

ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

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MATT. 21. 23-32

Illustration by Rev. Mel Malton

September 27, 2026 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship on September 27

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

Today's Readings

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

October 4: 19th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

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

Readings: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Readers: Grafton C, Sandra H; Jean R;
Bronwyn C, Doris M; Blaine C, Velma H

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

Thank you to everyone who contributed – Blessing of the Backpacks occurs today and items will be given to the high school.

Thank you to Bonnie LaFrance who is filling in for Gwendy Harrington at St. Mark's this morning.

The family of Grace MacLeod, French River, invites you to come and help celebrate her 90th birthday at St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Spring Brook, September 27, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Best Wishes Only!

St. Thomas' Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 28, 7:00 p.m. (postponed from September 21).

Statutory holiday – Wednesday, September 30, for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Along with other Parishes and the Diocese, we recognize the significance of this holiday and will technically be closed. However, Bonnie will still be in the office on Wednesday morning; bulletins will be available later in the afternoon.

St. Thomas' Family and Friends meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 10:00 a.m. in the church hall. Come and join in!

Yarns 'n Tea will be resuming on Tuesday, September 29, 1:00 p.m. at St. Thomas' Church Hall. All are welcome!

Bible Study is held every Thursday at 9:45 a.m. in the Rectory office. All are welcome to attend!

Clinton View Lodge sing-a-long will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

'Our Daily Bread' devotional booklets are now available for October – December.

All Souls and All Saints Service

In response to the attendance and then encouraging feedback, including for this to be an annual event, 'A Service for All Souls and All Saints' will be held again this year – Sunday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. at Southwest River United Church, Margate. This is an Anglican and United shared service, and all are welcome to attend.

Save the Date: November 7, 2026

St. Mark's Church Christmas Yard & Bake Sale Fundraiser:
9 a.m. – 12 noon. We would be pleased to accept Christmas-themed donations such as puzzles, games, accessories, jewellery, knick knacks, books, household items, Christmas clothing, giftware items, craft supplies, sporting equipment, or any other treasures you feel would make a great gift idea. All items should be clean and in good condition. Also included in our fundraiser will be a Bake Sale Table.
To schedule a donation pick-up, please call Marlene (902-439-9642) or Alan (902-439-1627).

Kensington Food Bank -- Following is a list of items that are most needed, but **ALL** items donated are gratefully received and everything is used. Pancake mix and syrup, canned yellow and green beans, canned corn and peas, canned tuna, mayonnaise, rice, crackers, Mr. Noodles, applesauce, snack pack puddings, and macaroni. Thanks for each and every donation!!

Volunteer Food Safety Course will be offered on November 10 in Summerside. If you are interested, please call 902-368-4970 for details.

KISH Kraft Dinner Lunch

Would you like to take part in the KD lunch ministry at Kensington St. John's Presbyterian Church this school year? Lunches are on Thursdays, and we are looking for people to bake cookies, and/or serve in the kitchen. Please contact Nanette Clark if you're interested in helping or for more information: ngclark62@gmail.com OR 708-799-1544 (call or text). Come join our ecumenical team as we serve the youth of Kensington and area!

Godly Play Core Storytelling Training

Godly Play Maritimer Trainers are pleased to offer a weekend of training at Southwest River United Church, Margate.

~ Friday, October 23 (2 p.m.) to Sunday, October 25 (4 p.m.).

Cost: \$350, includes 2 suppers, 2 lunches, and snacks.

Deadline to register is Friday, September 25.

For more information or to register, please contact Ellen Locke: ellenmlocke@hotmail.com; 902-628-5460.

DCS will cover the cost of registration for anyone interested.

'Men of the Harvest' Fall Concerts

~ Sunday, October 25 – 3 p.m. at Princetown United Church, Malpeque

~ Sunday, November 15 – 3 p.m. at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Charlottetown

~ Sunday, November 22 – 3 p.m. at the College of Piping, Summerside (Christmas Concert)

Highlights Parish Council- September 16 at St. Thomas'

Full attendance (except MacKenzie Carr, away at university).

Lots of positives expressed from the summer.

- Re: SafeR Church: There are still outstanding CRC- names passed on to the Church wardens; reminder that anyone with the key to a Church needs to have a CRC. Churches are figuring out how to make this work. An email was sent to those who need to complete the required training. A couple of dates will be set up by the end of October so the training can be completed in a group setting.

- Re: Communication: The Anglican Communion has been provided and has published information sent through DEN Coordinator for Diocese, Revd Marian Lucas Jefferies, about our efforts in our Parish to celebrate Season of Creation.

- The exemptions from allotment possible for our missional work have been calculated, and our Parochial Return has been sent in.

- There will be a second All Souls All Saints Service this fall with the United Church. Notice will be in the bulletin.

- Re: Updates: There was a very good Parish Service, and potluck following, at St. Thomas' at the end of August.

- Come Walk in Faith ran biweekly over the summer with a good turn-out. After an evaluation at the end, it was decided to run it every week next summer.

- DCS Fall gathering is on September 26. This has been covered for several weeks in the bulletin.

- St. Mark's was commended on the Church's painting!

- New Business for decision making/confirmation: St. Stephen's passed motion at Church executive regarding selling the schoolyard property, looking at the Provincial appraisal of \$28,300 as a guide, specifically with owners of adjoining property, and will seek legal clarity regarding the well. ***Tim moved Parish Council support for the sale of the property. Seconded by Beryl. Carried.***

- Fall and Winter Schedule: There was a motion passed at the last meeting of having one service in January (until Easter) at 11am. There was also interest in having joint services in December with Christmas

Eve Services in each Church. *It was requested that the Wardens follow up and seek feedback from their congregations.*

A decision will be made at our next meeting. Questions were raised about the Christmas Eve Service scheduling. *It was agreed Church Wardens will take back to their Churches to see what they think. Decision will be made at next meeting.*

- Re: Kim and Dennis: Both were licensed several years ago. At that time, they did not receive their certificates. All paperwork was completed and submitted. The Bishop's office approved they could go ahead and to perform the duties of an LLM. The certificates have been received; copies provided to those who wished.

- Kim did not move as intended and remains an active LLM. Dennis has indicated his intention in pausing his LLM for a time of further reflection, and this has been supported. It was passed at the last meeting that as of September, when LLMs not available, LLM/priests would be secured and paid for; and the back-up would be congregation Ministers leading the service. Kim will pick up more Sundays. Rev. Margaret Collins will do a Service on Thanksgiving Sunday, so each Church will be able to have Holy Eucharist, and at the end of October. Revd Shirley will continue to arrange coverage for Services and other LLM tasks that arise.

- Re: Leanne: Letter was sent from Parish Committee to the Diocese as required supporting Leanne's entering the formal Discernment process toward Ordination as a Vocational Deacon. Copies of the letter were provided to those who wished.

- Re: Rectory/Office: Revd Shirley is looking at remaining in her home in Spring Valley and working out of the Rectory office. *Discussion is underway with the Wardens about the particulars and will be discussed further at the next meeting.*

- Re: Video recording: Began in January for those unable to make it to Church Services. It was well received. Dennis set this up with a phone he had, and a tripod was purchased. The YouTube account did not allow multiple services to stay up. *Rev. Shirley and Rodney have been working on setting this up properly at the Parish level. Should be in place before next meeting.*

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 7pm at St. Stephen's

COLLECT

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church,
being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one,
may show forth your power among all peoples,
to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A READING FROM EXODUS 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people;*

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;*

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,*

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praise-worthy deeds and the power of the Lord,*

and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,*

in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through;*

he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day,*

and all the night through with a glow of fire.

He split the hard rocks in the wilderness*

and gave them drink as from the great deep.

He brought streams out of the cliff,*

and the waters gushed out like rivers.

God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey, and hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Highlights from Kensington & Area Christian Council
September 16, 2026

- Thanks to Jessie Adams for hosting at St. Stephen's.
- Vacation Bible School was very successful again this year, with approximately 60 participants. Costs were up slightly this year. Appreciation expressed for the Ecumenical participation, and junior and senior leadership.
- Harvest Festival – excellent service provided by Father Doug MacDonald. Ecumenical choir was appreciated. Over \$1200 loose offering; donations to the Food Bank; an excellent crowd. Responsibility for 2027 service will be with Kensington United.
- Bertha Campbell reported on and passed out a letter re: Friends of St. Mary's. With next year being the 125th anniversary of St. Mary's Church, the Board is reaching out for support by renewing memberships and welcoming new members.
- Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service will be held on Monday, December 7, 7:30 p.m. at Kensington United Church (storm date: Dec. 14). It was agreed that in view of the consolidation of choirs over time, choirs have the option of performing 2 selections.