

# **Parish Profile**

**St. James' Anglican Church**

**130 Thames St. S. Ingersoll ON N5C 2T4**



**Administrative Office**

**231 Thames St. S. Ingersoll ON**

**519-485-0385**

**Email – [stjamesoffice@execulink.com](mailto:stjamesoffice@execulink.com)**

## Executive Summary

The various narratives offered herein present a brief overview of where we came from, where we have been, where we are now, and most importantly where we hope to go in the future. It also offers information on the greater community with some basic statistics and demographics.

More than ten years ago the parish had an extensive architectural/engineering study of our church building done. After much consultation and vestry discussion, it was decided our best course of action was to sell our beautiful and beloved building and replace it with a more functional and cost efficient one. Like many parishes, our congregation is aging, and we are missing the attendance of almost the last two generations. Having spent three years looking for a suitable place to build or renovate, we have purchased a store front in the main business block of the downtown.

We are eager to take St. James' Parish into the twenty-first century and look forward to the evolution of the church, its changing relationship to the greater community, and reinvigorating congregants who have fallen away to re-establishing a relationship with St. James'.

This can be accomplished with the leadership and enthusiasm of a priest as outlined in the narrative "The New Priest Will Be" which is included in the following pages. We pray that somewhere there is a priest who feels the call to accept these challenges and lead and guide us as we move forward.



### What we value as members of St. James' Parish

*fellowship ...shared Christian values...a feeling of community...*

*friendships...spiritual guidance...willingness to help...the people...*

*support...love...volunteerism...outreach...a warm friendly*

*welcoming place to worship...groups to belong to ...working and worshipping together...*

*inspiration to continue strengthening my faith...being*

*accepted and welcomed from the beginning*

*Congregational Survey Comments*

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**Cover Page** – The two stained glass windows included on the cover page are from our original St. James' Church building at 184 Oxford St. These windows were removed at the time of the sale of our building in 2019. They will be reinstalled with an additional one at our new location. The three windows are titled: "Mary and Martha" (Luke 10:41-42); "Dorcas" (Acts 9 v. 36-42); and not shown, St. James" (Matthew 4:21- 22 and Mark 1:19-20)

## Land Acknowledgement

St. James' Anglican Church respectfully acknowledges that for thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We recognize that St. James' Church is located on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Attiwonderonk Peoples who have cared for this land since time immemorial. The community of Ingersoll is represented by both the Between The Lakes Treaty of 1792 and the London township Treaty of 1796.



## Prayer for the Parish Selection Committee

Loving God, be with your faithful people who sit on the Parish Selection Committee as we search for a new priest/pastor; someone who is excited to walk with us as we establish ourselves in a new church home; someone who is willing and able to guide us through the ups and downs of rediscovering and renewing the life and presence of St. James' within our community and beyond. Guide each in his/her thoughts, comments and deliberations. Fill them with the peace and grace that comes only from you. Uphold them with your abundant love. Give them clarity of vision that they may see and know the person who will serve our parish and you with faithfulness and love. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, the risen Lord. Amen

## The History of St. James' Anglican Church Ingersoll



St. James' Parish can trace its roots back to 1834 when Ingersoll was known as Oxford village or Oxford-on-The Thames. The parish's first services were held in a local school house near the Oxford St. former location of St. James'. The transition from these humble worship quarters to the first wooden church built in 1840 was a challenging period.

As you read our "history" below you will recognize that the parish continues to deal with many challenges through the decades.

The parish's story is tightly interwoven with the history of the founding family of our community. James Ingersoll, the youngest son of Oxford Village's founding father, Thomas, deeded a parcel of land to allow the construction of this first church building. The Annual Vestry minutes of 1847 indicate that James Ingersoll was one of the church wardens. By 1864, the original structure was in poor repair, and the parish was in danger of closing down completely. But one week after the bishop's visit, Thomas Brown, a very successful and influential member of the Ingersoll community, gathered support for a forward-looking idea at such a difficult time. He proposed that a building committee remove the wood frame church and erect in its place "a good permanent brick building, thereby saving a large outlay in repairs on this [building] which would be necessary in order to make it comfortable". And so, a new phase began in the life of the St. James' parish, and the Gothic building that many generations grew to love and appreciate was finally put in place by 1869. Yet, it was not until all construction debts had been paid, that the parish went from "missionary" status to a "full-fledged" status on November 1, 1876.



The addition of the Parish Hall in 1930 allowed the parish to open its doors wider.

Many groups were welcomed into the parish as part of St. James' outreach initiatives. The story of St. James', similar to the histories of many small-town churches, reflects the high and lows, the peaks and valleys of the many eras of local and national and international history.



As Ingersoll, the town, grew so did our presence in the community. Even though we may have evolved from a “pioneer” existence to a more sophisticated 21<sup>st</sup> century state, our faith has remained solidly in place.

In 2020, our church building was sold to a private developer. After much conversation, discussion and voting by Vestry from 2016 to 2019, it was decided that the size of our buildings were too large and too costly to be maintained by the size of our congregation. The Diocese of Huron approved the sale, and consequently the parish was on the move again to find a smaller, more economic property.

Presently we rent two facilities: The Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. South, where Church services are held every Sunday at 10:30 and The Annex (beside First Baptist Church) on Thames Street South, where Wednesday services are held at 10:00. The Annex holds the Rector’s office, Administrative office and the meeting area for church groups.



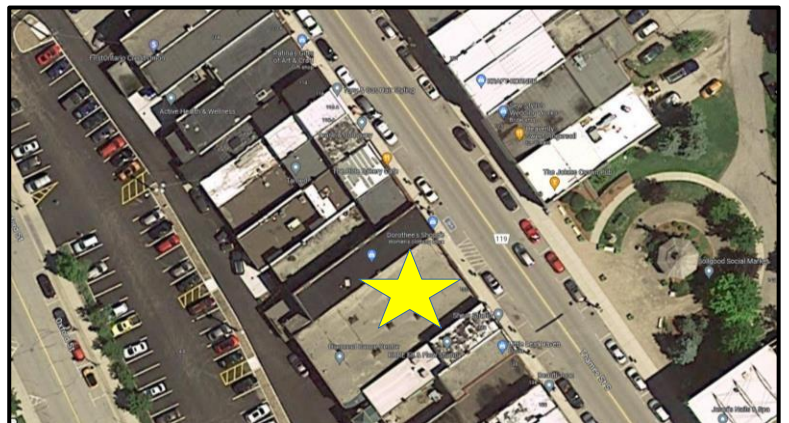
**Masonic Hall**



**The Annex**

This situation changed in 2023 with the acquisition of our new property, 130 Thames St. South. As of June 30, 2023 the Diocese of Huron owns this property and has tasked our congregation with carrying out our vision. More exciting details in our “Where Are We Moving To?” page.

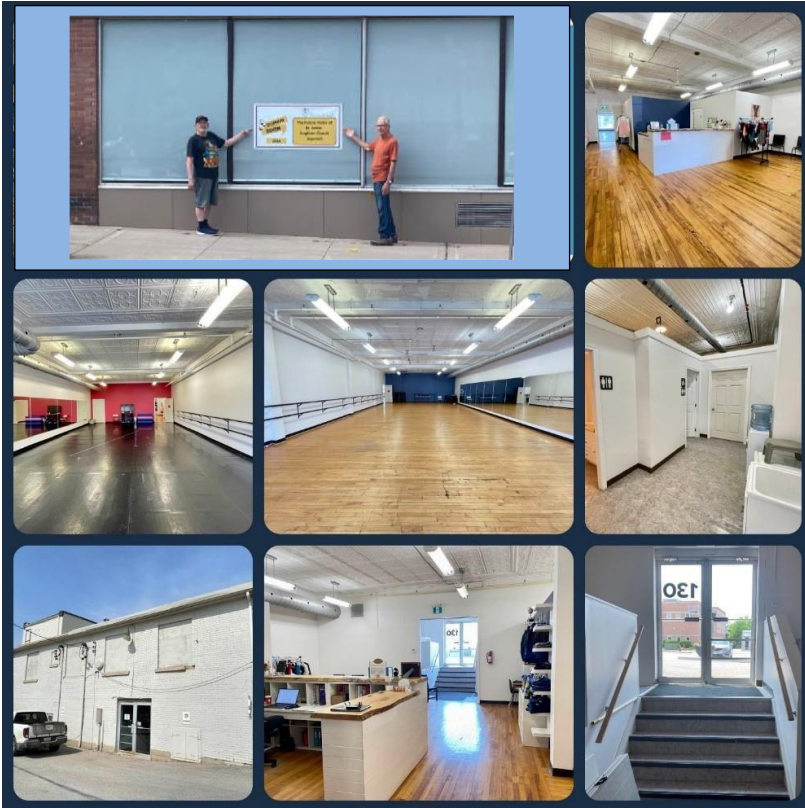
No matter what the financial or physical obstacles have been in the past, present or the future, St. James’ parishioners maintain their desire to be open, and inviting, to Christians worshipping and ministering through the Anglican values in our local community and beyond. Our main street presence will allow us to do this.



**New Home of St. James’ Parish Ingersoll**

## “Where Are We Moving To?”

After reviewing more than a dozen listings, some with buildings and some vacant land, in May 2023 we heard about a property coming on the real estate market and made an appointment to view it on May 12th. We were all very excited about this opportunity, so it was imperative that we act quickly before the property became listed on the MLS. An offer to purchase was presented on Monday, May 15 and it was accepted immediately.



*A permanent place to call home.*

*Important to get the architecture and furnishings right so we can start with a lovely room to worship in and invite others into.*

*The worship room needs to provide space to put on events to serve the community both spiritually, and emotionally and make a profit. ... a chapel, a kitchen, space for groups to work, study and play in.*

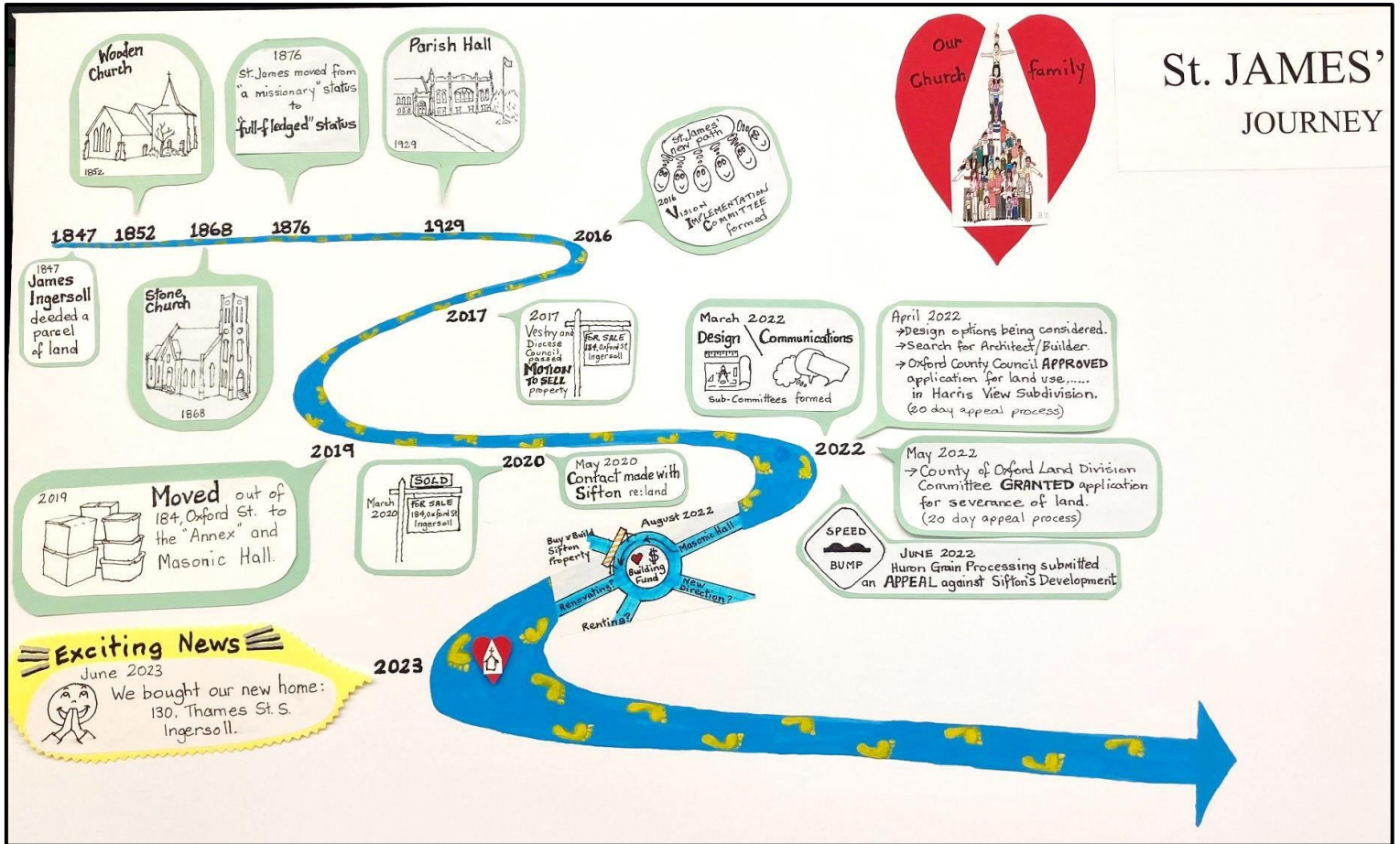
*Congregational Survey Comments*

We promptly engaged professionals to perform a cursory structural analysis as well as a thorough building inspection. When our conditions were waived on May 30th, the offer became irrevocable with a closing date of June 30th. Most recently a dance studio and decades ago a grocery store, this building at 130 Thames St. S. is in the centre of the core area of Ingersoll. The property is already zoned “special commercial” which includes places of worship. It lends itself well for our purpose and most likely, some, we have not even thought of yet!

The basement, main floor and second floor are approximately 5,000 sq ft each. The main floor will be renovated for our Worship Space, Offices, and all the necessary facilities to be an active and growing downtown Ingersoll Church. The basement is suitable for storage; the second floor will not be renovated at this time but hopefully will provide a future revenue stream.

Being in the core area, our new building, once renovated, will be very welcoming for worship services and may motivate former parishioners to return, as well as attract new members. The building will be very useful for general outreach and possibly street ministries. A partnership with another charitable organization is also a possibility.

## Our Journey



There have been many emotional ups and downs since the sale of our church building. As we plan for our new home at 130 Thames St. S. there is an air of excitement and anticipation among our members, not seen in a long time.

*'If we had gone directly from the old church, it would not have worked but we have had time to adjust and now we are ready'. Congregational Survey Comments*

## Our Church Management

### List of Parish Personnel and Leaders

**Clergy – Interim** - The Reverend Sue McCullough

**Office Administrator** – Kristy VanKooten-Bossence

**Custodian** – Greg Johnson

**Rector's Warden** – Michael Watson

**People's Warden** – Veronica Jackson

**Treasurer** – Bob Welt

**Music Director** – Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence

**Lay Readers** – Lorraine Livingston, Bob Welt

**Altar Guild Chair** – Donna Hunter



**Top Row L to R : Pat, Donna; Mike, Bob, Veronica; Kristy**

**Middle Row : Rosemarie, Margaret; Rev Sue; Jill, Sharon**

**Bottom Row : Susan; Mike, Margaret, Bob, Veronica; Scott**

## Our Church Management (continued)

**Parish Council** – Joanne Barker, Rosemarie Brokenshire, Sharon Gillett, Jane Naisbitt, Kendra Thouless, Susan Winlaw (also in attendance at meetings - clergy, wardens, treasurer, office administrator)

**Auditors** – Deb Landon, Scott Naisbitt

**Sunday School** – Pat Harrison

**Anglican Church Women Chair**– Susan Winlaw

**Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen Chair** – Scott Naisbitt

**Needle and Craft Group** – Rosemarie Brokenshire, Margaret Burford

**Card Ministry Group** – Rosemarie Brokenshire, Margaret Burford

**Hospitality** – Margaret Burford

**Vision Implementation Committee – Chair** – Mike Watson

**Design Committee Chairperson for New Building** – Jane Naisbitt

**Communications' Committee for Vision Project – Chair** – Deb Landon

**Outreach Contacts** – Sharon Gillett, Kendra Thouless, Bob Welt

**Web Page Design** – Veronica Jackson

**Facebook Administrators** – Veronica Jackson, Susan Winlaw, Kristy VanKooten-Bossence

**Weekly Update Email Communication** – Veronica Jackson, Kristy VanKooten-Bossence



### Needle and Craft Group and Card Ministry Group

Individuals, groups and organizations within our parish have demonstrated a history of cooperation and support within those groups and with clergy.

The worship committee and music director remained nimble and active throughout the pandemic by properly responding to the seemingly endless changes to the levels of restrictions, all the while, keeping everyone safe. There were no known outbreaks of COVID from any parish activity. As quickly as COVID lockdowns occurred our team sprang into action, recording and uploading our main worship service and many mid-week homilies to



## Parish Statistical Report

### **Worship Services -**

Currently, we have one service weekly on Sunday at 10:30 am. In 2023, the average attendance has been 39. The service is Holy Eucharist, and the traditional service is conducted using the Book of Alternative Services. In 2022 our average attendance was 31.

Prior to 2023, our priest, the late Rev'd Paul Walmsley, held a service of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. The Book of Common Prayer was frequently used at this service.

Except for the months of July and August, each service is recorded and the video links for YouTube are sent out after the service has been completed. Since there is no Wi-Fi installed in the hall where we worship, it is difficult to record the service and send it out live.

During the Covid pandemic we averaged around 50 views for each service; since 2022 we average around 20 views.

Sunday School is held once a month with approximately 8 children in attendance.

### **Size of the Parish –**

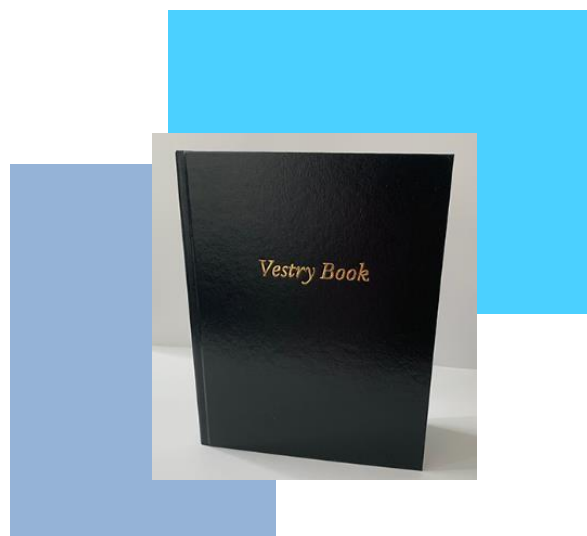
We presently have 131 persons on our Parish List.

### **Other noteworthy statistics –**

2022 - 0 Baptisms, 2 Marriages, 10 Burials

2023 - 0 Baptisms, 0 Marriages, 3 Burials

**In Appendix D you will find more detailed numbers for the past three years. This would include attendance figures for Easter and Christmas services.**



## Financial Summary

Although St. James' has never been "flush" with money for operating expenses, we have always met our obligations for all operating expenses including building, staff, and diocesan requirements. Capital fund raising for specific purposes has also been always successful. With changes over the last fifty years, especially the last four, St. James' has also been proactive in containing our operating costs and in moving forward towards a more efficient and meaningful operation in the current conditions. St. James' has been, and will continue to be, a viable parish for operating within the Diocese of Huron.

Year	Income	Expenses	Surplus (Deficit)
2018 *	219,509	180,834	38,675
2019	154,949	197,444	-42,495
2020	138,732	167,708	-28,976
2021	133,265	142,386	-9,121
2022	148,990	140,905	8,085
Cumulative deficit since 2005			-934
2023 (5Mths.)	48,957	35,978	12,979
* Income includes GIC cashed for \$45,000			

Total Building Fund available based on Nov. 30, 2022 market values.

Sale of 184 Oxford St.	604,371
Endowment Fund	125,903
BOM G.I.C.'s	175,000
Cash in BOM account	2,960
<b>Total</b>	<b>908,234</b>
Balance of Purchase	500,000
<b>Funds for Renovation</b>	<b>408,234</b>

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Details for the last three complete fiscal years (2020, 2021, 2022) can be found in  
Appendix B – Vestry Reports

## Our Ministries and Programs

### Sunday School



Sunday School is held on the third Sunday of the month during the 10:30 am service. There is one teacher with up to seven children between the ages of four and ten. The lessons included Bible stories with crafts and sometimes a game. In the past the One Room Schoolhouse curriculum was used.

### Christian Education for Adults

Throughout COVID, weekly “Wednesday Reflections” videos, prepared by the late Reverend Paul Wamsley (Fr. Paul), were sent out with topics for reflection.

Lent 2021: “Messiah Mondays” featured YouTube excerpts from Handel's Messiah along with a video commentary by Fr. Paul to be used as a self-guided study.

Advent 2021: The Diocese of Huron offered videos and reflections based on the "Way of Love: Seven Practices of a Jesus-centered life".

Lent 2022: “Walking with Christ in The Monastic Way” used videos prepared by Fr. Paul and online meditations and exercises based on the writings of Joan Chittister and Richard Rohr.

Lent 2023: A booklet, “Think About It... Daily Devotions”, created by the Reverend Sue McCullough, used daily reflections to think and write about.

There have been occasional speakers from our Outreach programs, and there have been requests for more information about our Indigenous community.

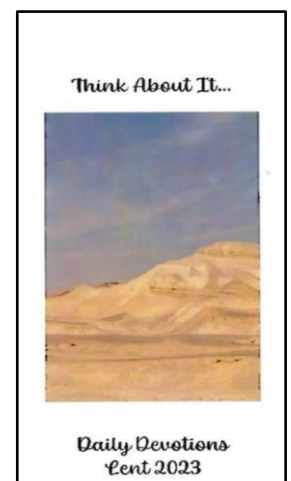
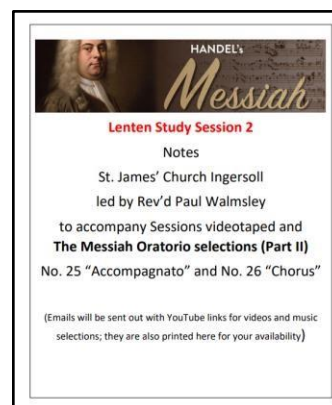
*Keep Sunday School going*

*More adult programs*

*Videos on all faiths*

*The Anglican liturgy, why we say and do what we do*

*Congregational Survey Comments*



## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild follows the church seasonal calendar and the priest-in-charge for setting up for each Sunday service. At the present time we set up each Sunday prior to the service. There are four teams at present, with two members on each team. On our yearly schedule each team serves two consecutive Sundays except for July and August when the schedule is on a volunteer basis. The ladies are looking forward to their new Sacristy space in our new home.

## Lay Readers, Readers and Communion Assistants

There are two lay readers, twenty-four readers and six communion assistants. The roster is distributed annually by the Office Administrator.

## Anglican Church Women

In the past the ACW has raised funds to support their outreach projects by making and selling turkey pies, frozen meals and baking for the Christmas and Spring Bake Sales. The group currently does not have easy access to kitchen facilities to continue these types of fundraising as well as social activities. We are looking forward to the possibilities that can happen in our new church home. The group started up again in October 2022 with five women regularly attending. Meetings, previously, once monthly are now irregularly scheduled. Although the attendance is small, when needed or asked, the ladies of the church are there with help and support.

## The Needle and Craft Group



This group gathers weekly to quilt, knit and craft. Many of the group donate their completed projects to local charities as well as to the Men's Mission in London. It has become a place for some of our elder members to get out and socialize. The group actively fund raises, using what we create, for local charitable organizations. They also pack school snack bags for the Food Bank. Ten to twelve members meet weekly. All are welcome.

## Card Ministry Group

This is a new Ministry to St. James' and began in April 2023. The need arose from conversations over tea and cookies – 'have you heard from..., how is she/he doing?..., where is?'

This Ministry is part of the Needle and Craft Group,

and funds raised are used to purchase materials to make the cards used.

Cards will be sent out four times a year to those in nursing home, shut-ins and their care givers. In addition, cards will be sent to our "lost" parishioners letting them know that they are in our thoughts.



## Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen

The BAC started up again in early 2023 with ten to twelve attending the breakfast meetings which are held on a bimonthly basis. In the past, the men helped with the maintenance of the church building, volunteered with Camp Huron Church Camp clean up, participated in bowling fund raisers for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, worked on annual pancake suppers, turkey dinners, and the Sunday School picnic.

## Spiritual Care

Spiritual care is both clergy and lay led. During the COVID lock-downs our interim clergy, church wardens and laity stayed in touch with parishioners via phone calls, emails and cards. This has continued, and visits have resumed as we have become more comfortable; and now, the Card Ministry reaches out to shut-ins, their care givers and those in long term care.

*If we don't reach out, those who have lapsed will not return. IF they know that they are valued and missed they are more likely to return.*

*Start a group that can visit and call the elderly and others in need.*

*Congregational Survey Comments*

Two long term care facilities, and one retirement residence are visited for services on a rotation basis with other churches in Ingersoll. The services are both lay and clergy led.

Funeral receptions are arranged as needed by the hospitality group.

## Music

Our gifted music director believes that her purpose is two-fold; to enhance our worship services with music that helps to explain the spoken word of scripture each week, and, to provide music to uplift our spirits. This has happened consistently over the past five years and she will continue to do so throughout the coming years.

The closer space in the Masonic hall makes Kristy feel like the luckiest music director in the world as she has a 40-member choir at times. She reminds us "don't worry – even if you feel like you can't sing – sing anyway – God loves to hear you!"

She extends an invitation to all parishioners to suggest music selections they would like to hear. She is also very collaborative and loves working with other members of the parish and musical guests.



*The music has always been outstanding*

*Continue with a variety of music: traditional, contemporary, gospel and music for the younger generation*

*More instruments; maybe a visiting singer or band*

*Congregational Survey Comments*

## The New Priest Will Be:

A leader who possesses and exhibits a deep faith in God and the love of Jesus Christ; who leads by example. Someone who both honours the timeless traditions of the Anglican liturgy and will bring us new styles of liturgy and music.

A leader who will accept the challenge to journey with our congregation as we transition to our new church home. One who will honour the work that has been done, recognize the work that remains and the decisions still to be made. Someone who will support and encourage us on our journey.

A priest who possesses the ability to look at our declining congregation through a “new lens”; who can bring an innovative approach to building our congregation and gathering “lost” parishioners in. One who has an energetic and youthful approach to inviting and welcoming young families and youth.

An excellent communicator. Someone who teaches, guides, and encourages participation during church services. One who delivers a powerful message that inspires, challenges, and draws a connection from scripture to everyday life and current social issues.

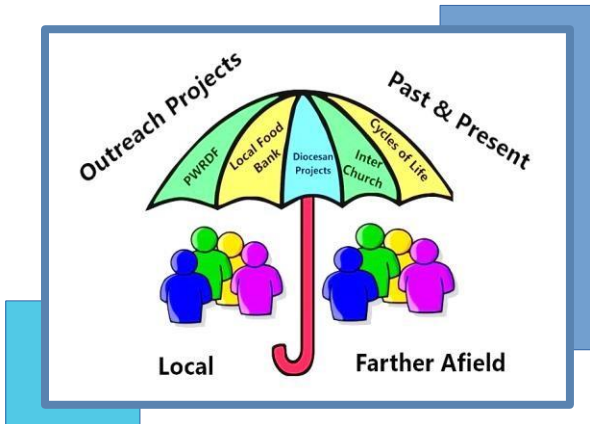
A strong leader who will work with the existing leadership, groups and individuals; who is able to recognize strengths and encourage the development of individual gifts and talents. Someone who has the ability to be decisive, delegate and facilitate change. One who is able to see our weaknesses as opportunities for growth.

A priest who joyfully prioritizes pastoral care; promotes inclusively and diversity; who will guide and teach us as we seek understanding; who looks to the wider community for outreach opportunities. One who will lead the development of laity to meet these needs.

The priest we need does not need to be perfect and does not need to have an answer for all challenges; but a good sense of humour is a necessity.

## Outreach

The St. James' congregation generously supports many groups that have their roots locally, nationally and internationally. The support is made both financially as well as concretely with gifts of clothing, non-perishable foods and other gifts. We have many volunteers that give of their time and talents.



*Many of our congregation are very active in outreach to meet the needs of the community.*

*With a permanent location we can return to doing more.*

*It will be imperative that our priest is involved in the wider community.*

### *Congregational Survey Comments*

## Diocesan Projects

**Primate's World Relief Development Fund (HURON)** – in the past we donated to purchasing bicycle ambulances, and food for international and diocesan locations. The ACW has supported water projects and women's health and safety.

<https://diohuron.org/ministries/pwrdf-huron>

**Monica Place** - Located in Waterloo Region, Monica Place is an accredited, registered non-profit child and youth mental health agency focused on the needs of pregnant and parenting youth and their children. This charity has been supported by both the ACW and the BAC.

<https://www.monicaplace.ca/>

**Camp Huron** - In 1946 Anglicans with a vision set apart Huron Church Camp as "a joy-filled place for children and youth to live and play together, learn, grow and develop leadership skills, all while immersed in the beauty and wonder of creation. Renamed Camp Huron in 2020, for seventy-five years the sounds of laughter, song, prayer and play has reverberated under a canopy of leafy green trees, sunshine and starry, starry night skies." This camp has been supported by the BAC and individuals. <https://camphuron.ca/about-us/>

**The Synod Deacon's Project** – This year (2023) the College of Deacons annual Synod project was the collection of socks and underwear for shelters in the diocese. Our synod delegates took many bundles of clothing to Synod in May as our congregation generously supported this clothing drive.

**The Farm Workers' Ministry** – St. James' has just recently begun to collect clothing for this initiative The ACW made a generous financial donation in 2023.

<https://diohuron.org/news/see-the-seeds-of-the-gospel-firmly-planted-here> Local Community Projects

**Ingersoll & District Inter-Church** – This charitable organization provides food, clothing and financial assistance for healthcare, utility costs, and housing expenses for economically disadvantaged families during the year.

It also provides food hampers and children's gifts at Christmas. This organization also partners with Meals -on- Wheels and Seniors' Services to expand the meal programs weekly to recipients in their homes.

Our parishioners volunteer to look after collection kettles in December; they also assist with packing Christmas hampers, organizing donations, and delivering Christmas hampers. We also have parishioners who serve on the board of directors. Many contribute financial donations to this ecumenical organization.

<https://www.facebook.com/InterchurchIngersoll>

**Cycles of Life** – is a non-profit organization that serves Oxford County. This group aims to provide a safe, educational and stable living environment for those in need. St. James' congregation has been supportive of this group since the fall of 2022. The Needle and Craft Group has been active fundraising for this group.

<https://www.facebook.com/pscyclesoflife/>

**STICH (Stronger Together Ingersoll Community Harvest) Supper Club** - STICH is a community-based, grassroots movement, born of a group of citizens concerned with the issue of food security in the town of Ingersoll. It hosts a supper club weekly each Thursday evening from 4:30 to 6:00pm at Trinity United Church. St. James' parishioners have in the past assisted with meal preparation and have also donated individual meat pies for the group's use. <http://stichsupperclub.ca/>

**Salvation Army Ingersoll Food Bank** – Over the years, St. James' has been an active participant in supporting the food bank with donations of cash, food and other articles for sale in the organization's thrift shop. Often the parish targets specific food items (for example, cereals, coffee, tea, children's lunch items, etc.) and these items are collected either after Sunday worship services or during the week at The Annex. Volunteers then deliver the items to the Salvation Army Thrift Store where they are distributed. During Covid, many parishioners regularly donated cheques and cash which were used to purchase grocery and pharmacy gift cards for the food bank to distribute. The Needle and Craft Group are very involved with packing school snack bags for distribution through the Food Bank.

<https://www.southwesthealthline.ca/displayService.aspx?id=173018>

**Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Oxford County** - Both the BAC and the ACW organizations have donated funds to support Big Brothers/Big Sisters. These funds were raised through many fundraising efforts and taking part in the Bowling for Big Brothers & Big Sisters annual event.

<https://oxford.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/>

**Meals on Wheels** – This operation runs out of Ingersoll 50+ Activity Centre. The hot meals are prepared and provided for regular delivery to the elderly or individuals with disabilities. The centre receives funding or subsidies from either the federal or provincial government as well as local groups. Several of our parishioners volunteer to deliver the meals. <https://www.southwesthealthline.ca/displayService.aspx?id=10751>



## Fundraising

Teams of hardworking parishioners organize fundraising events each year.

Prior to COVID, while still in our former Church Building, events included: hosting community seasonal music concerts, turkey suppers, Valentine's luncheons, bazaar/bake sales, tribute dinner shows and meat pie sales.

With the onset of COVID and worshipping at a temporary location, fundraising became more of a challenge. During and post COVID, fundraising events included: take-out catered dinners, yard sales, farm show parking attendants, mint smoothie chocolate sales, scrap-booking day, tribute dinner show and most recently, in coordination with Trinity United Church, a wonderful music concert/ bake sale.



We have been very active over the past few months with our fundraising efforts and we look forward to creating many new occasions and opportunities for our parish at our new permanent location. This property will assist us with welcoming others from the larger community to join with us in raising funds for charities. These fundraisers will solidify the “physical” presence of St. James’ Church in our town once again.

## The Wider Church and Community

### Ministerial Association

There are eight churches that take part in this group: Reynolds Creek United – Putnam, Ingersoll Christian Reformed, St. Paul's Presbyterian, Hi-way Pentecostal, Oxford Church (Reformed Church of America), Trinity United and St. James' Ingersoll.

The group meets once a month between the eight churches. Through discussion of events and what is happening within their congregations, they are able to give support to each other.

This group also administers the sharing of worship services at our two long term care facilities and one retirement residence in Ingersoll. It also assists the local branch of the Royal Canadian legion with planning and conducting the annual Remembrance Day service.

The association is looking forward to welcoming a new priest from our parish. Currently St. James' is being kept abreast of happenings through the church office.

### Oxford Deanery

The Oxford Deanery consists of eleven parishes and two chapels of ease. It meets three to four times a year, lately, via Zoom. Fr. Rob Luxton is our regional dean. Communications within the deanery is a problem. The deanery is trying to establish events to promote fellowship and communication among the congregations belonging to this deanery.

Archdeacon Osita Oluigbo oversees the deaneries of Oxford, Brant/Norfolk, and Delaware. The clergy of these deaneries meet monthly on the second Tuesday, usually at St. John's in Tillsonburg.

The ACW Deanery meets two times a year. The current president and secretary/treasurer are from St. James'.

<https://diohuron.org/contact-us/diocesan-staff/pages/regional-deans>

### The Diocese of Huron

One member of St. James' is currently Vice-President of the ACW Diocesan Council.

<https://diohuron.org>

### The Town of Ingersoll

Located in the heartland of Ontario's southwest, in beautiful Oxford County, the Town of Ingersoll offers its visitors a unique mixture of leisure and recreational activities set against a backdrop of history and nature. From a small farming community on the banks of the historic Thames River to a warm and vibrant town of over 12,000 people, Ingersoll is a community rich in history and culture. From cultural venues, such as museums, theatres, and art galleries, to outdoor adventures, such as hiking, cycling, fishing and snowmobiling, you'll find what you are looking for in Ingersoll. Our parishioners are very proud and long-time residents of Ingersoll.

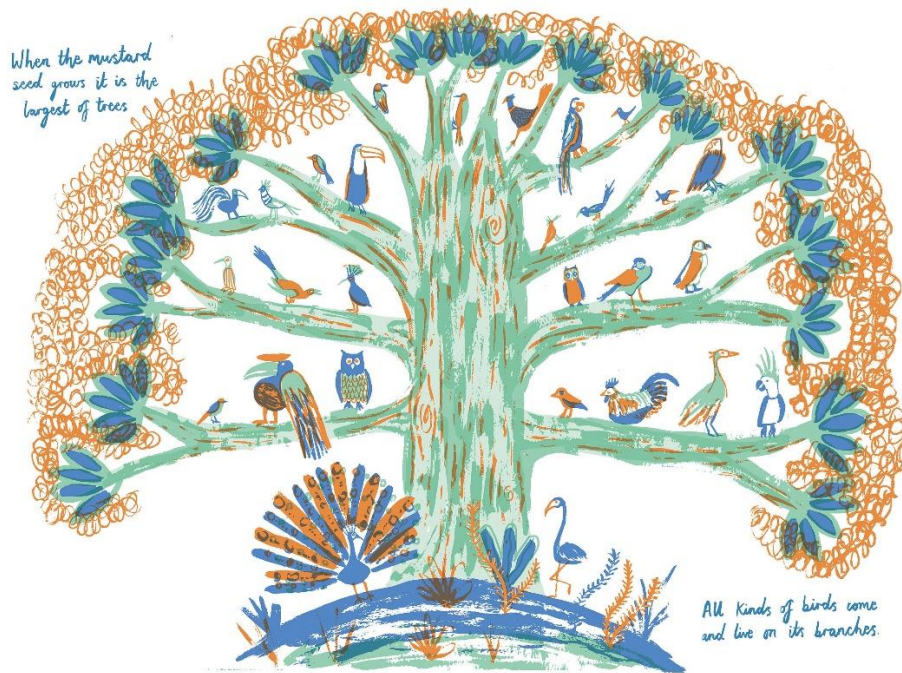


<https://www.ingersoll.ca/en/index.aspx>

## Planting Mustard Seed Faith at St. James' Ingersoll

In summary, while we have various challenges ahead of us, we remain proactive and resilient as we faithfully march to a new, vibrant multipurpose location in the core of Ingersoll. A proactive leadership and collaborative approach with our congregation and the Diocese Of Huron has led us to this exciting time in the life of St. James' parish. Bishop Barry Clark compared us to a "new plant growing from old roots."

Will you consider bringing your leadership and enthusiasm to join with our eagerness and excitement as we replant our church in the core area of our community?



Jesus' parable of the mustard seed uses one of the most extreme examples of growth – the mustard seed. The smallest of seeds that becomes the largest of garden plants. Without proper care and attention, the seedling will fade away. But with proper care, the reward is a hearty, thriving plant that sustains life and becomes a beautiful paradise for wildlife.

So too is the growth of our faith. It starts as a tiny idea, a concept we are taught as children, or maybe even in adulthood. It's an abstract theory. Nothing we can touch or feel or smell. How do we nurture it? Are we able to impact its growth? Will you guide us on our journey?

The seed needs care and attention. It needs water. It needs sunlight. It needs to be weeded and fed. It needs a new gardener (incumbent priest). Will you be the one to tend our growth?

Think about it! Do you wish to join our team and be part of the leadership here as we continue to plant our mustard seeds of faith?

# *the* APPENDICES

Click on the respective appendix to review the electronic file for St. James' Anglican Church Ingersoll Ontario

**Appendix A:** [St. James' Church Ingersoll – Congregational Survey Statistics – 2023](#)

**Appendix B:** [St. James Church Ingersoll – Congregational Survey Comments – 2023](#)

**Appendix C:** [Samples of St. James' Church Bulletins for Worship Services 2022, 2023](#)

**Appendix D:** [St. James' Church Ingersoll – Vestry Reports for the following years – 2020, 2021, 2022](#)

**Appendix E:** [St. James' Church Ingersoll – Samples of Our Church Newsletter "The Loop" from 2013 to 2023](#)

**Appendix F:** [Ingersoll Snapshot 2021](#)

**Appendix G:** [Ingersoll Property Business Plan 2021](#)

**Appendix H:** [St. James' Anglican Church Ingersoll Facebook Page](#)

**Appendix I:** [St James' Anglican Church Ingersoll website](#)