



# The Warden's Wire

ISSUE 66 .....ADVENT 2025

Nov 30 – Dec 20, 2025

## Sun. Nov 30<sup>th</sup> ADVENT I **HOPE**

8.30 am	St Mary's the Virgin Independent Anglican service
10.30 am	Morning Prayer – St George's
2.00 pm	Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service
5- 7 pm	English Conversation Cafe
<u>Mon Dec 1<sup>st</sup></u>	
12.30-2.30	Friendship Circle
7.30 pm	Hamilton Schola Cantorum practice
<u>Wed. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	
1.30 pm	Bible study – Genesis
7-8 pm	Early Christian History
	The Nature of Jesus Christ –on zoom
<u>Thurs. Dec 4<sup>th</sup></u>	
7-8 pm	Evening Bible Study – The Psalms
	On zoom and at Tom's home
<u>Fri. Dec 5<sup>th</sup></u>	
6.30 pm	Park Group AA
<u>Sat. Dec 6<sup>th</sup></u>	
5-7 pm	CHRISTMAS POT LUCK SUPPER - Sign up on the bulletin board – or let Pam know you are coming

<u>Sun Dec 7<sup>th</sup></u>		ADVENT II	<b>PEACE</b>
8.30 am	St Mary's the Virgin Independent Anglican service		
10.30 am	HOLY COMMUNION – ST GEORGES		
2.00 pm	Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service		
<u>Mon Dec 8<sup>th</sup></u>			
12.30-2.30	Friendship Circle		
6.30 pm	Hamilton Schola Cantorum at Extendicare, Chedmac Dr		
<u>Wed. Dec 10<sup>th</sup></u>			
1.30 pm	Bible study – Genesis		

## Thurs. Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

2 – 4 pm	Vestry meeting
7- 8 pm	Evening Bible Study – The Psalms
	On zoom and at Tom's home

## Fri Dec 12<sup>th</sup>

6.30 pm	Park Group AA
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## Sun Dec 14<sup>th</sup> ADVENT III **JOY**

8.30 am	St Mary's the Virgin Independent Anglican service
10.30 am	Morning Prayer – St George's
2.00 pm	Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service
4-6 pm	English Conversation Café

## Mon Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

12.30 -2.30 pm	Friendship Circle
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## Wed. Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

1.30 pm	Bible Study - Genesis
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## Thurs Dec 18<sup>th</sup>

10 am	Extendicare Service
7-8 pm	Evening Bible Study – The Psalms
	On zoom and at Tom's house

## Fri Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

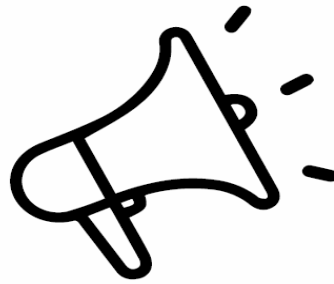
10.30 am	St Mary's Holy Communion Service
	Ember Friday in Advent
6.30 pm	Park Group AA

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English Conversation Club -

Please note the change of time as of December 14th for the Conversation Club. In the winter weeks we will begin at 4:00 and go until 6:00 rather than the later time schedule. This might encourage people to come more regularly as the winter nights are not what some folks are accustomed to. As always feel free to join us. Your attendance is one more friendship for them and one more friendship for you. Judy

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**CHURCH CALENDARS ARE ON THEIR WAY –  
SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE ONE, OR TALK TO CANON BOB.**

## Preparing for Advent

Fall can be a busy time. Each year the season of Advent bids us pause and commit ourselves to a period of waiting. It is a time in the church year of preparation for the coming of the Christ child. Apart from the liturgy of the Prayer Book that aids in this preparation week by week, the Matthew 25 initiative supported by the Reformed Episcopal Church has provided us with a resource ( *Light Where Hope Falters*) to assist us in our reflection on the core themes of Advent— Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. Each week during Advent there are reflections with Scripture, prayer, and action; art, quotes, and statistics that ground our faith in the world's deep need; and language and images you can use. For those with email, a copy of *Light Where Hope Falters* has been sent out by Paul Luth. Print copies are also available. Please use it to guide your journey through Advent. **Tom Power**

## LOOKING AHEAD ....

### St George's

**Sunday Dec 21 10.30 am**  
**Christmas carols & lessons**

**THURS DEC 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**MORNING PRAYER 10.30 am**

## St MARY'S service

**Wed Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**

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## Movies at St George's

**Join us for upcoming movies Saturdays 4 –  
6 pm Includes pizza and treats.**

### January 16<sup>th</sup>

**CHARADE with Cary Grant & Audrey Hepburn**

### February 14<sup>th</sup>

**THE NOTEBOOK with Ryan Gosling & Rachel  
McAdams**

### March 14<sup>th</sup>

**12 ANGRY MEN with Jack Lemon & George C Scott**

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## BiblioMPower book club

Next get together – Tues. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> 1.30-3 pm  
Reviewing The Augustine Confessions  
Please note February meeting changed to February  
10<sup>th</sup> as February 17<sup>th</sup> is Shrove Tuesday

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### PLEASE NOTE!

This is a reminder to all committee heads to please send your projected budgets to Judy so the Finance Committee knows what is necessary to consider for the coming year. We must include these items in the budget for the Annual Report for the A.G.M.

You can write it out and give it to me at church, phone me (905-527-9431) or email me

[judypollardsmith@gmail.com](mailto:judypollardsmith@gmail.com).



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Thank you to those who have already done that.-

A friend recently invited me to think of two lines of a Christmas Carol that I find especially meaningful. It is difficult to pick a favourite but there is one however that works on me because of its simplicity and because I have an interest in the Rossetti family. It was Christina Rossetti, the poet, who wrote the words to In The Bleak Midwinter. I find it soothing and utterly beautiful in its simplicity.

Christina's brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, with his sorrowful poetry and his oil paintings of heavy-faced, long-haired women was a part of the movement known as the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood. It was a group of artists who followed their own rules but produced many works of beauty including the famous painting of Christ knocking at the door of the human heart, by William Holman Hunt who was one of the founders of the Brotherhood. The painting is called The Light of The World.

In Christina Rossetti's Christmas carol she uses hard nouns and phrases as she tells us about frosty winds that moan, and words like iron, stone, snow on top of more snow. The winter is bleak, she tells us. There is little comfort. Everything is cold and difficult.

In verse two there is a glimmer of hope because it foretells that Heaven is not big enough to hold Jesus back. In fact Jesus is coming to earth, and soon. Later in the Carol we hear that his mother, Mary, comforts her baby with a maternal kiss. Things are looking up.

Finally we have the singer, poor in pocket but hopeful for heavenly things, figuring out that Jesus only wants something simple from us when he queries "What can I give him?" and the answer bounces back "Give my heart."

Those are my two favourite lines in any Carol. It is a simple request that Jesus asks of us. In return He offers to us a Love that is greater by far than human understanding.

Over the next few weeks we have much to anticipate. What a blessed journey to travel with each other! - Judy

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The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844-1889, left us with this to ponder from his poem entitled 'Moonless darkness.'

It is a short poem but these are the two lines that jump off the page for me.

"But the Bethlehem-star May lead me  
to the sight of Him Who freed me..."

I'm sharing it with you, my friends, because how could I not?

Judy

## BIBLIOMPOWER BOOK CLUB

Thank you to Jo-Anne for being the presenter at the November book club. The discussion revolved around Donna Leone's mystery "The Refiner's Fire." It is set in Venice and we had an accompanying video to go with it that Jo-Anne sent out ahead of time. It was fascinating viewing as it dealt with how Venice was constructed. Building that huge city on top of islands that used to float and were hoisted together by hundreds of long timber poles sunk into the water was an amazing feat. As usual, Jo-Anne found a recipe that has a relationship to the book. This time it was for apple cake a la Donna Leone. She made it. They came. They ate it. They loved it. Two of them have already made their own. If there are ten apple cakes at the Christmas potluck you'll know who to blame.

There is no December book club.

On Tuesday, January 20th, Tom Power will lead with Saint Augustine Confessions. Copies and some information/questions and a glossary that Tom has prepared were handed out at the November meeting.

Canadian writer Katherine Govier has offered to mail us ten free copies of a slim book (2022) of short essays written by young Afghan women who took part in The Shoe Project. Ms. Govier encouraged these young women to write about the shoes they wore during their evacuation from Afghanistan and where those shoes took them. The essays are shining and moving. We will include them in next year's reading list starting in September. This is information that binds us with love for our Afghan families.

Consider this your invitation to join us.

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For those who attended the Elizabethan Evensong recently you will have heard the BEST EVER 'Be Still My Soul' sung by our Hamilton Schola Cantorum. Thank you for an absolutely delightful evening. We are so blessed at St George's to have these talented people



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and their leaders in our midst

.....Alison

## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

A hardy bunch gets through snow, wind and rain to meet on Mondays at 12.30 Sandra has the kettle boiling and any goodies out that are brought .... Our meetings have a sort-of routine to them – after a 5-10 minute chat about the topic of the day we will have a devotional thought...or two ..or three. This may produce more chat - related and not so ! The hour moves on to some topic usually thought up by Judy - interesting, educational, and always fun. When we have nearly exhausted our minds we will turn to our now familiar booklet of about 20 hymns that we enjoy with Linda's absolutely excellent piano skills. It is a fun way to spend a Monday afternoon. Our final meeting for 2025 is December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will start up again on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 ... Please join us, and bring a friend – we have room for all to share their thoughts, their memories, their talents, their worries – we are a very welcoming group.

Alison

At the Friendship group on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> we are going to take a look at the first two lessons of the special Advent lessons from the Reformed Episcopal Church. This mission is known as The Matthew 25 Initiative. You will see why it is named that after we read a few verses in Matthew 25. It is moving and salient, full of things that as Christians we strive for and know.

And after that I've made copies of one of the stories in The Shoe Project which we can read together. It will get you excited about reading the rest of it in September at the book club.

It will make us even more excited about our connections with our Afghan friends. - Judy

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## HONING IN ON HYMNS – SONGS OF ADVENT O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode.

Refrain

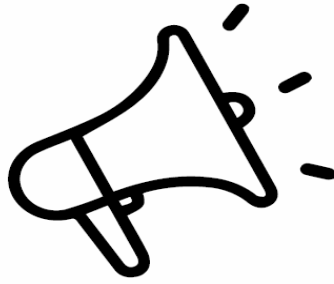
O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night  
and turn our darkness into light.

Refrain

O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace.

Refrain

This carol dates to medieval time. In the 800s a series of Latin hymns were sung each day during Christmas vespers; many were translated into verse form in the 1100s but not published until 1710. In the 1800s they were discovered by an English minister named John Mason Neale, who wove together segments of them and produced a draft of O Come, O Come Emmanuel. John Mason Neale was born in London England in 1818 the son of an evangelical Anglican clergyman. He was a brilliant student attending Cambridge and became attracted to the Roman Catholicism but was ordained into the Anglican ministry. As his



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health was not adequate for a parish ministry he was appointed as Director of Sackville College, at that time a home for elderly men. He was a compassionate man with a great heart for the needy and this position gave him time for writing and research. He wrote many familiar Christmas carols which are still popular today, including Good King Wenceslas. He died at the age of 48 in 1866 in East Grinstead, Surrey, England and is buried in the East Grinstead Parish graveyard .

*Alison*

*Information taken from Then Sings My Soul. R J Morden*

*Jps/ab66*