

The Second Sunday in Lent March 1st, 2026

A series of four Ecumenical Services for the Lenten Season is set for Mondays in March (11:30 am to 12:10 pm) with a reception and time of fellowship to follow. Please see the poster. The first Service is set for tomorrow, March 2nd at St. Peter's Presbyterian with Fr. Maria Arokiam as the Preacher.

Archbishop Edwards is scheduled to be the Preacher on March 9th at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church.

Our turn to host comes on Monday, March 23rd. Your help is requested, please, for donations of **finger foods**. We are also hoping to **present the Gospel reading on that day as a Tableau** (unspoken drama where actors representing Biblical characters enter on cue, in silence, and stand in place). There are no speaking parts. **If you would be willing to help, please let me know!**

The 99th World Day of Prayer Service: Friday, March 6th at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Stanley. (The storm date is Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 pm.) This year's worship is from the women of Nigeria with the theme: *"I will give you rest: come"*. (Matt. 11.28-30). Everyone is welcome! Refreshments and fellowship will follow the Service.

The Parish Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck: next Sunday, March 8th, following the 10:00 a.m. Service. Don't forget to **turn your clocks back** next Saturday night!

A meeting of the Archdeaconry of Fredericton Greater Chapter: 6:30 pm on **March 11**, at **Cathedral Memorial Hall**. **Everyone is invited to attend** as the Archbishop seeks input on the significant maintenance requirements for Christ Church Cathedral and the upcoming Synod on April 18th.

This Friday, the Holy Eucharist is set for 10:30 am at the Rectory, as we remember Perpetua, a 22 year old mother from the 3rd century. Following that, Stations of the Cross, will be prayed from 12 Noon to 12:30 pm, at the Rectory.

Everyone is welcome!

The Parish of Stanley



*O woman, great is your faith:
be it to you even as you wish.
(St. Matthew 15.28)*

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Website



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'Anglican Parish of Stanley'

SPOTLIGHT on SCRIPTURE'

'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' (St. Matthew 4.4)

DAILY BIBLE READING

A modified table of daily Bible Readings from the Prayer Book:

Sunday	Genesis 32. 3-30	John 3. 22-end
Monday	Genesis 33	John 4. 1-26
Tuesday	Genesis 35. 1-20	John 4. 27- end
Wednesday	Genesis 37	John 5. 1-23
Thursday	Genesis 39	John 5. 24-end
Friday	Genesis 40	John 6. 1-21
Saturday	Genesis 41.1-40	John 6. 22-40

At home, let us pray for a Bible, visible and read daily, in every home in our community. Abroad, let us pray for the Canadian Bible Society's work in Benin.



The Meaning of the Tower

The Tower, through which we enter into St. Thomas' Church, has meaning – meaning that connects to this morning's Gospel. Here's the backstory.

When Bishop John Medley (whose picture hangs in the basement of St. Thomas') arrived in New Brunswick in 1845, about forty Church of England parishes in the province had no church building. Furthermore, most, if not all, of the existing Anglican churches in New Brunswick had been built as plain, square boxes known as "meeting houses." Their design came from New England, and Bishop Medley refused to endorse it. He believed that even the architecture of a church building should proclaim the Truth and Grace and Majesty of God the Holy Trinity; and so he began to encourage another way -- the Gothic style. In doing so, the Bishop had church models constructed to show people what he had in mind. These were approximately 28 inches long, 16 inches high and 18 inches wide. Three of these

miniatures still exist today, with a tower included in at least one.

The square tower -- different altogether from a steeple or spire -- proclaims God's strength, and carries the message of His protection. As the Psalmist says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (46.1) The description of the old St. Thomas Church in Stanley (the first Church consecrated by Bishop Medley, and named after the Church at which he had served in Exeter, England) emphasizes the tower feature:

"It was a building with low sides, dimensions about 22 x 21 feet with... **an immense square tower** at the opposite end of the Chancel".



That tower was copied and included in the plans for the present St. Thomas' when a site was chosen and staked out almost directly across the road from the old Church.

The woman in today's Gospel, came to the Lord Jesus pleading for help. Her daughter was grievously vexed with a devil. She was tormented. She had become an irritated, angry person. Imagine the exhausting effects this must have had on her mother. Nevertheless, this woman believed that the power of Jesus the Messiah was stronger than the devil's. And, as people who have been adopted to be God's own children, so should we. As those who trust that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again victorious on the third day, we must trust that, "The Name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe." (Proverbs 18.10) That is what we are reminded of by the bell tower.

Lent is a season for spiritual renewal. It is a time to remember that the devil is a defeated enemy. He only has the power we give to him. The Almighty Lord Who has come to live in us by His Spirit is stronger. He is our refuge and strength, always.

