

The Wardens' Wire

ISSUE 68 JANUARY 11– 31, 2026

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

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

Monday January 12th

12.30 pm Friendship Circle

Wednesday January 14th

1 – 3 pm Bible Study
7 pm Early Church History: Reactions to Imperial Christianity II: Schismatic & Pagan
On Zoom with Tom Power

Thursday January 15th

2 pm Vestry meeting
7-9 pm Bible Study at Tom's house & on line

Friday January 16th

6 pm Park Group AA

Saturday January 17th

4 – 6 pm MOVIE & pizza All welcome
'CHARADE' (1963)
Cary Grant & Audrey Hepburn

SUNDAY January 18th

8.30 am St Mary's the Virgin Independent Anglican service
10.30 am **EPIPHANY LESSONS & HYMNS** St George's
2.00 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service
4-6 pm English Conversation Café

Monday January 19th

12.30-2.30 pm Friendship Circle

Tuesday January 20th

1.30 – 3 pm Book Club – BiblioMpower
Confessions of St Augustine 3 – T Power

Wed., January 21st

1-3 pm Bible Study
7 pm **Early Church History:**
The Shaping of Christian Doctrine 1:
Augustine On zoom with Tom Power

Thurs. January 22nd

10 am Extencicare Service
7-9 pm Bible Study at Tom's house and on zoom

Fri. January 23rd

10.30 am St Mary's the Virgin Communion service:
Missa salus populi votive mass for the
salvation of the people (York)
6 pm Park Group AA

SUNDAY January 25th

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

Monday January 26th

12.30 – 2.30 pm Friendship Circle

Wed., January 28th

1-3 pm Bible Study
7 pm Early Church History: The Shaping
of Christian Doctrine 2: Scripture and
Interpretation on zoom with T. Power

Thurs. January 29th

7-9 pm Bible Study at Tom's house and on zoom

Friday . January 30th

6 pm Park Group A

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

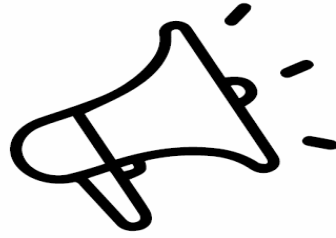
February 6 – 10.30 am St Mary's the Virgin Mass of the
Saints or votive mass of the cross (Sarum)

February 10th 1.30 – 3 pm BIBLIOMPOWER BOOK CLUB

February 14th – 4 PM MOVIE & PIZZA - The Notebook

February 17th –12 noon to 2.30 pm SHROVE TUESDAY

February 18th – 10.30 am St Mary's the Virgin Service for
Ash Wednesday imposition of the ashes and Holy
Communion (BCP)



The Wardens' Wire

I would like to thank everyone in the parish who gathered together after worship on January 4th to share best wishes on my retirement as Dean of the Diocese of Central and Eastern Canada. As you may know, the diocese has been welcomed into the greater diocese of New England Mid Atlantic (NEMA) Again, thank you for your on-going prayers and encouragement as I continue in service to Our Lord. I pray each and every one of you will eagerly travel in the Lord's way in the new year.

Blessings

Father Bob +

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BIBLIOMPOWER

On Tuesday, January 20th from 1:30-3:00 we will discuss Augustine's Confessions with Tom Power to lead us.

This is a different read as we have discovered but seems like a modern story in many ways. We look forward to a good discussion with some new ideas along with a cup of tea and biscuits with good friends.

Although this might appear to be a book club for women it wasn't designed to be. It is meant to be an everyone's book club.

There is room for us all at the book club table.
Judy

Upcoming reads..... BibliOMPower

Feb. 10th **Marie Chapdelaine** L. Hemon –
hand out Jan 20th

Mar. 17th **The Wonder** E Donaghue
hand out Feb 10th

April 21 **The Fishers of Paradise** - R Preston
(we're on the waiting list and hope it will be ours to hand out on March 17th, if not we'll move it to the following month!)

May 19 **Waterlilies** * new acquisition – stories of young Afghan women now living in Canada
hand out Apr 21 (Mar 17 if necessary)

June 15th **Mere Christianity** – C Lewis
hand out May 19
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Dear all of us,

We prayed for the Sunday school to grow to six children and already we are up to five.

At Council today we thought we would ask all of us to pray, each in our own way, for ten new members in the church this year.

It would surely be an encouragement to both ourselves and to the potential newcomers and a huge benefit to Christendom.

We are thanking you in advance because we know you will.

Judy

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ENGLISH CONVERSATION CAFÉ

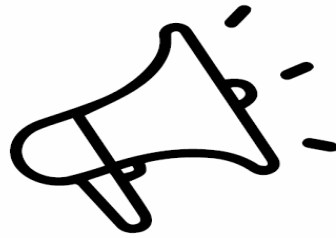
The English Conversation Club celebrated its first anniversary last Sunday evening with twelve of us. We went "high style" and switched out the regular pizza for sandwiches, sushi and fruit with thanks again to our kind and loving donor.

Because some of them had missed the great fun we'd had the previous week with idioms, ("bury the hatchet", "I've got an axe to grind", "hit the books", "cook the books", "can't tell a book by its cover", burn the midnight oil" etcetera), we took another look at them and they were just as much fun as they'd been the week before. We talked about New Year's Resolutions and Tom reminded us that maybe we don't need to rely on our own resolutions but can trust God to help us along in the new year. We also talked about those wonderful things in the past year for which we give thanks including thanks for each other. We compared ourselves to a small version of the United Nations when we talked about the world's need for peace. It begins with us, right there sitting around those three tables jammed together in our little church in our little Parish Hall. Right there mind you! Small seeds grow into big trees.

We welcomed back our friend from Siberia and a new young woman from India. A few times people mentioned how thankful they are for their new friendships on Sunday evenings. A simple formula, like Jesus' command to love one another" works wonders. Come next Sunday evening (4:00-6:00) if you're interested in great, fun people, pizza and Baolei's presentation on Chinese medicine.

We are better together.

Judy



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Sunday School....

Do you remember a few weeks ago when we suggested that we pray for six children to come to Sunday School? Last week we had five! Five precious little boys all of whom have found us with God's great leading since they arrived in Canada from all over the world and all of them noisy, rambunctious, lovely and fun.

Last Sunday we talked about how the shepherds found Jesus and they each added their unique and artistic version of the Bethlehem star to their lesson pages. We practised singing Jesus Loves Me.

DRUM ROLL: The reason we practised it is because they are going to sing it for you on January 18th in the service. Thank you Sabrina for your great idea, and thank you Christiana for helping with the teaching/singing part and thank you to all of you who will pack the church and invite friends to hear them.

P.S. We do a welcome little girls too if you know of any. - Judy

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UPDATE ON CUBA MISSION and the REC DIOCESE OF CENTRAL & EASTERN CANADA

The new charity is called:

ALMA – REC/ADoC Association of Latin Missions to the Americas

The CRA has granted a charitable receipt number and it is in effect as of January 1, 2026.

The REC Diocese of Central and Eastern Canada bank accounts will be dissolved when all the funds for The Cuba mission/aka LAMS have been transferred to Barbara Henderson, of Church of the Resurrection (ADoC) In Brandon, Manitoba.

New bank accounts have been opened under the new charity.

More information will come shortly. Cheques will be accepted at the bank made out to ALMA ; e-transfers can be set up. At this time the main recipient of the funds will remain with Cuba, with a 2026 budget approved; there are two project requests from Columbia being proposed, their diocese Iglesia Anglicana de Oxford does not need financial support, Venezuela and Paraguay

at this time have shown interest in the Reformed Episcopal Church, and the hope of the mission society is to work with other Latin American countries to spread the word of the REC.

Alison

EPIPHANY CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD

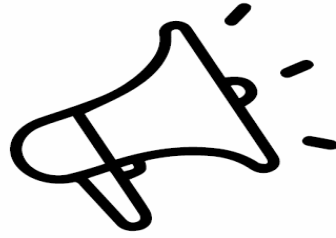
Eastern and Western Christian Traditions

Despite differences in emphasis, both East and West regard Epiphany as a major celebration revealing the identity and mission of Christ, and this shared recognition stands as a powerful reminder of the common faith and unity that bind Christians together across traditions, cultures, and centuries.

Malta: In Malta, Epiphany (Il-Epifanja) is celebrated with a distinctive blend of liturgical solemnity and local devotion. Parishes mark the feast with special Masses highlighting the visit of the Magi, and processions are held in towns such as Medina, Rabat, and Valletta, often featuring representations of the Three Kings. Traditionally, families gather for festive meals on or around 6 January, and homes may be blessed in remembrance of the Magi's homage to the Christ Child. Epiphany also concludes the Maltese Christmas season with an emphasis on hospitality and shared faith, reflecting the island's ancient Christian roots and its rich blend of Mediterranean culture. Churches and communities often sing hymns and antiphons that focus on the Light of Christ revealed to all nations, echoing the universal message of the feast.

Spain & Latin Europe: The *Cabalgata de los Reyes Magos* (Procession of the Kings) is a major event in cities such as Madrid and Barcelona. Actors portraying the Magi arrive on ornate floats, distributing sweets to crowds. For children, Epiphany is the true gift-giving day, reflecting the biblical narrative.

Italy: The *Befana* tradition tells of a kindly woman who missed the Magi's visit but now delivers gifts to children in search of the Christ Child.



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Eastern Europe: Orthodox Christians participate in icy river ceremonies, retrieving crosses from blessed waters as a symbol of recovering lost grace and bravery of faith.

Alison – from Internet sources

Honing in on Hymns

ALL MY HEART THIS NIGHT REJOICES

Paul Gerhardt Translator Catherine Whitworth

All my heart this night rejoices,
As I hear, Far and near,
Sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,
Till the air, Ev'rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

For it dawns, the promised morrow
Of his birth, Who the Earth
Rescues from its sorrow.
God in human form descending;
Of his grace, To our race
Here his Son is lending.

Come then, let us hasten yonder;
Here let all, Great and small,
Kneel in awe and wonder.
Love Him who with love is yearning;
Hail the Star, That from far
Bright with hope is burning!

You who pine in weary sadness,
Weep no more, For the door
Now is found of gladness.
Cling to him, for he will guide you
Where no cross, Pain or loss
Can again betide you.

Hasten, come, you heavy-hearted,
Who for sin, Deep within
Long and sore have smarted;
For the poisoned wounds you're feeling,
Help is near; One is here,
Mighty for his healing!

Blessèd Savior, let me find you!
Keeping me Lovingly,
Cast me not behind you!
Life of life, my heart you're stilling;

Calm I rest, On thy breast,
While this void you're filling.

Paul Gerhardt 1607- 1676, famous author of Lutheran evangelical hymns, studied theology and hymnody at the University of Wittenberg. He wrote 123 hymns, and 40 of them are still in common use. His life was marked by troubles, living through the Thirty Year war; in 1637 his family home, possessions, church were destroyed, having been set fire by Swedish soldiers. He married in 1655 at age 48. Four of his five children died in infancy.

He served the Lutheran parish of Mittenwalde near Berlin (1651-1657) and the great St. Nicholas' Church in Berlin (1657-1666). Friederich William, the Calvinist elector, had issued an edict that forbade the various Protestant groups to fight each other. Although Gerhardt did not want strife between the churches, he refused to comply with the edict as it condemned some Calvinist doctrines. He was removed from the church in 1666, but three years later was installed at the church in Lubban where he remained among less supportive people until his death in 1676. Four of his five children died in infancy.

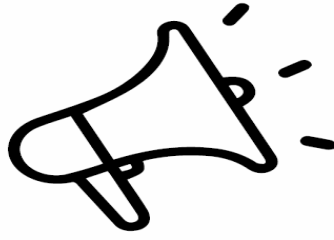
On the commemoration of his 300th birthday the city of Lubben honed him by erecting a monument in front of the church and in 1931 the church was renamed Paul Gerhard Church.

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Catherine Winkworth (b. Holborn, London, England, 1827; d. Monnetier, Savoy, France, 1878) is well known for her English translations of German hymns; her translations were polished and yet remained close to the original. Educated initially by her mother, she lived with relatives in Dresden, Germany, in 1845, where she acquired her knowledge of German and interest in German hymnody. After residing near Manchester until 1862, she moved to Clifton, near Bristol. A pioneer in promoting women's rights, Catherine Winkworth put much of her energy into the encouragement of higher education for women. She translated a large number of German hymn texts from hymnals.

Alison ..

Hymnary.org



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