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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 248th Edition January 24th, 2025

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### From the Rector

On Sunday we'll hear the gospel story where Jesus said "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Alas, that reading will omit the climax of the story where the people Jesus said this to became enraged, ran him out of town, and tried to throw him off a cliff. Their religious sensibilities were upset by Jesus saying his mission was to bring good news to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind and liberation to the oppressed. And their religious sensibilities were also upset by Jesus' implication that the kingdom of God wasn't some magical fairyland

somewhere over yonder but right in the midst of them now.

Now, our religious sensibilities may be less upset by these ideas than their were. But hearing them still makes us squirm. That's because we know it's much easier to ignore problems than to solve them. It's much easier to disregard people than to liberate them. And none of us alone can solve the big social problems, like poverty and addiction, racism or war. That may be so, but as followers of Jesus it's our solemn duty to look clearly at what's happening, to speak the truth about it, and to act for love and justice. Our splendid, awesome, terrifying mission is to be idealists and to stand and struggle for people who are on the margins of society. And though each of us is sometimes tempted to throw in the towel and give up, we are called to work to bring the ideal of the Kingdom a little nearer.s

It's true that the road between our present reality and the promised Kingdom is filled with challenges and dangers. But it's also true to say that the road to the Kingdom *is* the Kingdom—it is *the way*.

On that way the agony of reality meets the ecstasy of idealism, and it's our task to embrace the ideal so that the reality of the present doesn't overwhelm and defeat us. Because if we wait until we've got it all figured out, we'll never do anything at all. Christianity needs to be practiced in the living, the toiling, and the striving. And the Christian ideal, put into practice, can work like a fermenting agent. It can help to open eyes and hearts and hands and to break down walls, build bridges, and bring healing.

Christ's liberating message of love turned the world upside down once before, or as G. K. Chesterton so memorably said, turned the world right side up, and it can do it again. That's

not a fairytale told in cloud-cuckoo land, nor is it a nice but unattainable ideal. It's the simple truth learned on the way when we bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, and offer recovery of sight to the blind. For by such learning will all of us find our true home, which is none other than the heart of God.

Grace and Peace,  
Leighton

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### **Friends,**

This is a reminder to complete and drop off your  
**ST. MARK'S 2025 PLEDGE FORMS BY THE END OF JANUARY 2025**

Greeters will be happy to receive them after Sunday services, or you can drop them off at the office Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

You can also email your pledge form to [stmarks@cogeco.net](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.net).

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### **DONATION ENVELOPES FOR 2025**

The donation envelopes for 2025 are now available for collection. They are located in the church; please request assistance from a greeter to obtain yours following the service.

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### **MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST**

Join us for the next Men's Communion Breakfast on  
**Wednesday, February 5, 2025.**

This is not just another breakfast; it's a chance to connect, reflect, and build community.

We'll start the morning with **Holy Communion at 8 a.m.**, followed by a delicious breakfast  
at  
**Silk's (in Virgil) around 8:45 a.m.**

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet our new colleague, Rod Tennyson, who is excited to join us. You can read more about Rod's impressive professional background here:

<https://engsci.utoronto.ca/former-engsci-chair-rod-tennyson-inducted-into-ean-hall-of-distinction/>

To ensure a welcoming space for everyone, please R.S.V.P. Your presence will make this gathering even more special.

**R.S.V.P. Steve Hinchliffe**  
**905-687-0048**  
[shinchliffe@outlook.com](mailto:shinchliffe@outlook.com)

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### **St. Mark's is pleased to present**

**"General George Washington's Expense Account as Commander of the American  
Continental Army"  
(1775-1783)**

**presented by Dr. Wes Turner**

**January 28th, 2025  
2 pm  
Addison Hall**

Join us for an engaging discussion led by Wes Turner, a dedicated member of St. Mark's

Church and an acclaimed historian. With 6 published books on the War of 1812 and the Life and Times of Upper Canada, Wes is sure to captivate you with his insights and stories.

**Don't miss this opportunity to connect with our community while enjoying delicious cookies and coffee. We invite you to participate and contribute to the conversation!**

Please R.S.V.P. Dorothy Walker at 905-262-6605 or via email at [walkerdorothy2021@gmail.com](mailto:walkerdorothy2021@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

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## **Parish Updates**

### **In-Person Sunday Services**

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the live stream on YouTube](#)

### **On Duty this Week**

**January 26th - Greeter(s)** - David and Valmai Elkins (8:30 a.m.)  
Colleen and Douglas Hunter (10:30 a.m.)

**Reader** - Wes Turner

**Intercessor** - Diane Turner

**Altar Guild** - Eve Wylie, Gene Anne Smith and Jennifer Smith

**Server** - John Shaver

### **Order of Service**

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Website Page](#)

### **Church Bells**

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 p.m. Enjoy!

### **Staying Up to Date!**

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [Visit our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook Page](#)

You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "F".

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**It's been quite some time since we featured a "Did you know..." story in E-News, but this one is particularly intriguing, so we had to include it—special thanks to Donald Combe for researching and writing this fascinating history of St. Mark's organs.**

### **Did you know....**

That Andrew Henderson, DMA, MA (CANTAB), FRCCO, is the Director of Music and Organist at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City? Originally from Thorold, Ontario, he developed an early interest in music, completing a project on pipe organs in the Niagara Peninsula at age of 13, which he published. Andrew is currently documenting the instruments at St. Mark's; however, he is eager to learn more about the previous pipe

organs housed there. To aid in this research, he contacted Donald Combe, who reviewed the files at St. Mark's but unfortunately could not find any relevant information.

According to Mr. Henderson's research, St. George's in St. Catharines is said to have the earliest pipe organ in the area, dating back to 1848. However, St. Mark's had a pipe organ in the west gallery as early as 1842, as there is a record of an organist from that time. Additionally, a photograph from the 1890s of the interior of St. Mark's shows organ pipes on either side of the chancel.

Donald reviewed vestry minutes from 1842 to 1895 and discovered some intriguing facts.

The 19th-century vestry minutes of St. Mark's primarily documented the names of those present at meetings and listed the individuals appointed as wardens for the upcoming year. Significant attention was given to identifying those with overdue pew rents, including the amounts they owed in back payments. The minutes also addressed various financial matters, which often presented a bleak picture. Additionally, they included some interesting information about the pipe organs at St. Mark's.

### **From the vestry minutes of St. Mark's 1842-1896**

**1842** - ...organist was paid £10

**1843** - ...to pay the present organist the sum of £10 for his services during 1843

**1845** - ...organist £10

**1846** - ...Mr. Carlisle was continued as organist and to be allowed £5 for teaching the choir and his present salary to be doubled from the first of July next for the then ensuing half year and from thence to receive at the rate of £25 per annum

**1847** - ...the salary of the organist was to be £15

**1848** - ...Mr. Carlisle appointed organist

**1852** - ...the salary of the organist remain as last year and the subject of an allowance to Mr. Todd as leader of choir to be left to the decision of the rector

**1853** - ...organist's salary to remain as last year

**1855** - ...the salary of the organist to be raised to £40 after the expiration of this year's service in the month of November next

**1857** - ...appointed T.R. Walls organist at the salary of £50 (the rector received £420)

**1860** - ...thanks to Miss(?) Powell for her valuable services in playing the organ and sustaining the singing for the greater part of last year

**1863** - ...many thanks to Miss Powell for indefatigable exertions in maintaining the choir into efficient and acceptable a manner during the past year

**1866** - ...thanks justly due and heartily given to John Powell for his efficient management of the choir for several years without any expense and also to the Misses Powell's and to other members of the choir who well and willingly performed their respective parts under his superintendence

**1867** - ...thanks Mrs. Powell as organist and choir

**1868** - ...thanks to Miss Powell as organist and choir leader

**1870** - ...thanks of the congregation of St. Mark's Church Niagara are justly due and are hereby given to Miss Marion Winterbottom for her valuable services as organist and beg her acceptance of the accompanying purse as an acknowledgment of their appreciation of her indefatigable exertions towards sustaining the efficiency of the choir

**1871** - ...\$50 to the organist

**1879** - ...a proposal of the removal of the organ from the loft to the body of the church and placing the choir in the body of the church

**1881** - ...talk of a new organ

**1888** - ...Mr. Hallowell resigned the position of choir master appointing a leader left in the hands of the Church Wardens

**1889** - ...proposed improvements and the gallery to be removed

**1895** - ...thanks to Captain Dickson for the trouble he has taken with the choir during the past year with the choir

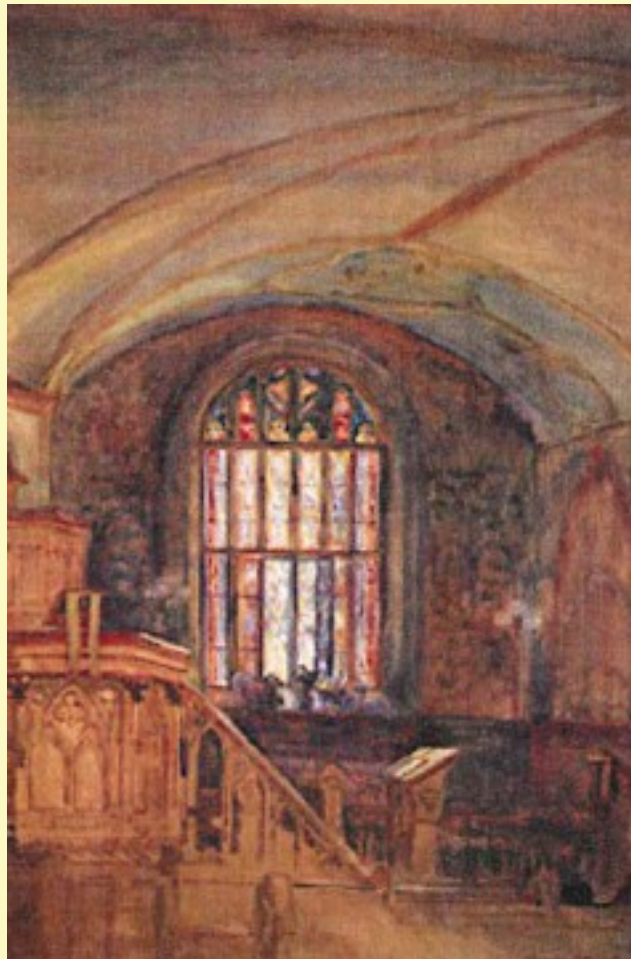
**1896** - ...thanks to the organist and the choir for efficient services.

- **In 1841, the province of Canada, as a British colony, adopted the Canadian pound.**
- **Replacing the Canadian pound in 1858, the Canadian dollar was aligned with the US dollar with both US dollars and British sovereign gold coins also serving as legal tender in Canada.**

**£10 in 1842 = £930.59 in 2023**

**£25 in 1846 = £2398.43 in 2023**

**£420 in 1857 = £40,294.91 in 2023**



## Prayer Cycles - We pray for:

**In St. Mark's parish:** Peter and Nancy Kemball, Patrick and Jane Kierans, Patricia Kingdon, and Frank Kotsovolos and their families.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** Christ Church, Niagara Falls, The Reverend Paul Whitehouse, Interim Priest-in-Charge; The Reverend Canon Jim Powell, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

**In the Lutheran-Anglican-Moravian Cycle of Prayer:** The Most Rev. David Edwards, Metropolitan, and the people and clergy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada; and the dean, council, and congregations of the Atlantic and Montreal Areas of the Eastern Synod; and the people and ministries of Millwoods Moravian Church in Edmonton.

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[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



St. Marks Anglican Church | 41 Byron Street P O Box 582 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S  
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