

South Dundas Anglican

ANGLICAN PARISH OF SOUTH DUNDAS



Apr. 2026

Diocese elects first female bishop

With files from Diocesan Perspectives

Our diocese will soon have a new bishop and for the first time since its establishment in 1896, a woman will hold the position. The Venerable Kathryn Otley was elected as the 11th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, at an election held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. Clergy and lay delegates from across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec gathered for an Electoral Synod following a discernment and formal nomination process.

Bishop-Elect Kathryn currently serves at All Saints Westboro. Ordained to the priesthood in 2006, she served in parish and diocesan leadership roles and is recognized within the diocese, ecclesiastical province, and national church for her commitment to congregational vitality, collaborative leadership, reconciliation and social justice, with a special focus on homelessness and affordable housing. Throughout her ministry, Kathryn emphasized building strong parish communities, promoting equity, inclusion and strengthening relationships across diverse congregations.

Bishop-Elect Kathryn will be consecrated and formally installed as Bishop of Ottawa on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Christ Church Cathedral.

Ruth Speer updates us on her placement

At the request of the editor of the South Dundas Anglican, Ruth Speer, our former parish assistant provided this report on her placement at St. Helen's, Orleans.

When I get in my car to leave for St. Helen's, the GPS lets me know the distance and the time it will take for me to arrive in Orleans. Thankfully the crazy winter weather hasn't been too much of a problem as I near the end of my third month in this student placement.

The St. Helen's community has the same valuable qualities that are part of the Anglican Parish of the South Dundas community. They have welcomed me with their gracious hospitality and made me feel very much at home.

The first few weeks the learning centred around getting comfortable with things that now seem natural and give no cause for concern or anxiety. Things like processing into the church, wearing an alb, tying a cincture, attaching a portable microphone to my alb, and perhaps one of the most important things, remembering when to turn the microphone on and off. Thankfully I have a loud booming voice and when I forgot to turn on the microphone, I could still be heard as I read the gospel.

Fun fact: did you know the procession of the Gospel is meant to show us that it is our responsibility to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ into all the world.

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Ruth and fellow postulant Charlie Scromeda

Rev. Mark announces his retirement

As we install a new Bishop in the spring, we will be saying farewell to our rector in late summer. In late January, Rev. Mark announced that he will be retiring at the end of August. When he joined us in 2021, he noted that he would be with us for five years. Amazingly that time has passed and we will soon be tasked with selecting a new incumbent.

Easter week services in the Parish

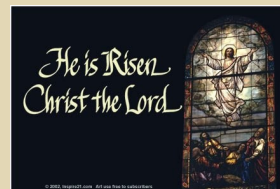
March 29: 10:30 am ~ Palm/Passion Sunday The service begins with the Liturgy of the Palms as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. People are invited to process around the church waving palms as we sing "All Glory, Laud and Honour". We then tell the story of the Passion of Christ.

April 2: 7:00 pm ~ Maundy Thursday This service recalls the events of the night before Jesus died. We begin with foot-washing and then move to the Institution of the Last Supper. At the end of the service, we strip the altar and those who wish are invited to pray quietly in the church for one hour. We close with an Order of Compline and exit the church in silence.



April 3: 11:00 am ~ Good Friday On Good Friday, the most solemn day of the church year, we assemble to remember the Passion of Our Lord as we journey with Jesus to His Crucifixion. We exit the church in silence.

April 4: 7:00 pm ~ Holy Saturday This service begins outdoors (west door) with the lighting of the new fire. The Pascal candle is lit from the new fire and carried into the church.



April 5: 10:30am ~ Easter Day This is the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Alleluias and Butterflies are unleashed, and chocolate Easter eggs are waiting to be found!

A message from the Rector

Dear South Dundas Anglicans and Friends,

As I sit to write this letter to you, we are beginning the Holy Week. The words from the scriptures of Holy Week ring in my ears. “; Hosanna, to the Son of David! ... Father, take this cup from me ... my God, my God why have you forsaken ... it is finished ... He is risen!”; Words, I suppose, that ring our every year and yet resonate deeply with us who have tried to walk the way of Jesus and the way of the Cross. And the story lives on today.

Our journey through the solemn days of Lent are done and as we begin the profound reflections of Holy Week, we will soon arrive at the empty tomb—the defining moment of our faith. Easter is more than a story we remember; it is a reality that transforms our lives, offering hope where there was doubt and new life where there was despair. We begin the week with Hosanna’s and end the week with Alleluia’s, but in between are the dark days that remind us that life can be difficult and unjust. As a people of hope, we know these are the ebbs and flows on the journey with Jesus. Suffering is a part of the journey just as joy is. And death is a part of life.

Sometimes I think it is dying to ourselves that brings new life; that we are constantly being resurrected as we discover who we are and who we were intended to be in God’s eyes. Resurrection is not one great event at the end of life, but rather, occurs regularly as we grow and become closer to God, living to be in full union with the one who saves us always.

In this season of Resurrection, I encourage you to see the Risen One in the faces of those around you and to recognize that the same power that rolled away the stone is at work in our community today. As an Easter people, we are called to be a beacon of hope in the world. And this world definitely needs beacons of light. Our Lenten study centered on being Salt and Light in the world and I believe we need to continue to find ways to be salty and bring light into a broken world. Jesus came into the world to save the world and we are called to do the same by following Jesus’ example. Let us do so with humility and grace.

I invite you to celebrate this Holy Week with us. You will find a schedule of our services on the first page of this letter. There is nothing better than celebrating events in community with others and I hope to see you at our services.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your dedication to God’s ministry in our parish, and for being God’s hands and feet and heart in our community. May the light of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes with joy this Easter Season.

May you feel the love of God, the love of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the power of the life-giving Holy Spirit as we journey together through this Holy Week and Easter Season.

Wishes for a blessed Easter to you and those whom you love.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark

A Seaway Mystery on the Playhouse stage April 25

Members of the Iroquois Matilda Lion's Club join with the Thespians of the Anglican Parish of South Dundas and Friends to pay tribute to the late Wendy Gibb, our intrepid director of Murder Mysteries and Cabarets.

This *Wendy Approved* play begins with Dani Shea Barkley briefly telling the story of Seaway / Lost Villages in word and song. Then a very young Jim Donnelly catches a large fish near Dock 23 and asks his dad to throw it back and let it grow. Fast forward to 2026, when recent tales of sightings of river monsters in the St Lawrence, near South Dundas, attract the attention of cryptozoologist Lotan Pike (Brian Speer).

So, when the local vicar (Mark Lewis) goes fishing for a potential giant muskellunge only to haul in a dead body - Is it death by a giant monster fish ... or river snakes? Or is it death by accidental drowning ... or is it murder? ...or some strange confluence of events?

Join us on Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm at Upper Canada Playhouse for this Wendy Gibb approved play when all will be revealed. Tickets (\$25 each) are available at the Playhouse box office and at St. James Anglican Church. Proceeds from the event will help fund a bursary in Wendy's memory.



Mapping underway at St. John's Cemetery

With records being spotty in areas of St. John's Cemetery, committee member Stephen Law undertook the monumental task of gridding off St. John's Anglican Cemetery. He hopes that this will provide an accurate map of where individuals have been buried.

His group of volunteers: Chris Stone, Erin Stone, Doug Bueley, Jack Barkley, Marilyn Crabtree, Olga Nikolajev, Shirley Alguire and Stephen McDonald recorded the information on the visible tombstones and unearthed many more. Some were legible but others are unreadable. The recorded information has been entered into a spreadsheet, which also includes information from the Manson report (Hydro 1956) and information Stephen McDonald has collected on veterans in the cemetery. Photos have been taken of most of the cemetery and linked to the individuals buried there. The ongoing project, when finished, will provide an accurate record of "who's where".

Short term—tree maintenance; Long term —uncertain for both cemeteries

An ongoing expense at St. James Cemetery is the upkeep and removal of trees that, while adding beauty to the space, need to be cared for. In October 2025 a large branch fell from one of trees on East side of St. James cemetery. Our municipality (David Jansen) was contacted and they agreed to pay for removal of the tree due to the safety hazard it represented. Mr. Jansen pointed out that there were 3 other trees which should be removed within the next year as they provide danger to individuals and tombstones. The board contacted Top Notch and had the three trees removed at a cost of four thousand dollars

In other news at St. James Cemetery, a letter has been sent to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see if Private Charles Casselman would be a candidate for a commemorative plaque that would be placed in St. James cemetery. No response has been received.

Both our cemeteries have small investments from which we continue to draw in the short term, but they will not sustain the cemeteries in the condition to which we have become accustomed. The board is planning to meet with South Dundas Council and with the person in charge of cemetery operations for the diocese, to see what steps we need to take in the future if we cannot sustain the upkeep of our cemeteries

In hopes of initiating a Decoration Day event at St. James Cemetery, similar to the one held annually at St. John's, a letter was sent out to the contacts that the committee has on file for St. James Cemetery explaining the financial situation (requesting a donation if possible) and asking for any volunteers to help in organizing a decoration day to help in beautifying the cemetery. One donation was received but there was no response to helping organize a decoration day at St. James.

Community Volunteer Income

Tax Program assisting again this year

This program provides income tax assistance to seniors, students, families, and single parent households. Sponsored by South Dundas Anglicans - St. James, the volunteers work closely with the Canada Revenue Agency who provide program guidelines, income tax software and volunteer training. Volunteers go through a vetting process and once approved prepare taxes for clients, in-person, through drop off or virtually (over the phone), a service which supports the disabled communities.

There were three active volunteers in 2024 who prepared 568 individual income taxes for a variety of clients throughout SD&G and Cornwall — Daphne Hall, Robert Regnier, Daniel Kenny and Rosemary Wells. They support Centre 105 and their client base with an on-site tax preparer. We have a new tax preparer joining the group, Rashid Kasim who will be working on virtual returns. Our parish treasurer Rosemary Wells is the coordinator of this helpful program. Congratulations, Rosemary!

Challenges at St. John's Cemetery addressed

Vandalism has been an ongoing annoyance at St. John's cemetery, and in 2025 continued – at a lower level. The main challenge is with people who want to access the river for fishing cutting holes in the fence or removing parts of it. To counter this, the cemetery committee has tried a new approach. Don Tryon continued to bush hog the weeds along the West side of the cemetery fence and the gate to the cemetery was left open. This resulted in people using this path, throughout the summer, to reach the St. Lawrence. No issues of vandalism occurred until a group of hunters, once again damaged the fence. In August, committee members Stephen Law and Stephen McDonald personally repaired the fence and left a small opening to allow people to walk through. The gate will be unlocked for 2026 and the board will continue to monitor the situation.

Madagascar update on May 3

Kathy Lucking will be joining us to bring the latest updates from The Madagascar School Project on Sunday May 3. Kathy will be speaking during the service and there will be an opportunity to learn more and ask questions over lunch in the hall immediately after the service

Mitten Tree yields

record harvest

St. James' Advent Mitten tree was a great success this year. We collected a total of 212 pairs of mittens and gloves. We divided them up into three groups and delivered a batch to Morrisburg Public, Iroquois Public and St. Mary's Catholic school, along with a box of hats and a box of neck warmers. 2025 saw our tree going up at Advent 3, due to events taking place at the church. The response was overwhelming receiving the most mittens we have ever collected. We received many pairs of the heavy thermal mittens which are more expensive but greatly appreciated by the school.



Prayer Shawl ministry continues to grow

Our prayer shawl ministry continues to be an important part of the parish's fabric. In 2025, 39 prayer shawls were knitted or crocheted, and blessed, and 28 shawls were distributed to individuals in our parish and elsewhere. Prayer shawls are given to people who are sick, in hospice care, experiencing difficulties, transitioning to a new situation, mourning a loved one, or travelling for medical treatment, to name a few reasons. People who receive prayer shawls

appreciate them, and the prayers they represent. They often open the bag and wrap the shawl around them immediately. The warmth, comfort, and knowledge that people whom they don't even know are offering prayers for them is often overwhelming and wonderful at the same time. The prayer shawl ministry has become an integral part of what the Anglican Parish of South Dundas is all about.

Seaway Valley Singers concert on May 8

Another sure sign of spring in South Dundas is a seasonal concert by the Seaway Valley Singers. They will present Springtime in Canada at the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg on Friday, May 8 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOLY TRINITY, RIVERSIDE HEIGHTS

Provided by Isobel Tuttle, Chapel Steward

A summary of 2025 activities at Holy Trinity

Repairs and Maintenance - We saw to a great deal of necessary maintenance this past year, with some more to come. The roof leak was repaired, basement windows scraped and painted, all missing or broken window vents replaced with metal ones, the front door and Vestry doors painted and the fence post holding the pedestrian gate completely rebuilt. There are still a number of areas where I would like to see work done, mostly cosmetic in nature. We will get started with this work if and when this snow finally melts.

Coffee Time - We have been able to gather at the back of the church quite regularly thanks to Maria's idea of turning the back pews around to allow for seating. It has been decided that, with the Rector's approval, we move the two back pews downstairs and turn the next ones around to give us more floor space for these special and very important times of fellowship. Using our space at the rear of the church makes so much more sense than having to heat downstairs for a couple of days to make it comfortable just for an hour, especially during the winter months.

Finances - As has been our good fortune thanks to Sarah Whitney's forethought, we have been able to meet our commitments, conduct necessary repairs and maintenance and save a little for future projects. It was necessary to pull funds from our savings to pay for a couple of hefty invoices from our contractors, but \$10,000.00 of the \$25,000.00 we withdrew was returned to the CTF for the time being.

In addition, the parish benefitted from over \$10,000.00 as well as Holy Trinity depositing another \$3,000.00 in the CTF and keeping \$2,000.00 for carryover into 2026.

I have noticed that our general givings were lower over the previous year. I am hopeful that this was just a blip in the regular way of things at Holy Trinity. We are lucky to be able to greet new members once in a while and I hope this trend continues.

Miscellaneous Matters - We continue to support Centre 105 in Cornwall in various ways and there aren't too many Sundays when there isn't something in the basket at the back of the church to pass on to the Centre throughout the year.

We mourn the loss of Father Bill Ellam. We will miss Bill's smiling face and lovely singing voice. Bill was joined by others in our recently formed a capella group which performed at our Remembrance and Christmas services. What an absolute treat to listen to!

It continues to be an honour to represent the dedicated people who make Holy Trinity what it is; a small rural Chapel holding the hearts of a faithful group of local citizens.

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Update from Ruth

I have had the opportunity to preach and to "set the table" for the eucharist. Working alongside the two priests, Rhonda Waters and James Duckett, and postulant, Charlie Scromeda, we held three workshops during Lent about spiritual gifts.

I am looking forward to being a part of the Holy Week services at St. Helen's. I have a St. Helen's parish discernment group and we have met a few times to discuss my progress and reflect on where I am in the discernment process. In the coming weeks I will be meeting with a parish discernment group that Mark has assembled from St. James.

I miss being at the church on Friday mornings and at Sunday morning worship and being connected to everyone. Thankfully, I carry these connections with me into this placement and I offer my prayers of thanksgiving to God for the love and support of this community as you have supported me in my discernment journey.

Peace,
Ruth

The annual parish yard sale

is coming up on

Saturday, May 16

on the grounds of St. James

Setup on Friday the 15th

Circle the date on your calendar now

for this significant

fund raising event in our parish

Salt & Light in the World

Milk bags given a new life as sleeping mats

This year's Lenten study was Salt and Light in the World. To put that study into actual practise, on Wednesday, March 25th 11 members of our congregation gathered at the offices of Community Living Dundas County for a work party. Under the instruction of Frank Beaulne and staff there, milk bags that have been saved all winter were turned into sleeping mats that will be sent to developing countries. Those who attended reported that everyone enjoyed the activity, the instructions, and the fellowship.



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