

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

Anglican Priest and Rector: The Reverend Shirley J. Cole

Parish Office: 56 Woodleigh Drive, P. O. Box 760, Kensington

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December 21, 2025 **4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

Worship on December 21

9 am – St. Thomas' MP*

(*followed by brunch; all are welcome!)

11 am – St. Stephen's HE

11 am – St. Mark's MP

Today's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

~ St. John's, Truro, NS

~ Northumberland, NS

Provincial Prayer Care

Ecclesiastical Province of Canada:

Archbishop David Edwards, and the Provincial Council

DCS Cycle of Prayer - St. John's, Milton

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

Information for Dec. 24, 25, 28, & Jan. 4 bulletins needs to be to the office by 9 am on December 23. Bulletins for Dec. 24, 25, & 28 will be available on Dec. 23. Office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 5.

For the winter months, bulletins can be picked up in the black mailboxes outside the office door.

Christmas Worship Services

• December 24:

4 pm – St. Stephen's HE (choir will sing for 20 minutes prior to Service)

6 pm – St. Thomas' HE

8 pm – St. Mark's HE

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Readers: Grafton C, Sandra H; Tim O, Jim D; Laura N, Marie M

Prayers of the People: Jim E, Lola MO, Doris M

• December 25:

10 am – St. Elizabeth's HC

Readings: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

December 28 – 1st Sunday after Christmas (white)

Worship Times: 9 am – St. Thomas' HE

11 am – St. Stephen's MP

11 am – St. Mark's HE

Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148;

Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Readers: Judy C, Judy M; Darlene L, Jean R; Barb C, Norma T

Prayers of the People: Sandra H, Doreen C, Marlene C

Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

(Light the third purple candle. The Love Candle symbolizes God's love revealed in Christ. Purple reminds us once more of the royalty of Christ and the love that motivated God's plan for salvation.)

Prayer: Lord, as we light this candle of love, we thank You for sending Your Son, a gift of unconditional love. Let Your love fill our hearts this season and help us to love others as You have loved us. May Your love guide us and shine brightly through us in all we do. Amen.

A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,

a candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,

for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.



Parish Council meeting (last one for 2025 Parish Council members) will take place on Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's.

Annual reports (including Financial Reports with Budgets for 2026) are due at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21.

Parish Annual Reports are due at 9:00 a.m. on Wed., February 11.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

- St. Thomas' - Monday, January 26, 7 pm (alt. Wed., Jan. 28)
- St. Stephen's - Monday, February 2, 7 pm (alt. Wed., Feb. 4)
- St. Mark's - Monday, February 9, 7 pm (alt. Wed., Feb. 11)
- Parish - Monday, Feb. 16, 7 pm at St. Mark's (alt. Thurs., Feb. 19)

New Year's Spiritual Resolutions

As we think about the New Year and consider our resolutions, this prayer might help: Lord, as this New Year dawns, I come to you seeking guidance. Grant me strength to face challenges, relying on Your power and finding my refuge in You, remaining steadfast in faith. Renew my mind, heart, and spirit, transforming me by the Holy Spirit to leave the old and embrace the new You have for me. Fill my heart with love, that I may serve others generously, speak kindly, and live each day in a God-conscious way. Amen.

A Service of Comfort and Hope (Blue Christmas Service)

Kensington Presbyterian Church -- December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Fun Family Day at the New London Community Complex

Sunday, December 21, 1-4 pm. Entertainment by Tunes & Tales.

Bouncy castles, crafts, treats and....Santa is coming for a visit.

Admission by donation - all funds go towards the Complex.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Worship Service will be held on Sunday, January 18, 10:30 a.m. at Kensington United Church.

There will be **NO** Worship Services on the Parish of New London.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Week of Prayer Service!

"Our Daily Bread" devotional books for Jan-Mar. 2026 are now available.

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;*

**shine forth, you that are enthroned
upon the cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,*

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,*

**how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears;*

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,*,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;*

**show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,*,

**the son of man you have made so strong
for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you;*

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;*

**show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd;
you have led us to the kingdom of your Father's love.
Forgive our careless indifference to your loving care for
all your creatures, and remake us in the likeness of your
new and risen life. We ask this in your name.**

A READING FROM ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have

received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God,
by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Connectors Eight – Now receiving applications!

This peer learning community begins on Zoom in March, 2026 for lay and clergy participants who want to explore discerning prayer, deep dive discussions, engaging readings, goal setting, mutual support, and encouragement. All costs are covered by the Diocese. Application deadline is January 30.

RETREAT: Deepening Faith; Pathways to Peace

May 29-31, 2026 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.

Register at www.nspeidiocese.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

The Bulletins used within the Parish
are given to the Glory of God
and In Loving Memory of

LAURETTA JOLLIMORE

April 9, 1940 - December 21, 2018

*Your spirit lives as Christmas nears
Memories remembered of other years
Within our hearts we hold you dear
In our thoughts throughout the year.*

Always loved and remembered by
Cheryl and Tommy



IN LOVING MEMORY

*There's a little place within our hearts
that is with us every day.*

*A place where all our memories
are softly tucked away.*

*It is the perfect place
in our grief for us to go.*

*For, words could not explain
how very much we miss you so.*

COLE

Jessie (Mom) Jan. 6, 1929-Dec. 27, 2015

Charles (Dad) Oct. 16, 1925-April 10, 2018

BROTHERS

Clarence April 17, 1947-Dec. 10, 2009

Wyman Sept. 6, 1949-March 20, 1950

Stewart Oct. 27, 1954-May 29, 2014

Leland Oct. 7, 1957-Oct. 4, 1968

Glenn Dec. 28, 1964-April 13, 2024

NEPHEW

Joey Sept. 12, 1986-Aug. 20, 2002

*Lovingly remembered by
Grafton & Susan Cole
Nancy & Earl MacLeod
and families*

Poinsettias placed at St. Thomas' with love and warmest thoughts

In memory of Beverley and Harold Brister
with love from Leanne and family

In memory of Waldon and Peach Duggan
with love from Jim, Hughena, and family

In memory of Horace and Bessie Meek
with love from the family

In memory of Dawson, Roma, Margaret, and Cory Cole
with love from Gail, Stan, and family

In memory of Jean and Arnold Meek
with love from Joy, Arnold, and family

In memory of William Pidgeon
with love from Laura and family

In memory of Harry and Lottie Locke
with love from Darlene

In loving memory of Johnny and Betty Perry, and Victoria Boucher
with love from Jaunita and Dave Boucher

In loving memory of Clara, Claude, Sandy, and Noel Graham
with love from Jane, Peter, and family

In loving memory of Robert and Brenda Montgomery
with love from the family

In loving memory of Millicent MacCaul Stewart
with love from Lisa Brookins and family

In loving memory of Laurretta and Jim Jollimore
with love from Cheryl and Tommy

