coalman's cart in the back laneway to let her know he'd come. She also relied on vibrations from the milkman's and the breadman's horses who always pawed on the front step to announce their arrival. When Elizabeth was the only one at home, it was her job to answer the door with a

piece of bread for the horses. During those days of severe food rationing, she remembers her mother saving sugar to swap for other items with her neighbours, who all lived in rowhouses that Elizabeth found dark and cold.

A couple of happier memories stem from visits on the train to her grandmother's house in London, England, at 293 Church street. If the adults were outside and the phone rang, Elizabeth was told to run and answer it with her name, and the phone number, which she can still rhyme off to this day: Laburnum 1961. She also remembers her Grandmother Kingaby asking her to run down the back garden to ask the hen Betty for "two eggs, please" and how proud she was to be able to go pick up those eggs and bring them back to the kitchen. How wonderful how such details can live on in memory decades later!

Elizabeth started school at age five and was a faithful attendee at the Holy Trinity High Anglican Church. When the vicar was away, she attended a nearby 'low' Anglican church; whenever she showed up, the vicar there said "Oh, here come the highs!" Elizabeth graduated from an all-girls high school when she was fifteen. She got a job at Dukes & Marks Dress Making Factory making dresses for sale at Marks & Spencer! At age 18, she joined the Women's Royal Army Corps of the Territorial Army, where her sister Catherine, fourteen years her elder, was already a member. The two were attached to the 306 Northumberland Army Battalion as soldiers. Young, eager, and always responsible, Elizabeth was awarded 'Best Attender' and 'Best Dressed Soldier.'

Catherine eventually emigrated to Canada and made her home in Elliot Lake, where her husband worked in a uranium mine. Elizabeth went to visit her when she was twenty-one, a visit that became an actual move (at that age, Elizabeth had to get her father's consent to emigrate as well). For a time, she lived in a wooden addition to her sister's trailer where, she said, she was never cold. With her hot-water bottle, even in -50° weather, she was "as snug as a bug in a rug"; she found Canada's dry cold so much easier to bear than the wet cold of England. When her sister moved to California, Elizabeth stayed in Elliot Lake and lived in the nurses' residence at the St. Joseph's General Hospital, where she had a cleaning job. She got to know the nuns who ran the hospital and attended the Catholic Mass in their chapel every morning before work. Noticing her St. Christopher medal, one of the nuns asked if she was a Catholic. The answer: "Yes, Anglo-Catholic." She was not allowed to take communion after that. But she'd attend daily masses with her friend Nora at Our Lady of Fatima Church and take communion there; there was no Anglican church in Elliot Lake at the time.

Elizabeth's father taught her how to save her money carefully, so in 1963, she took herself down south to Brampton to get her Registered Nurses' Assistant training at the Nursing School there. On completing her training, she went back to Northumberland to work in a women's Tuberculosis Infirmary and live with her father. After four months, though, she returned to Elliot Lake and landed a job in Blind River as an Emergency Room RNA, returning each weekend to Elliot Lake.

She really wanted to work in the Operating Room, so was taught how to scrub for an operation, how to make saline, and how to sterilize the instruments after an operation. She'd work up there occasionally then run back downstairs to the Emergency room to continue her regular job. She remembers being told once, out of the blue, in Emergency, to remove a cast from a patient's leg. She'd never been trained to do that, but, saw in hand, she did the removal and left the leg intact!

On the recommendation from a certain Sister Immaculata at that hospital, she was hired at Sudbury's St. Joseph's General Hospital and shared a townhouse with three friends. She completed an Operating Room Technician course, which got her the role she had always wanted and held from 1965 to 1973.

While in Sudbury, she went to watch a November 11th parade and saw the Canadian Women's Army Corps, which she immediately joined as part of the Second Irish Infantry Regiment.

There, she was trained as an infantry soldier and also served as a medic and a clerk of the Orderly Room, with Top Secret Classification. For this latter role, she had to take a typing course, and never looked back. Eventually, she worked at the CWAC as an interviewer; when a person was accepted, Elizabeth did their medical examinations. During her time in Sudbury, Elizabeth became a Red Cross Volunteer, one of a corps of many girls who, dressed in their uniforms, helped out neighbours and visited the blind and the elderly at Sudbury's Institute for the Blind.

In 1973, Elizabeth then moved to London to work in the operating room at the newly opened University Hospital. She worked full time and also transferred to London's 22nd Service Battalion as a medic. In 2010, with a warrant from the Queen, she joined London's 145 Vimy Legion when they first welcomed women; she became a Director with that group and served as well as a Director with the Royal military institute. Both groups were and are very active in helping out neighbours; as part of the Vimy group, Elizabeth pays pastoral care visits to any Vimy members at Parkwood Hospital.

With her abundant energy, she has also been a member, since 1979, of the St. John Ambulance ser-

vice; from 2000 to 2013, she was Superintendent of the Medical First Responders division.

When first looking for lodgings in London, ON, Elizabeth went to St. Paul's Cathedral and was referred to St. James Westminster. There she met a Mrs. Hoar, mother-in-law of Lionel Nelles, an interim rector, and wound up renting from her for six years. She then looked to buy a house, and was simply outbid on both the Bruce Street converted Firehall and the house beside it. She bought instead 12 Snowdon Crescent in Westminster Park, a long way from work and from the church.

Ten years later, she bought her current house, back in Old South. This particular house was built in the time of home milk-delivery, so it was equipped with a milk box at the back door. Neighbours suggested she have it blocked up, in case of break-ins. Thinking that would require a very skinny robber, Elizabeth simply put a hook-latch on the inside door of the box. However, not long after moving in, she found she'd forgotten her keys inside the locked house. Amused, a neighbour generously loaned her their smallest child, who went through the box with instructions on how to pop the latch, get out, and open the back door!

Having lived in Sudbury, Elizabeth often visited friends on Manitoulin Island. She remembers Reverend Bain Peever (long-time rector of St. John the Divine in London's Old North), and late husband of a friend of mine up there. Reverend Peever used to have a two-point charge on the Island, one at the beautiful, citizen-built stone church of St. Francis of Assisi in the central town of Minnowa, and the other at St. Paul's Church in Manitoulin, a lovingly-maintained frame building that's been there since 1846.

Whenever she showed up at one of these churches, Reverend Peever always said, "Ah, Huron [Diocese] is here!" Another religious connection Elizabeth has had for much of her adult life has been her 51-year affiliation with the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, based in Toronto. As an Associate of this group, she is the Convenor for the St. Agnes Ward in London. She regularly goes on retreats at their convent there, and looks forward to the re-opening of their guest-house this coming January.

Since her early move to Wortley, Elizabeth has been an active St. James volunteer. She was a member of the choir and always part of the Altar Guild. In 1984 Reverend Archie Skirving encouraged her to take the Pastoral Care Course at Parkwood, which she did; she remains a St. James Pastoral Visitor, partnering with parishioner, Beth Reid. On top of that, she cat-sits for three households and helps a Veteran living on his own to clean and tidy his place each month. On top of that volunteering and regular meetings of all the groups she belongs to, Elizabeth's volunteer

life also includes, to this day, assisting at Karen Schuessler Singers and Pro Musica concerts, and Legion events.

As you can see, Elizabeth has always been and remains a very busy, committed person. She has received the London City Volunteer Award for 30 years of service, and this past October, an Ontario Volunteer Award for 40 years of service. The Londoner newspaper published Johnny Fansher's profile of her about a decade ago, on behalf of the St. John's Ambulance service, which concluded with this "People

who are this civic-minded are rare to find and a privilege to know." Elizabeth King's big smile and nimble walk are proof that a life of giving and helping and regular contact with lots of people (as well as weekly Royal Scottish Country Dancing!) can help body and spirit remain well and happy far into later years.



Peggy Roffey, SJW Parishioner

When I think of St. James I smile. We laugh a lot here and that is a good thing! As a faith community we are doing life together. We are standing with each other through the ups and the downs.

This is a place of inclusiveness and mutual care.
This is a place of love and authenticity.
This is a place of community outreach.
This is a place where you can experience life and deepen your faith.
This is a place where you can feel love and gratitude.



I am sure there is more that I could say but that sums up how I feel and why when I am away for a while I want to go back.

— Michele Williamson —

We first came to SJW in Sep of 1983 for 2 reasons- not for the services or music. Our son's baptism was long overdue and we knew that if we attended church, we wanted to be part of a church community where there was no pressure to do anything. A large parish seemed the ideal choice. We joined the Couple's Club and soon knew lots of people and Pete was baptized. As time passed, we become immersed in the church culture and spirituality and both of us took on multiple roles. We felt that we were surrounded by people whose company we enjoyed. In 2006 we moved to BC and I returned in 2012 after Dave's death. I knew I would be returning to SJW and its people. It would be a comfortable and comforting place. I enjoy the fact that there are many ways of being involved (if I choose). There is a place for each of us at St James Westminster. — Libi Clifford —

This Advent with our Children

For the next four weeks, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21, we will start Sunday School in the church sanctuary, our main worship space. All ages are invited to take part in the lighting of our Advent Wreath.

We will say prayers and sing a song that repeats the line, "All Creation praises your name!"

We are inviting our youngest worshippers to bring a stuffed animal from home. As we light the Advent candle, they will gently set it at the base of the wreath where it will rest while they go out to Sunday School.

The green wreath reminds us of God's never-ending love for us and the ever-brightening candles, Jesus coming closer, and closer. May our young ones' stuffies remind us of all the animals they will meet as they hear the birth story, and the prophet Isaiah's vision of God's Peaceable Kingdom. "And a little child will lead them..."

Questions? Chat with Laura Manias, Mary DeKay, Rev Ann or Rev Gerry



Community Christmas Movie



Watch The Grinch and Olaf's Frozen Adventure with us!
Families are welcome to leave their children 5+ in our care.
Scan the QR code to register.
Registration closes Dec 10.



DECEMBER 13 | 1 -4 PM



Advent Greening

Advent 1, Sunday November 30, at 10:30 am

Inspired by traditional services of the “Hanging of the Greens”, we will assemble our advent wreath at the beginning of the service. Fir and pine boughs are natural signs of everlasting life, persisting in summer and winter and retaining their colour even as leaves change and fall. Cedar wood is associated with royalty.

Everyone is invited to bring evergreen boughs from our yards and gardens to weave into this year’s wreath. As we prepare our sacred space for the coming of the Christ who was, is and shall be, together, let us create this symbol of our green and growing faith, a faith that is made richer and deeper by our shared life.

No one need bring too much, and a suggested length is somewhere between 12- 18 inches. For those who do not have greenery we will have lots to share! Directions will be provided as we arrive for worship. Questions? Contact gerryadam@diohuron.org

Nativity Story Garland

Advent 1, November 30 at 9:30 am

During the Meet in the Middle Breakfast our young ones and their grown-ups are invited to join us at a table in the Parish Hall to create a light-filled garland filled with stars, sheep, angels, shepherds, and the Holy Family. Take it home and hang it in a special place where you can see it and remember the story of Jesus’ birth. Can’t make it to the breakfast? There will also be time to work on one over the season during Sunday School! For more information, contact gerryadam@diohuron.org



Special December Dates

Meet in the Middle Brunch - Sun., Nov. 30, 9:30am

Whether you attend the 8:30 a.m. service or 10:30 a.m. service, join us as we “meet in the middle” to catch up and share food and fellowship.

Christmas Lessons & Carols—December 21st at 4pm

A special candlelit service; a journey from Advent to Christmas, from darkness to light, filled with story, image, prayer, and music.

Christmas Eve **4pm—Family Service**
 7pm—Jazz Mass
 10pm—Communion Service

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa is back this year on Saturday, December 6th, 2025! St. James Westminster Anglican Church along with Christmas in the Village (Old South London) will host this event at 115 Askin St. (accessible entrance and parking lot 120 Bruce Street).



Fundscrip Cards for Christmas

Just a reminder that our church participates in the Fundscrip fundraising program. The deadline for ordering Fundscrip gift cards for Christmas is **December 7th**. See Judy and Bette in the Parish Hall after church to place your order. Thanks for your support!!!!

1

Buy \$100, Get \$100
 Buy cards at face value, get face value at the retailers - you lose nothing



2

Shop As Usual
 With cards from over 230 leading retailers, there's no need to change your shopping habits



3

Pay With Gift Cards
 Pay with gift cards instead of credit/debit/cash for your everyday items & gifts



4

Raise Funds
 Each purchase automatically includes a donation for your group that can quickly add up over time



Christmas Flowers

If you would like to remember or give thanks for a loved one by donating toward the **Christmas flowers in the Church**, please contact the church office at office@stjameswest.ca or 519-432-1915 by **Sunday, December 21st**.

Please let us know who the donation is being made by and in whose memory or honour the donation is being made. Cheques or cash should be made out to “St. James Westminster” with “Altar Guild - Christmas Flowers” in the memo.

