

THE VALLEY BULLETIN

CHRISTMAS 2025



DECEMBER 24TH & 25TH, 2025

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you into our midst.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey in faith, you are welcome.
It is a blessing to have you worship with us today!
The Parish of the Valley respectfully acknowledges that we gather for worship
on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.

CHRISTMAS ON THE EDGE

by The Reverend Malcolm Guite

Christmas sets the centre on the edge;
The edge of town, the outhouse of the inn,
The fringe of empire, far from privilege
And power, on the edge and outer spin
Of turning worlds, a margin of small stars
That edge a galaxy itself light years
From some unguessed at cosmic origin.
Christmas sets the centre at the edge.
And from this day our world is re-aligned
A tiny seed unfolding in the womb
Becomes the source from which we all unfold
And flower into being. We are healed,
The end begins, the tomb becomes a womb,
For now in him all things are re-aligned.

From Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY

Leader We light all of the candles and say,
All **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can extinguish.**

Leader Today we light the centre candle, the Christ candle. It reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world and has come to live with us today and always.

Let us pray,
Christ our Light,
Thank you for coming into the world,
for being born as a baby,
for growing up as one of us,
and for reminding us that we are never alone.

All **Amen.**



LET'S PRAY

In the Anglican Communion, this week we pray for Sarah Mullally, Archbishop-Designate of Canterbury. We pray for The Diocese of Sao Paulo in Brazil & The Diocese of Sapele in Nigeria. We pray for our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem.

In the Anglican Church of Canada, we pray for Shane Parker, our Primate. We pray for Anne Germond, our Metropolitan. We pray for Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop.

In our Diocese of Ottawa, we pray for Michael Bird, our Diocesan Administrator. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to elect a new bishop on February 28th: for those discerning a call to let their name stand for election; for the candidates; for Members of Synod.

In our Deanery of the Northwest, we pray for all parts of our Deanery of the Northwest as we celebrate Christmas!

In our Parish of the Valley, we pray for Matthew Brown our Incumbent; and for Gillian Hoyer, Nicholas Forte, and Christine Muise our Associate Incumbents. And we pray for all members of the Parish of the Valley and their families in this Christmas season.

For those who have died and all members of their families as they grieve:
Ron Scheuneman.

For the sick , those who have asked for our prayers, and all others who are on our hearts...

Alice & Petawawa: Lynn, Ralph, Bill, Issy, Nora, Marion, Lynn, Wanda, Rose, Laurie, Lois, Gloria, Patricia, Sammy, Chandra, Shane, Michael, Larry, Trent, Minnie, Scarlett, Brittany, Donna, Shawn, Gerry.

Barry's Bay & Whitney: Mary Ann, George, Poppy Joe & Penny Jane, Fred, Blake, Cathy, Susan, Patricia, Elspeth, Debra, Mary-Jayne, Fern, Shirley, Marilyn, David, Susie, Sharon, Bob.

Killaloe/Tramore & Eganville: Marg, Joan, James, Hilary, Heather, Jan, Harold, Richard, Dorothy, Betty, Ann, Sheila, Andrea, Sharon, Junior, Peter, Richard, Pauline, Phyllis, Ethel, Anice, Paula, Rosemary.

Pembroke: Diane, Jolene, Loreen, Heather, Tristan, Iris, Bill, Bob, Jo, Connie, June, Lawrence, Lomie, Bea.

Stafford/Beachburg/Cobden: Gwen, Elmor, John, Jean, Margaret, Denver, Brian, Ruby, Janice, Susan, Ryan, Haley, Ruth, James, Sharon, Dave, Nicholas, Carolyn, Hillary, Ralph, Thyra, Sandra.

For the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ our Saviour

TODAY'S READINGS

December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20

December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day

Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-12; John 1.1-14

UPCOMING READINGS

December 28, 2025 - First Sunday after Christmas (Pembroke)

Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23

December 28, 2025 - First Sunday after Christmas (Killaloe & Eganville) Lessons & Carols

Genesis 2.4-9, 15-25; Isaiah 40.1-11; Luke 1. 5-25; Luke 1.26-38; Luke 1.39-56; Luke 2.1-20

January 4, 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord (Observed)

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

OFFERINGS

We are grateful for your ongoing support of our parish's congregations.

Donations can always be placed on the offering plates located at the back of the church, or can be given during the offertory in congregations where an offering plate is passed. To learn more about Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR), options for e-transfer, or how to donate online with credit card through *Canada Helps* or [Tithe.ly](https://www.valleyanglicans.ca/tithe), please visit our website: www.ValleyAnglicans.ca

*This Valley Bulletin is offered to the greater glory of God
and in loving memory of Job Norris by Sue Norris-MacInnis and family.*

SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF THE VALLEY

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00am – Holy Trinity Pembroke

11:00am – St. John's Eganville

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 28

8:00am – Holy Trinity Pembroke

9:00am – Ascension Killaloe (Lessons & Carols)

10:00am – Holy Trinity Pembroke

11:00am – St. John the Evangelist, Eganville (Lessons & Carols)

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (OBSERVED), JANUARY 4

8am & 10am - Holy Trinity, Pembroke

9am - Ascension, Killaloe

9am - St. Anthony's, Whitney

9:30am - St. George's, South Alice

11am - St. John the Evangelist, Eganville

11am - Epiphany, Barry's Bay

11am - St. Paul's, Cobden (Morning Prayer)

11:15am - All Saints, Petawawa

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas & New Year Office Closure: The Office at Aborn House will be closed for the holidays from December 19th, reopening on January 5th, 2026.

Christmas Pastoral On-Call: In case of a pastoral emergency over the holidays, from December 25th to December 28th, please call Rev. Nick (613-629-9498). From December 29th to January 4th, please call Rev. Matthew or Rev. Gillian (613-687-9123).

The Parish of the Valley **Advent Appeal** is now underway. By now all members of the parish should have received an appeal package via the mail. Please prayerfully consider how you might support your local Anglican congregation or chapel with a donation this holiday season. For more information or to give online please visit www.ValleyAnglicans.ca. Thank you for faithfully supporting our Advent Appeal!

Join Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican churches for **Starry, Starry Night**, a shared service to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. Sunday, January 4th at 4pm at Zion Lutheran Church (454 Miller Street) in Pembroke. All are welcome!

Please note **there will not be a Wednesday 10am celebration of the Holy Eucharist** in Holy Trinity Pembroke on December 24th (Christmas Eve) or on December 31st (New Year's Eve). The midweek Eucharist will resume at 10am on Wednesday, January 7th.

*Thank you for joining in Christmas worship.
We wish you a very Merry Christmas, and every blessing
for a Happy New Year in 2026!*

CLERGY TEAM

Contact Information

The Rev. Matthew Brown (613-732-4658)

The Rev. Gillian Hoyer (613-687-9123)

The Rev. Nicholas Forte (613-629-9498)

The Rev. Christine Muisse (613-883-8402)

Cover: *Christmas at the Old Quick Church*, Caitlin Ambery, 2019.

Here's a church at the edge. Nothing around it, no other buildings. All by itself in the northern wilderness. But it's still in the centre . . . of the painting. Gospel at the centre of the world. The lit sanctuary draws in the haloed faithful, young and old, male and female. In the open doorway someone waves a welcome. Pastor? Custodian? Christ himself?

The northern lights arc in a dynamic sweep, an atmospheric halo framing the church, accenting its centrality. The scene has a nostalgic quality but then it goes further; the northern lights invite a broader application. Good News at the centre of time and space . . . even at the edge.

www.valleyanglicans.ca



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