



‘Jesus Heals’  
 Installed at St. Thomas’ Church - 1996

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

**Anglican Priest and Rector:** The Reverend Shirley J. Cole  
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## March 15, 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Worship on March 15  
 10 am – St. Mark’s MP

### Today’s Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

~ North Sydney, Cape Breton  
 ~ Parish of the Resurrection, Cape Breton

### Provincial Prayer Care

Diocese of Western Newfoundland, Bishop John Organ

### DCS Cycle of Prayer - St. Peter’s, Alberton

### Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

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## March 22: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (violet)

**Worship Time:** 10 am – St. Mark’s HE

**Readings:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**Readers:** Norma T, Bronwyn C

**Prayers of the People:** Marlene C

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**St. Thomas’ Church Council** meeting will be held on Monday,  
 March 16, 7:00 pm. First meeting of new Council members for 2026.

**Reminder:** March 22 is the last date for collecting items for KISH. Items needed are: granola bars (nut-free), Cheese Whiz, Rice Krispie squares (individually wrapped), KD Cups (individual servings), gold fish crackers (individual servings), Welch's fruit snacks, Mr. Noodles, pudding cups, fruit cups, apple sauce (individual servings), men's & women's deodorant (non-scented), disposable forks and spoons. Thank you for your generosity!

**Invitation to Participate** The Diocese is developing a new five-year Diocesan strategic plan that will help guide priorities, decision-making, and shared work across the Diocese. At the heart of this process is one central question: What future do we want to shape together for the Diocese, and what will it take to get there? To help unearth the answers to this question, we are inviting parishioners, lay leaders, and clergy in PEI to participate in in-person regional consultations on Saturday, March 21, 2026. These gatherings create space to reflect together on day-to-day parish life, share regional perspectives, and help ensure the strategic plan reflects local realities while orienting us toward shared diocesan goals. By attending, you will: Help shape the direction and priorities of the Diocese for the next five years; Share your hopes and aspirations for parish and diocesan life in PEI; Contribute ideas about how the Diocese can be more connected, responsive, and supportive; Be part of a collective conversation about where God may be inviting the Church next.

Session 1: Open to all (parishioners & community members) Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 101 Prince Street, Charlottetown.

Session 2: Clergy only - Saturday, March 21, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. St. Paul's Anglican Church, 101 Prince Street, Charlottetown.

Registration details: To register call 902-420-0717. To help us plan, please register by March 15. You will be asked to select which session you plan to attend in the registration form. If you have questions or require additional info, contact: [thereforewehavehope@gmail.com](mailto:thereforewehavehope@gmail.com).

We hope you will join us in shaping the future of our Diocese, together.

### **First Meeting of new Parish Council, in new Canon 35 Structure, Monday, March 9th Highlights**

- Meeting focused on strategies for completing the 2025 Financials so information can be sent to the Diocese and we can implement financials and signing authorities for 2026, with information to be provided to Churches through Church Wardens and Treasurers on Parish Council. This also included

plans for sign offs necessary related to roles and responsibilities of Parish Council and Church Councils/ Executives and Safer Church requirements for insurance.

- Kim Gallant is currently enrolled in the EFM Program and plans to continue. Kim will be taking a 2-year leave of absence from her job, selling her house and moving to Ontario with Andrea for the next 2 years, continuing as a Licensed Lay Minister until the end of July. We wish her well on her new adventure.

- Leanne Brister is now in the Diocesan Discernment Program, formally discerning a Call to Ordained Ministry as a Vocational Deacon. The Diocese' Vocations Coordinator will be meeting with the Parish to provide more information regarding the 2-3 year process, which includes specific educational and placement requirements. This will be new to the Parish, as an Ordained Deacon in the Parish is unique from an Ordained Associate Priest attached to the Parish (as Rev. Shirley was for a number of years), and does not replace the Parish rector although able to do some of the things a Priest can do. It is also quite different from Lay leaders like Licensed Lay Ministers. Well done, Leanne, and we wish you well as this journey continues.

- Bishop Sandra has appointed Rev. Shirley as the Regional Dean for PEI, effective March 18th, 2026. This was announced and outlined in a letter from Bishop Sandra recently received by the Parish Wardens. The letter also outlined the roles and responsibilities. Congratulations, Rev. Shirley.

- Dennis Cole, as noted earlier has been accepted into Connectors Eight. We wish him well as he attends the first learning session of this Diocesan Program next weekend (March 22-23).

- Help Shape the Future for our Diocese: Saturday March 21, 2026 – at St. Paul's. 9-12pm open to all. 1- 4pm Clergy only. Registration online. Details in the bulletin.

- Thursday March 26 - Regional Service of Holy Eucharist and Renewal of Vows with Bishop Sandra Fyfe at St. Paul's in Charlottetown. Information in the Bulletin.

Friday March 27 - 10 am -3pm (lunch provided) Regional Lenten Quiet Day offered by Bishop Sandra, at St. Thomas'. All are welcome, registration requested to plan food and resources. Information in the bulletin.

Upcoming Meetings: All first meetings for new 2026 Councils/ Executive:

- St. Thomas' Church Council: 7pm, Monday, March 16

- St. Mark's Church Council: 7pm, Monday, March 23

- St. Stephen's Church Executive: Wednesday, April 22

- St. Elizabeth's Church Council: TBD

Next Parish Council Meeting: 7pm, Wed., April 8 at St. Stephen's

## COLLECT

Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## A READING FROM 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;\*

**I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures\*

**and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul\*

**and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;\*

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;\*

**you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,\*

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Glory to you, Jesus Christ, our good shepherd.**

**In the waters of baptism you give us new birth,**

**at your table you nourish us with heavenly food,**

**and in your goodness and mercy,**

**you guide us beyond the terrors of evil and death**

**to your Father's home to dwell in eternal light.**

**Glory to you forever.**

## A READING FROM EPHESIANS 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

### **ACCORDING TO JOHN 9:1-41**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to be-come his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

God of light, your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory. Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Father, through your goodness we receive your Son in word and sacrament. May we always have faith in him, Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Upcoming Services & Events (\*Updated on March 15)**

\***March 15 & 22** – 10:00 a.m. – Worship Services at St. Mark's

\***March 29** – 10 a.m. PARISH Service – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month at St. Stephen's

\***March 30-April 2** – 12 p.m. Noon Ecumenical Holy Week Services at St. Mark's. March 30 (Anglican); March 31 (Presbyterian); April 1 (Roman Catholic); April 2 (United)

\***April 2** – 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at St. Thomas'

\***April 3** – 12 p.m. noon Good Friday Service at St. Mark's

\***April 5** – Easter Sunday – 8 a.m. Service at St. Thomas' (includes Baptism); 9 a.m. Service at St. Stephen's; 11 a.m. Service at St. Mark's; 7 p.m. Service at St. Elizabeth's

**Note:** April on – as per other years, unless Rector away, or other issues arise – St. Stephen's HE 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, St. Thomas' 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, St. Mark's alternates.

**April – July – October** – 9 a.m. St. Stephen's, 11 a.m. St. Thomas' and St. Mark's

**May through October** – 7 p.m. St. Elizabeth's 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

**May – August – November** – 9 a.m. St. Thomas', 11 a.m. St. Mark's and St. Stephen's

**June – September – December** – 9 a.m. St. Mark's, 11 a.m. St. Stephen's and St. Thomas'

\***April 19** – 6 p.m. Fishers Service at St. Thomas'

\***May 31** – 10 a.m. PARISH Service – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month – St. Stephen's

\*\***June 7** – 3 p.m. – *Confirmation Service – St. Thomas'*

\*\***June 26** – *Ice Cream Social - St. Thomas'*

\***June 28** – 11 a.m. Flower Service - St. Thomas'

\***August 30** – 10 a.m. PARISH Service – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month – and Parish Picnic St. Thomas'

\***November 29** – 10 a.m. PARISH Service – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month – St. Mark's