

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

APRIL 26, 2026
4th Sunday of Easter



Illustration by Rev. Mel Malton

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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April 26, 2026
4th Sunday of Easter

Worship on April 26

9 am – St. Stephen’s MP
11 am – St. Thomas’ MP
11 am – St. Mark’s HE

This Morning’s Readings

Ezekiel 34:7-15; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

~ Port Dufferin, NS
~ Seaforth, NS

Provincial Prayer Care

Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert’s Land
~ Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson and the Provincial Council

DCS Cycle of Prayer - St. Paul’s, Charlottetown

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

May 3: 5th Sunday of Easter (white)

Worship Times: 9 am – St. Thomas' MP
11 am – St. Mark's MP
11 am – St. Stephen's HE
7 pm – St. Elizabeth's HC

Readings: Proverbs 4:10-18; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Readers: Judy M, Jim E; Hilda J, Jim D;
Marie M, Barb C; Velma H, Beryl C

Prayers of the People: Grafton C, Doreen C, Doris M

St. Thomas' Church Council meeting will be held on Monday,
April 27, 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas' Family and Friends will meet Tuesday, May 5,
10:30 a.m. at the church hall. In recognition of "Red Dress Day",
please wear something red. All are welcome!

Geddie Memorial Cemetery, Spring Brook, clean-up will be held on
Friday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. Please bring rakes and shovels.

Peoples Cemetery Kensington clean-up will be held on Saturday,
May 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (rain date May 16). Please bring rakes
and shovels; all volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

'Men of the Harvest' concert will be held on Sunday, May 3,
3:00 p.m. at Holy Family Parish, Kensington. Proceeds in aid of
Kensington Food Bank. All are welcome!

The Diocesan Environmental Network (DEN) Coordinator
Rev. Marian Lucas-Jeffries was in our Region last week sharing DEN's
work within the Diocese. Rev. Marian left us information about the
current Seed Share Project, along with packets of seeds. Seed Share
is a growing network, caring for creation by feeding the pollinators
that sustain our food supply. More information is available at the back
of the church, as are packets of seeds. Please consider taking seeds
and planting them. By doing this, you are helping pollinators thrive,
and saving our planet, one small patch at a time.

Highlights from Parish Council – Wednesday, April 8, 2026

It was confirmed early on that all the 2025 Financial information was
submitted by the end of March, audits were completed by individuals
not in conflict of interest and one step removed. The CRA information
was also submitted by deadline. All but 2 of the Parish Council
Members were in attendance, most had submitted necessary paperwork,
and the new year seems off to a good start with lots of energy!

New signing officers online banking and such is now complete for the
Parish and underway for Churches. St. Mark's provided a summary of
intentions of having the Church painted over the summer. It was moved
and passed that Parish Council endorses the proposed painting project
at St. Mark's, fully supports and will offer practical supports as
necessary.

Discussion was held about the different kinds of meetings, membership
and roles (Parish Council, Church Meetings, Special Meetings
(attending and offering opinion vs voting). Agreed all was outlined
clearly in the Canon, and we will continue to try and be transparent and
communicate effectively, while continuing to go about the business of
churches and parish. Parish Council has determined that we will be able
to claim Missional activity exemptions for last year and moving
forward in our Parochial Returns. More information will be circulated
about this so we can keep in mind in planning Missional activities.
Discussion was held **confirming**- when an investment is transferred to
the Church operating or building account - it is money already reported
as income at the time it came in, so is not income when transferred.
Cemetery accounts cannot be transferred and used for regular church
expenses or repairs.

Next Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday, May 13 at St Thomas'.

Feedback about the Churches worshipping together over the winter
months was discussed, and it was agreed to seek feedback through a
Survey in the Bulletin (*see insert*).

COLLECT

O God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
make us perfect in every good work to do your will,
and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A READING FROM EZEKIEL 34:7-15

“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them. “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord.

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 1 PETER 2:19-25

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of loving care,
you spread before us the table of life,
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and our shepherd.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of steadfast love,
watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son.
May we who share in these holy mysteries
come safely to your eternal kingdom,
where there is one flock and one shepherd.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

SURVEY FOLLOW-UP

Regarding 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service for January, February, March, 2026, with each Church providing the Service for a full month. Offering envelopes given to one's own Church. Regular schedule resumed in April.

*Services recorded and able to be watched online.

I generally attend: St. Mark's Church _____
St. Stephen's Church _____
St. Thomas' Church _____
St. Elizabeth's Church _____

In January – March, I attended Service: Regularly _____
Occasionally _____
Not at all _____

***I watched Services online:** As well _____
Instead of _____
Not at all _____

When I attended Services in January – March, they were:

Positive experiences _____
About the same as regular schedule Services _____
Less positive experiences _____

This arrangement of January-March should be considered for another year:

I agree _____
I disagree _____

***Services should continue to be recorded on a regular basis:**

I agree _____
I disagree _____

Please note below barriers/benefits/further suggestions for improvement.

~ Circulated Sunday, April 26, 2026

~ To be returned to the Church, Sunday, May 10, 2026,
or return through email by Monday, May 11, 2026