



St. James Church

In the Heart of the Village

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News & Views, Advent 2021

The church starts a new year with each Advent, and it is a wonderful time of reflection, prayer and looking ahead, both to Christ’s return to the earth, and to our secular celebration of his birth.

This year St. James begins a new chapter in its parish story with the departure of Fr. Chris and Amy Dow, and the arrival of the Rev. Michelle Jones. More information on both those changes can be found on page 2.

Last year’s Advent and Christmas were constrained by Covid but this year we will be open for in-person worship and, thank you God, we can sing once again! Masks must be worn, social

distancing is still in place, and all our staff and key volunteers are vaccinated. The vast interior space in our church also helps with air circulation — so you can be confident in your safety at St. James.

We are planning to have another beautiful Chrismon tree, and our Outreach committee has been hard at work making it simple for you to help those in need this year.

Please continue to reach out to people for whom this is a difficult time of year. Remember, you don’t need to make them feel better. Just help them feel connected and supported. We hope to see you at St. James over the next few weeks.

Farewell, and welcome!

St. James said farewell to **Father Chris and Amy Dow, Clara, Abigail and Hannah** on Sunday November 24th. Three weeks earlier, Fr. Chris announced his appointment as the rector of St. Jude's Cathedral in Iqaluit. Fr. Chris will also be the dean of the Diocese of the Arctic, the largest Anglican diocese in the world in terms of geographic area.

As many parishioners will remember, Fr. Chris experienced northern ministry when he was in Saskatchewan. He has a passion for ministry to Indigenous people, and is already learning Inuktituk in order to celebrate worship services.

During his last service, Fr. Chris was thanked for his many contributions to St. James, including design of our website, setting up Zoom and Livestream worship, establishment of a strategic plan, and much more. Most importantly, Fr. Chris touched the lives of many people during his time here, helping us through bereavement and loss, as well as times of celebration. Howard Jones characterized Fr. Chris as an exemplary Christian.

Amy was thanked for her gifts to St. James, including music, children's ministry, adult education and community outreach. Clara, Abigail and Hannah were recognized for the joy they brought to every church visit. Several books with a northern theme will help them adjust to life in the north, and help dad learn Inuktituk.



Bishop Riscylla Shaw has appointed the **Rev. Michelle Jones** as Priest-In-Charge at St. James, effective Nov. 25.

This means that the parish will not undergo a selection process, but will be able to continue normal parish life (as normal as Covid permits!) and continue to focus on the important work of serving the community.

Rev. Michelle, husband Brad Canning and daughter Lilly were parishioners at St. James a decade or so ago. Since that time Michelle sought ordination and has most recently been at Christ Church Brampton as the associate priest.

Rev. Michelle brings a deep desire to listen to people, to hear their stories, and help them learn from their own experiences. She organized a writing group at Christ Church to do just that, and plans to bring a similar program to St. James in the spring. We look forward to the energy and new ideas which she will bring as we start this new chapter together. Look for her first letter to the parish very soon.

Please let Lori in the office know if you would like to speak to Rev. Michelle over the holidays, or would like a visit with partial communion.

So, welcome Michelle, Brad and Lilly. Hope the commute from Inglewood isn't too onerous! God bless and thank you for coming to St. James.



Advent and Christmas Services at St. James

Star of Bethlehem Presentation Via Zoom Dec. 8 at 7 pm

Join our own star gazer Howard Jones for a repeat of his fascinating presentation on the Star of Bethlehem. Not just a line in a carol, or an extraneous detail in the Bible, Howard presents a compelling argument for the appearance of something unusual in the sky at the time Jesus was born.

You will need a Zoom link to join. If you get the parish eblast it will come to you; if you don't and would like information on how to join in, please call Lori in the office.

Lessons and Carols Dec. 12 at 10:30 am

This much loved service returns! A selection of readings from the old and new testament helps prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus. *And now, with the ban on singing lifted, we can join our voices in the much loved and meaningful advent hymns and carols.*

Christmas Eve Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm

Our traditional family-friendly service will take place after a year's absence! Social distancing is still in effect, so please follow the direction of the sidespeople for seating. The service will be livestreamed.

Christmas Day Dec. 25 at 10:00 am

The Rev. Michelle will lead a quiet worship service without music. Perfect if you are travelling later in the day!

Note - no 9:00 am service this day.



Boxing Day Dec. 26 at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Yes, it's one of those years in which we get to celebrate three days in a row! Another chance to admire the Chrismon tree and hear the glorious music of Christmas!



Parish visits

Please let the office know if you would like a visit from Rev. Michelle over the next few weeks. She is able to bring communion wafers but at present we are not partaking of wine.

Caring for others

The Advent Giving tree is back, but only for a few weeks. Please take a tag off the tree, shop for the items on the tag, then return your gift bag WITH THE TAG, and place under the tree by **Sunday December 12.**

We are supporting the Brampton Prison Ministry, Elizabeth Fry Society and Choices Youth Shelter. Each of these charities provides vital assistance for those often overlooked at this time of year.

If you cannot get into church to pick up a tag, please call the office and Lori will get one for you and tell you what purchases are required. We can make arrangements for you to drop off your package or have it picked up. If you can't get out to shop, you can always send a cheque marked 'outreach' and it will be put to good use.



Giving Tree bags in 2019

The Advent 'conspiracy'

Psst.... we're going to take part in something radical at St. James! It's an international movement based on the idea that we can celebrate Christmas humbly, beautifully and generously. Called the **Advent Conspiracy**, it's a groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be - a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us.

You'll be hearing more soon, but one part of the movement is to make a charitable donation in lieu of a gift to someone on your list. St. James encourages you to give through the PWRDF to support the Mishamikoweesh Water Project. You'll get a special tag to announce your gift.

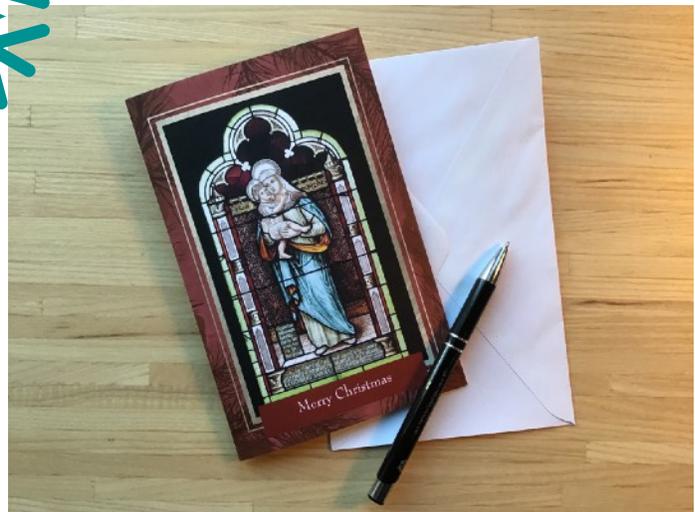
Howard Jones will be sharing more information on how to be part of the conspiracy - but the basic steps are *worship fully; spend less; give more and love all.* Now that's a conspiracy theory we can all support!

More information on our website.

St. James cards



Send your best wishes to friends and family and support St. James. These beautiful cards feature a detail from our back window, a verse from the Gospel of Luke and have lots of room for your greeting. Sold in packages of 10. Each package is \$20.00 — all proceeds going the church. Please call the office at 905-584-9635 regarding pickup and payment.



Chrismon Tree



Last year our beautiful Chrismon tree was put up at the front of the church, and plans are to do that again this year.

A Chrismon or Christogram is a symbol of Christian faith. Our tree is covered in beautiful white and gold Chrismons, handcrafted by a group of women at St. James. The idea was introduced to St. James in the late 1970s by Karen Booth, wife of the Rev. S. P. Booth. By the late 1990s many of the ornaments had begun to fall apart, so Ruth Sowrey led many workshops to replace and repair the intricately beaded and embellished symbols. Glass doves were the latest addition to the tree.

Decorating the tree with the Chrismons takes a while, as each one has to be carefully unpacked, and then placed to advantage. But everyone agrees, the spectacular result is worth the effort.

Symbols to look out for:

Dove

Celtic cross

Crown

Rose

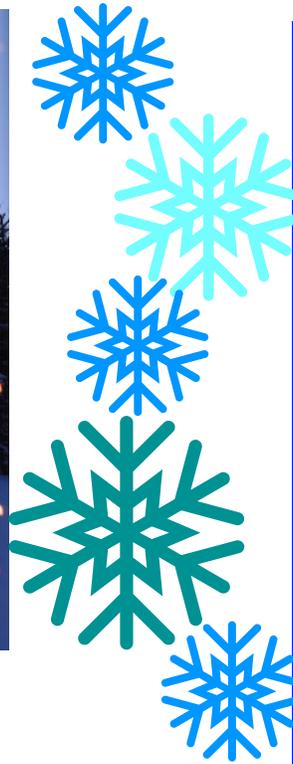
Star

Trinity

Circle

Fish

Lily



Stay in touch

Office Phone:
905-584-9635

Visit:
Tue. - Thur.: 9 - 1 pm

Rev. Michelle's email:

Priest-stjames
caledoneast@toronto.anglican.ca

Facebook:

St. James Anglican Church, Caledon East

(you don't need a Facebook account to see the page)

Web:

stjamescaledoneast.ca

The website has current information on:

- Upcoming services and how to access them
- How to donate to the church
- Links to special events

Mail:

6025 Old Church Road,
Caledon East ON.
L7C 1H8

Meet Lori

Lori Robinson has begun her contract position as our Office Administrator. She will be in the office **Tuesday and Thursdays, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

Lori brings a wealth of experience to the position. She is a semi-retired Human Resources professional and has been planning, organizing, directing and analyzing the operations of the companies she has worked with for decades. She has



been a part time faculty member at Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advance Learning, and has owned her own business.

Lori is passionate about giving back to the community and helping the less fortunate. She has been on many gala and fund-raising committees and has raised over 1.5 million dollars for various charities over the past 15 years. She is a member of Zonta International, a group which strives to improve the lives of women and children world-wide, and is the chair of the Board of the Brampton-Caledon Community Foundation.

Lori and her husband Garry are parishioners and live in Caledon.

You can reach her on the office phone, or at stjamescaledoneast@toronto.anglican.ca

We Three Kings

This beloved carol tells the story of the Magi, who visited Jesus as a child, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The visit is recounted in the Gospel of Matthew, although no names are given, nor the number of Magi in attendance. The names of the Magi (often called Kings) — Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar are legendary and based on tradition.

The gifts foreshadow the life of the Christ child - gold to recognize his kingly status, frankincense which rises to God the Father, and myrrh, one of the oils used to anoint the dead. The refrain praises the beauty of the Star of Bethlehem, by which the Magi were led to the home of Jesus.

The lyrics and music were written by John Henry Hopkins Jr. in 1857. At the time, Hopkins was the rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and he wrote the carol for a Christmas pageant taking place in New York City. Although pageants frequently contain shepherds **and** the Magi, in Biblical context these were separate events. But who can resist children with wobbly crowns and trailing robes?

The original melody resembles that of a song from the Middle Ages, with elements of Middle Eastern music — making it a delightful change from some of the more saccharine music heard this time of year.

My favourite version is by the Bare Naked Ladies and Sarah McLachlan. It starts with God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen, then switches into We Three Kings. Sarah's voice is haunting and I love the upbeat tempo. Enjoy! — (Diane)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOVyAS3tIEA>

We Three Kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain,
Moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night
Star with Royal Beauty Bright
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to thy Perfect light

Gaspard:
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to Crown him again.
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Melchior:
Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a deity nigh.
Prayer and praising,
All men raising,
Worship him God on high.

Balthazar:
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume,
Breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

Glorious now, behold him arise.
King and God and sacrifice.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Earth to heaven replies.



Chrismon details you might not see from the pews!

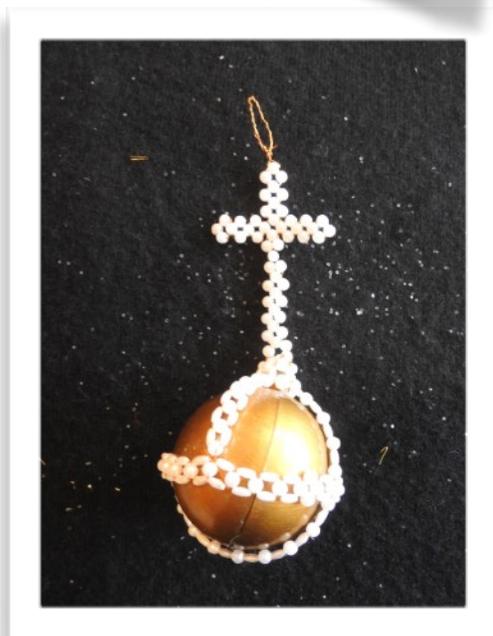
The beaded crown at the top of the tree symbolizes the Reign of Christ.



The gold ring symbolizes eternity, with the sign of the Trinity done in pearls.



Another symbol of the Trinity, this time worked by three eternal circles in white and gold. The butterfly is a symbol of the resurrection.



For more information, visit <https://www.cathedralofhope.org/images/spiritual-life/chrismons-elpc.pdf>

This Chrismon shows the empty cross with domination over all the world.