Thanksgiving 2026

SOUTH DUNDAS

ANGLICAN

Farewell to Rev. Mark Lewis

Members of the Anglican Parish of South Dundas gathered on Sunday, August 16th at St. James Anglican Church in Morrisburg to mark the retirement of Rev. Mark Lewis. After serving the parish for five years since his ordination in 2021, Mark is retiring to spend more time with family.

Known to many as the guidance counsellor at Seaway District High School, Mark returned to university after retirement from his teaching career to earn a degree in theology. He was assigned as priest for the local Anglican Parish when the current priest, The Rev. Jon Martin accepted a posting in Ottawa.

The Rev. Canon Pat Martin has been appointed acting incumbent until a replacement priest is installed.



This photo shows Mark with [left to right] Patty McLaughlin [Deputy People's Warden], Jill Dumaresq [Rector's Warden], The Rev. Mark, The Rev. Canon Pat Martin, Doug Jarvis [Deputy Rector's Warden] and Wally Baker [People's Warden].

Martha's Closet – going the extra mile

Our parish outreach ministry, Martha's closet [just one of several Martha ministries] has helped people in need of good, free clothing for the last few years. Under the initial direction of Wendy Lewis, Martha's Closet has opened in the basement of St. James on the last Saturday of the month to enthusiastic response. It's not unusual to see upwards of 75 people go through the doors on a Saturday morning.

…. See the rest of this story on page 2

Prayer Shawl ministry quietly working to help healing

The Anglican Parish of South Dundas has an active prayer shawl ministry. This valuable ministry began fifteen years ago, and since its inception, hundreds of shawls have been created and distributed.

Prayer shawls are either knitted or crocheted. Currently, there are 8 people (parish members and non-members) who share their time, resources, and talents to provide these beautiful works of art. Shawls are then blessed by our priest and given to people who would benefit from having a prayer shawl. So far this year, 15 shawls have been blessed, and 12 shawls have been given out.

Yarn, note cards, shawl tags, and gift-wrapping materials are purchased with money that is donated by generous people from within our parish and outside our parish.

Individuals who have received prayer shawls are often overwhelmed by the thought that people they don't even know are praying for their welfare. They often wrap themselves in their shawls and feel comforted, special, hopeful, and cared for.

Prayer shawls have brought immeasurable joy and happiness to recipients for many years.

With thanks to Joyce Millard



Matha's Closet – going the extra mile ..from page 1

The most recent open day on September 26 saw about 60 people come through the doors, but leading into the coldest months, Matha's has been known to serve upwards of 80 clients on a busy Saturday.

The clothing on offer comes from a variety of different sources. Mark's Wearhouse at Bayshore provides many items, along with generous donors in and around the parish. A recent joint venture has seen some items provided on request from a similar operation at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Russell Although the closet is open only one day per month, volunteers are busy the week preceeding the last Saturday of the month.

When the doors open, there are about six volunteers on hand to help visitors find what they need.

Although Martha's is run once a month, volunteers have come in on other days to assist people in need….an elderly lady got emergency placement in a nursing home and needed clothes to take with her. .. Items of clothing were picked out and passed on to her by the folks at Martha's. In another case a family of newcomers was outfitted for winter upon their arrival in the community. The volunteers at Martha's offer their services 11 months of the year – taking off the month of December.

Whatever the situation, there are always volunteers ready to step in and help. If you would like to be part of the Martha's team, even for only part of the year, speak to Pat and she can link you up with the team.



A contingent of South Dundas Anglicans travelled to St. James Manotick on Sunday, Sept. 20 to help one of our former rectors mark his 80th birthday. The Rev. Bill Byers marked his milestone birthday by celebrating the eucharist and giving the sermon. After church, all those in attendance enjoyed a light lunch in the church hall. Congratulations and many more, Bill.

The Search Begins

Contributed by Jill Dumaresq [Rector's Warden]

An in-depth conversation about the Parish of South Dundas, past, present and future, took place on Thursday evening, October 1st , when the Wardens and Synod members met with the Venerable Rhonda Waters, Rector of St. Helen's, and Archdeacon of the Deanery of East Ontario. The meeting was the official beginning of the process to prepare for a new incumbent. The Archdeacon used three questions to guide the conversation, listened well, and will write an initial report for Bishop Kathryn Otley.

In advance of the Thursday meeting, the committee of Wardens and Synod members, with the help of the Reverend Canon Pat Martin, prepared a parish profile to help the Archdeacon, Bishop, and interested clergy, understand the highlights of the geography, history, buildings, worship and people of the parish. The last Vestry report, including the financials, is also information that will be shared.

Once the Archdeacon and the Bishop have considered the information provided, the vacancy will be advertised, and an information package will be available to individuals who might feel called to this corner of the Diocese. It will be the work of the Bishop and Archdeacon to determine a potential rector for the parish. The committee then meets with the candidate, and both parties have the opportunity to decide whether there is a good fit between them.

The committee was disappointed to learn that for various reasons Ruth Speer will not be a candidate for this opening. Clergy beyond this Diocese may be considered for this and other incumbencies as there have been clergy retirements and other changes, creating a shortage of candidates to fill the existing vacancies. The process of filling these multiple openings may stretch out the time required to find the special person who is called to take on this parish. Through these interesting times, the Wardens and Synod members are enormously grateful for the continued support of the wonderful Reverend Canon Pat Martin.

To you, Pat, our heartfelt thanks.

Thanksgiving Newsletter October 2026

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving; go into these courts with praise.

give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.

For the Lord is good, and God's steadfast love is everlasting.

and God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Psalm 100:4-5

Autumn is my second favourite time of the year. It's not too hot for river walks, the river is teeming with life, the leaves are beautiful, the birds are singing and that slight nip in the air is energizing - and we get to celebrate the Season of Creation, St Francis and the Blessing of the Animals, and Harvest Thanksgiving.

And as we give thanks for Mark and Wendy's tireless ministry here, there is also a sense of anticipation in the air as we prepare to go into our next chapter as a parish. So, we both give thanks, prepare and pray for our next incumbent, whoever they may be.

In a world obsessed with complaining and negativity, an attitude of gratitude is a breath of fresh air. I know Shirley Alguire has her Thanksgiving decorating crew ready to go and there will be music in the air as we bring forward our Thanksgiving offerings for Community FoodShare.

I know I am thankful, grateful, and blessed to be part of this parish.

Blessings, Pat – *Interim Priest in Charge*

The Unsung Heroes

Our parish Pancake Breakfast at the Iroquois Apple Festival was a big hit again this year. For this issue we're showcasing the folks behind the scenes – the apple peelers. The secret to success for those pancakes is a mixture of apples and water, mixed on site with the pancake dry ingredients. We served about 160 breakfasts to some very appreciative guests.



Have you ever wondered what your offering should be? Here's some insight from our parish treasurer, Rosemary Wells.

Question: How much should my offerings be? What do other members of the congregation give?

Answer: We Treasurers are asked this question quite a lot. The answer varies based on each person's level of income and ability to pay.

But a general rule of thumb provided by the Bible (Genesis 14:20) and (Leviticus 27:30) is 10% of total income each year.

You can find your Total Income each year by checking your Income Tax Summary on line 15000.
As an example:

- if your total income was $25,000 in 2025
- 10% would be $2,500 for the year or $50 per week.

Also, from the Treasurer's desk….

A brief financial snapshot as we enter the final quarter of the year.

Unfortunately, we are in a deficit situation, but overall council is pleased with the level of support for the various Fundraisers we have conducted this year. To summarize:

Garage Sale	$2,256
Pancake Breakfast	$ 884
Play	$2,469
Playhouse Lunches	$2,160
Catering	$1,103

In terms of big expenses, we needed a new electric piano, the elevator needed a tuneup, and the rectory needed a new fireplace insert.
Heating bills have increased to $8,993 so far this year and grounds maintenance at St James has so far been $6,800 which is higher than other years due to heavy snowfall last winter.