

St. George's Standard

January 11, 2026



January 18, 2026



A Message from Father Alvarado

The kitchen is empty, we have sung most of the Christmas carols, and we have eaten the last bit of ham left on the bone. Wow, 2026 is here - as we get ready to embrace a new year and embark on a new journey, I wish for us to reflect on Ephesians 3:20, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine..."

My family and friends in Christ, as I journey with you into another year. I take this time to encourage you to walk into this new year with hearts of gratitude for God's abundant blessings. 2025 for many has been a challenge and for some a blessing; however, we have experienced God's provision, grace and faithfulness time and time again. Indeed, God has been good to us.

As we step into 2026, we are reminded throughout Holy Scripture that God's ability far exceeds our expectations. What lies ahead is not limited by what we have seen, encountered or experienced. Because God is always at work, often in ways beyond what we can imagine or predict. In so many ways, we can look back and see moments whereby God's grace has sustained us and His hand directed us forward. So, at this time, a new year welcomes us not to love in the past.

As with all beginnings, especially those associated with a New Year, we are perhaps inclined to make resolutions for the coming 12 months. I urge you to let us leave dieting, gym visiting, dog walking and house renovating to the civil new year on 1 January 2026. For today, if we are to have any New Year resolutions, let them be of the things that belong to God... things which touch upon our spiritual life, our life of prayer and worship. This year, this new year, let us make a genuine effort to speak with the Lord more often and ever more sincerely. Let heart speak to heart.

So, my dear family, may our journey and worship this year be grounded in our gratitude for God and love for one another. I take this time on behalf of the clergy, wardens and myself to wish each and every one of you a Happy and God filled New Year.

With every blessing and love,
Rev. Dr Alvarado Adderley

Father Alvarado's Trip to Palestine



What's happening in Israel/Palestine? Admittedly, if I was asked this question before our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, my answer would have probably been vague or ill-informed. Not because of my lack of knowledge of events surrounding the conflict between Israel and Palestine, but simply because as humans we often focus on the things that affect us directly.

On Dec. 6 we visited an area called Taybeh. To lend some historical context: Taybeh is one of the most ancient places in Palestine, dating back to the Bronze Age, and is mentioned in the Book of Joshua as Ofra, a town of Benjamin. In New Testament times it was known as Ephraim, the village to which Jesus chose to retire with his disciples after the resurrection of Lazarus to fortify his spirit, pray and fast before his return to Jerusalem and his Passion. Notably, Taybeh is surrounded by Muslim villages, Israeli settlements and military roadblocks, yet it has an all-Christian population, the only 100% Christian village in Palestine. The people of Taybeh belong to three Christian denominations: the Latin (Roman Catholic) Church, the Greek Orthodox Church and the Melkite (Greek Catholic) Church.

Remarkably, within the grounds of the Latin Church of Christ the Redeemer, there is a reconstruction of a traditional Palestinian peasant home, which we were privileged to tour. Taybeh is an area that once had a population of 15,000. Presently, both because of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine and the occupation, which means Taybeh is living under military law, many persons have migrated to Canada, Germany or the U.S. This, of course, was evident in the empty streets and many deserted buildings that comprised the town. However, Taybeh is also famous for having its own brewery and Oktoberfest celebration. The brewery, launched in 1994, is one of two in Palestine and as of 2014 also produces its own wine.

We were privileged to have an audience with Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the parish priest of the Latin Church of Christ the Redeemer, who explained the difficulties that so many families face within the community. He described the tension and fear that the community was feeling, and the ongoing harassment that the people endure from Israeli soldiers and settlers alike. In fact, on the day he spoke with us, he made us aware of an attack on the community the night before. After a Christmas celebration gathering, two vehicles in the town were set on fire by Israeli settlers. Thankfully nobody was injured.

Father Alvarado's Trip to Palestine (Cont.)

Regardless of the struggles, Fr. Fawadleh expressed how hopeful the people of Taybeh are to celebrate Christmas, especially considering what has transpired within the county in the last two years with the war in Gaza. I can recall sinking in my chair as he spoke and explained to us in detail the challenges within the community and church at large. However, when asked by Bishop Asbil, "What keeps you going? What gives you hope?" he responded without any hesitation, saying, "Your presence. With you all visiting, it makes us feel as though we are not alone." This response, which will stay with me for a long time, was transformative and encouraging, for it truly defined what we recite in the creed: "We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church." Yes, we are universal, we are one, and we walk hand-in-hand with one another regardless of the distance.

Moments later we were back on the bus to go on our way to Bethlehem, where our Christian faith first started. I can still recall the bus ride. It was quite and reflective. I could hear people think and ponder as we all sat with what was told to us by Fr. Fawadleh and others thus far on our trip.

About 30 minutes later, the bus stopped and there we all stood in the front of the Church of the Nativity. "Wow!" I thought, "in the midst of all that is happening, we are standing only steps away from the church that is believed to be built over the birthplace of Jesus." And then it happened, the countdown to the lighting of the Christmas tree. People cheering, some crying, emotions running wild. Then we heard "10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1," and the tree was lit. With goosebumps, and tears in my eyes, I watched people celebrate with hope and expectation. As a result of the war in Gaza, this was the first time in two years that the tree was lit in the square. For the first time in my life, Romans 5:3 – "but we rejoice in our sufferings" – became so alive and real. In that moment I stood among a people who, though oppressed, walled in and marginalized, exemplified Romans 5:3.

Like the Apostle Paul, although there's much pain and persecution among Palestinians, they also show much joy. In the midst of everything, they continue to show that hope and confidence in God dominates their outlook on life. Yet we may ask, what enables Palestinians to live with such paradoxes? It is their faith in a God of boundless love who holds the future in his hands. It is a faith that is unshakeable even in the midst of distress. It is a faith that gives a new outlook on life. It is a faith that says suffering and blessing are not necessarily contradictory. It is possible to have and experience both. Now fast-forward to Dec. 19. Having visited Israel/Palestine, my experience and knowledge have been informed through the lens of those living within the walls of conflict. And so I write with the hope and expectation that my experience would enlighten, inform and bring about the change that is desperately needed in Israel/Palestine, as well as in other parts of the world. Nelson Mandela once stated that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This trip provided us all with that world-changing education.

The Rev. Dr. Alvarado Adderley

See all the Happening Now in Palestine posts. <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/happening-now-in-palestine/>

Important Info!

Weekly Worship Services

Sundays	8.15 am	Holy Eucharist BCP
	10.00 am	Choral Eucharist
Tuesdays:	8:00 am	Morning prayer on Zoom
	6:00 pm	Bible Study
Wednesdays:	8:00 am	Morning prayer on Zoom
	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Thursdays	8:00 am	Morning prayer on Zoom
	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

JAN 11

World: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Diocese: New Canons of the Diocese of Toronto

Oshawa Deanery: St. Paul's Uxbridge, The Rev. Johanna Pak

JAN 18

World: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

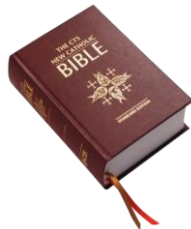
Diocese: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Oshawa Deanery: St. Thomas' Brooklin, The Rev. Douglas Barnes

READINGS

JAN 11

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17



JAN 18

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Givings through E-TRANSFER

PLEASE USE THE EMAIL ADDRESS
'TREASURER@STGEORGESOSHAWA.ORG'
SECURITY QUESTION— CHURCH
SECURITY ANSWER—GIVINGS

**Please include your full name and address
in your etransfer if you wish to receive a
tax receipt.**

Memorial Flowers Placed on Altar

'Order Forms' are located at the back of the church or at the church office if you wish to place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one. Requests and funds must be received **at least 2 weeks prior to placement.** Forms must be returned to the church office or placed on the offertory plate. Thanks so much!

Church Leadership

Bishop of Toronto—The Rt Rev. Andrew Asbil
Suffragan Bishop—The Rt Rev. Riscylla Shaw
Suffragan Bishop—The Rt Rev. Kevin Robertson
Incumbent-- The Rev. Dr. Alvarado Adderley
Curate: Rev. Rajini Lyman
Honourary Assistant - Rev. Janet Stephens
Rector's Warden—Barb Wotton
People's Warden—Shelley Kossatz
Deputy Rector`s Warden—Kevin Liyanage
Deputy People`s Warden - Betty Hogeterp
Director of Music - Carmine Lappano
Bookkeeper—Zsafia Halmai
Envelope Secretary—Barb Callery
Sexton—William Erwin

Church Wifi

The GUEST network is **Church Hall** and the **password** is **9057237875.**

New Office Hours MONDAY-THURSDAY 10AM-2PM



St. George's Memorial Church (Anglican) 51 Centre St. S. Oshawa ON L13Z9
telephone: 905-723-7875 email: church@stgeorgesoshawa.org

What's Happening!

Prayer of the week

January 11 2026

"Heavenly Father, I come to You with an open heart, ready for a fresh start. Thank You for Your grace and the chance for new opportunities. As I step into this new season, grant me guidance, wisdom, and strength. Help me leave the past behind and face the future with courage and faith. Remove my fears and doubts, fill me with peace and purpose, and lead me toward Your path. I trust You with my journey. Amen".

January 18 2026

Heavenly Father, Lord of Peace

We come before You with heavy hearts for our world, torn by conflict, division, and misunderstanding.

We ask for Your divine light to break through the darkness, filling every corner of the earth with Your love, mercy, and grace. of the earth with Your love, mercy, and grace.



Spiritual Renewal Activities at St. George's

Bible Study	A Week in Prayer	Prayer Labyrinth (TBD)
Evening Prayer	Laying on of Hands	Healing Service
Weekly Spiritual Renewal Quotes in the bulletins	Anointing (1 st Sunday of every month)	Prayer Breakfast



Blue Box:
Changes
Now in
Effect



Blue Box Recycling Program

In Ontario, as of January 1, 2026, places of worship (churches), along with other businesses and non-profits, are considered "non-eligible sources" for municipal blue bin collection and must arrange their own private waste management services. The goal is to encourage these organizations to reduce waste independently.

What does this mean for St. George's?

- Corporation and the Property Team are looking for an alternate solution
- This solution will mean additional costs
- Folks renting the church will be asked to take their recycling with them when they leave.

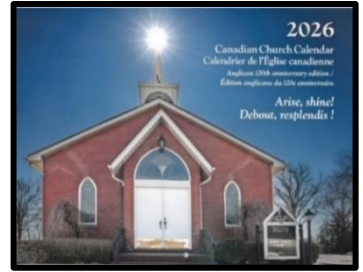
How can you help?

- We encourage you to take your bulletins and other recyclables to your home recycling bins. This will help reduce recyclables at the church.
- Talk to your local MPP to advocate for change

What's Happening!

Anglican Church Calendars Now Available!

Calendars are still available for \$6 at the back of the church or from the church office.



'Coffee Hour' Refreshment Teams!

Our teams are growing! THANK YOU to those who have stepped up to join the dedicated group of people providing coffee, tea, cold drinks and snacks after the 10am service! If this ministry calls to you, **please contact Shelley Kossatz at 905-404-3089 or smkossatz@gmail.com or contact the church office!**

This ministry is SUCH an integral part of our Christian fellowship!

Mitten Tree

St. George's Family,

We are very happy to provide 2 schools, and 1 early childcare centre with a large bag each of donated hats, mittens and scarves for children. In addition, Durham Outlook also received a bag of adult sizes.

All locations expressed extreme gratitude for thinking of them as there is a need in our community for these items during the winter months.

Giving is not just about donating – it's about making a difference.

Thank you to all that donated to the Mitten Tree over the holiday season – we made a difference.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday is on February 17, this year

The tickets and posters are ready!

Now we need a someone or a group of people to organize the event. The good news is that we have detailed notes on how to organize and run the event.

Please Shelley Kossatz or Barb Wotton if you are able to help with this exciting Parish event.

Thank you in advance.

Barb and Shelley



**WHEN:**

St. George's annual Vestry meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2026 after the 10:00 am service.

REPORTS:

We are asking that all Vestry reports be emailed to the office by **Jan 26, 2026** (church@stgeorgesoshawa.org). Please submit your report in a word document format. If you are a leader of a Parish group or team, you are responsible for submitting a report outlining the activities of the group over the past year and upcoming plans for your group in 2026. Please call the office (905-723-7875) if you have any questions.

WHAT IS VESTRY?:

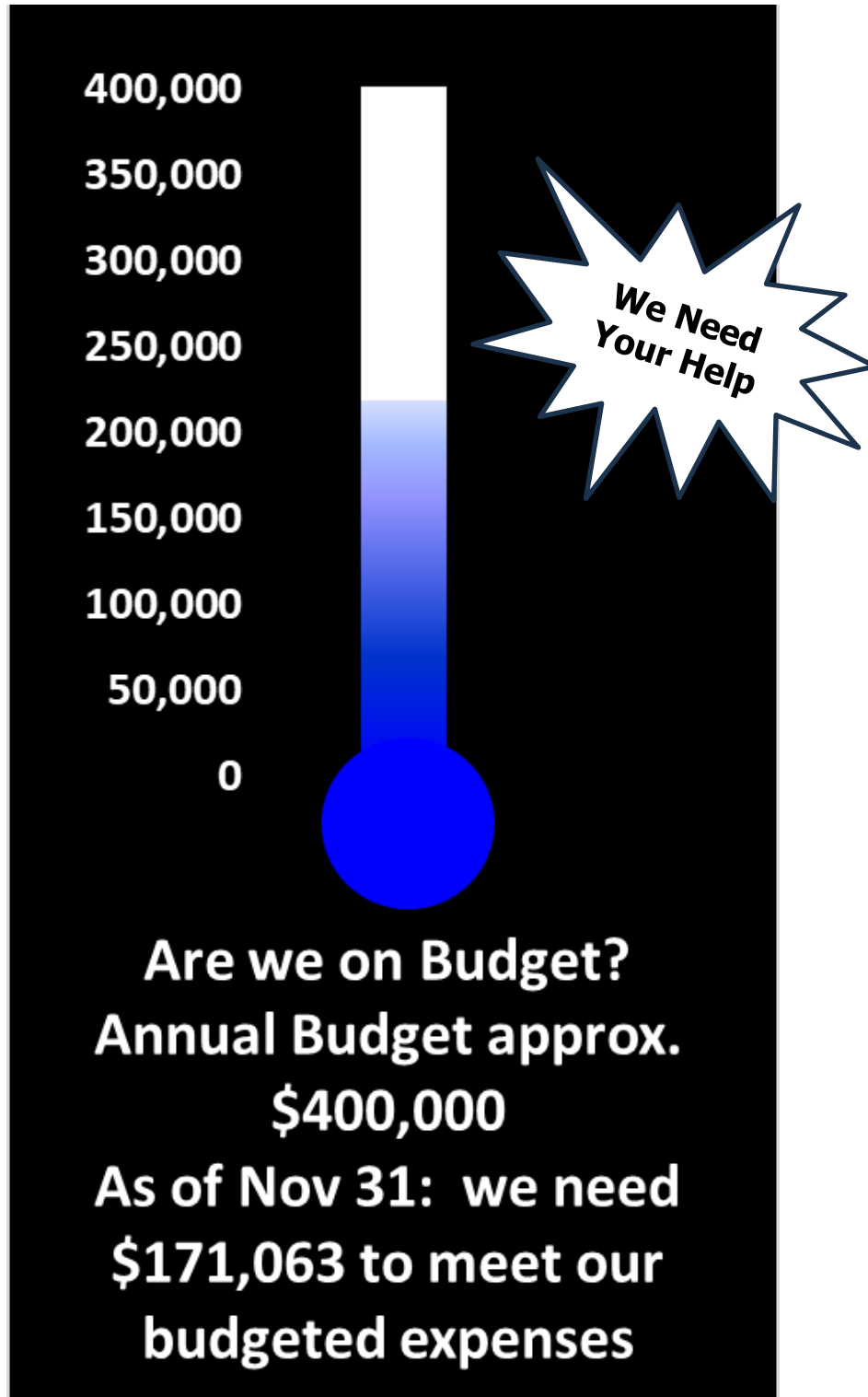
Vestry is the annual general meeting of the church. During vestry we will review and approve the financial statements for 2025/26, elect officers of the church and discuss other important matters of the church's business. Refreshments are provided.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?:

The most important thing the leadership of St. George's wants you to know is that WE WANT YOU AT OUR VESTRY MEETING! Your voice, your ideas and insights are valuable! This opportunity to gather TOGETHER, to identify TOGETHER our direction for the coming year, for as many people as possible at St. George's to feel a sense of ownership, responsibility and participation in the life of our congregation is of VITAL and LIFE-GIVING importance.

Budget

Budget Update as of **November 31st**



Budget



Did You Know.....

The following are our **monthly** costs for ONLY these 3 things:

- Insurance: \$2,918.05
- Hydro: summertime average: \$300, wintertime average \$600
- Heating: average \$2,000



Cost of sustaining JUST the basics have gone up drastically! Please prayerfully consider your givings.

Events

Four Week Epiphany Zoom Course

Is there a better way to spend the cold season of Epiphany than learning about Matthew? Join Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat as she reads Matthew through the eyes of the broken hearted both in first century Palestine and Palestine today.

Monday January 12, 19, 26

and Feb 2, 2026

7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

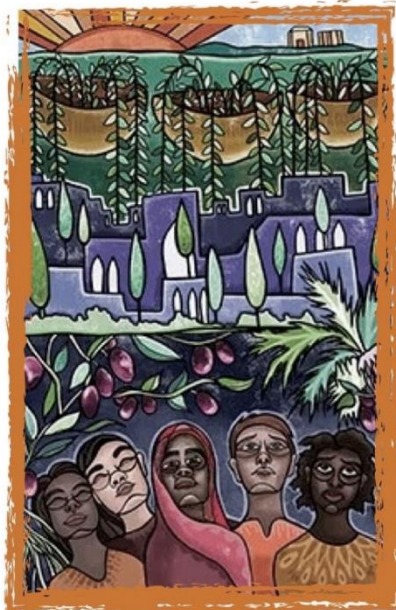
Go to www.bibleremixed.ca for more information.

As always, this course is Pay What You Can

Matthew and the Margins: When the Brokenhearted Rule

a four-week Epiphany zoom course with

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat



Lauren Wright Pittman, New Roots
Sanctified Art, www.sanctifiedart.org

In a repressive empire,
under the regime
of a violent and tyrannical ruler,
an unlikely community
was being formed
by a man who acted like a prophet.

His name was Jesus.
He was rooted in the land.
He knew the stories of old.
And he dared to dream
of a new community
where the brokenhearted and
oppressed would inherit the earth.

Pay what you can.

for more information:
www.bibleremixed.ca

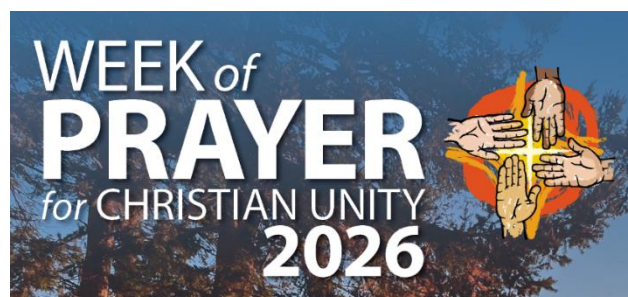
Mondays
7:00 - 9:00 pm EST

January 12, 19, 26,
February 2, 2026
via Zoom

BIBLE REMIXED: Where biblical depth meets radical discipleship

St. Gregory the Great Ecumenical Worship Service

You are invited to join us at an ecumenical worship service during the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church (214 Simcoe St N, Oshawa) on January 22, 2026, at 7 pm. Following the service, light refreshments will be served in the hall (190 Simcoe St N).



Lent and Easter Services



Lent and Easter Services at St George's

You're invited to join our parish family as we make our way from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week to the celebration of Christ's glorious Resurrection on Easter. Surrounded by community and nourished by prayer, we will journey together in these holy season of Lent and Easter. Below is our schedule of services.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday February 18, 2026

- 12:00 pm Said Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
- 7:00 pm Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday - Sunday March 29, 2026

- 8:15 am BCP Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms

Maundy Thursday: Thursday April 2, 2026

- 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Good Friday: Friday April 3, 2026

- 12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist

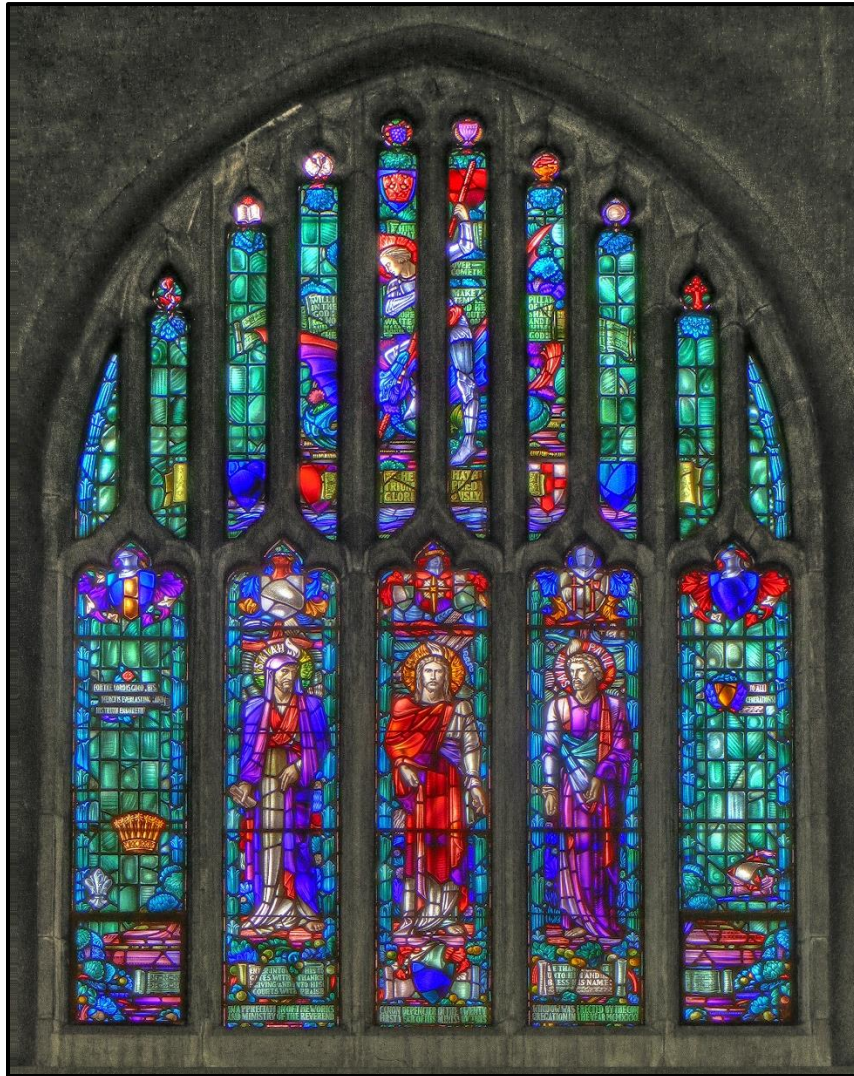
Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil: Saturday April 4, 2026

- 7:00 pm Choral Eucharist

The Sunday of the Resurrection - Easter Day: Sunday April 5, 2026

- 8:15 am BCP Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 am Choral Eucharist and Healing Service

New Year Blessing



A New Year Blessing

"May God's blessings fill your home with love, joy, and peace throughout the new year."

"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6:24-26)

A New Year Prayer

"Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year. Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the new that you have in store for us".