

From the Rector

Their names are Adam, Jonah, Uriel, Boaz, Judith, and Hannah, and their ages are—well, actually, this one's a bit complicated.

Thus began a story in *The Atlantic* a couple of years ago which spoke of a successful effort to grow date-palm trees from seeds found in ancient archaeological sites. According to radiocarbon dating, the seeds were about 2000 years old; in other words, roughly from the time that Jesus and his disciples walked the dusty roads of Israel. It all came about when Sarah Sallon, a doctor at Hadassah Medical Center, picked 32 seeds from boxes of ancient plant material at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which were then planted in a kibbutz in southern Israel. Six seeds germinated successfully; and, in celebration, the trees were given names from Israel's history.

Now, in one way, this story is nothing more than a curiosity. These seeds offer an interesting connection to some of the great events that happened two thousand years ago at places like Masada and Qumran, where the seeds were formed. And what researchers will be able to learn from trees grown from ancient seeds is yet to be determined. But in another way, this story serves as a powerful metaphor for the work that we do, even the very smallest things, to share the Good News of God's Kingdom.

Perhaps we sometimes wonder whether our words and acts of love and forgiveness, of compassion and care, words that we offer as the Body of Christ in Christ's Name, really make any long-term difference. Perhaps we wonder whether our efforts to share the faith with our children and grandchildren will produce any result. Perhaps, at times, we wonder if anyone's watching or listening.

But those little date-palm trees remind me that we'll never know when the seeds of faith or hope or love that we plant every day will germinate and grow and bear fruit: sometimes immediately; in other cases, maybe not for months or years; sometimes even decades. But knowing when is not really our responsibility. Our job is just to keep planting those seeds, over and over again. Faith. Hope. Love. The seeds that Christ calls us to plant every day.



Parish Notices and Updates

Addressing the Challenges of Mental Health: on January 27th the Diocese hosted a webinar - "Addressing the Challenges of Mental Health" which included a presentation by the Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick. The presenters were Natalie Thibeau-Rector and Lisa Cheney. This very helpful presentation, which is heartily recommended, offered several practical tools for identifying and addressing some of the mental health challenges that have been intensified by the pandemic. If you, or someone you know who is struggling, would like to view a recording of the webinar, or review some of the handouts used by the presenters, please go to:

<https://nb.anglican.ca/news/recording-addressing-the-challenges-of-mental-health>

OUR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held each Friday **from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom**. We're concluding our look at the major festivals of the Jewish calendar. We've looked at Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesach, and Shavuot; and we're now turning our attention to some of the minor festivals such as Hanukkah and Purim. If you'd like to join us, even occasionally, please let the Rector know so that he can send the Zoom link to you.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING: the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Mary York is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th, starting at 12:30 on Zoom. Please mark your calendars and be sure to share in this review of our ministry and work in 2021 and our plans for 2022. More importantly, everyone is asked to give prayerful consideration to serving as a member of the Parish Vestry. We will be preparing a Nomination Report for the meeting, so please speak to the Rector or one of the Parish Wardens if you are interested in being nominations, or if you have any questions about what this important ministry entails.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR: On Saturday, February 26th, together with thousands of Canadians across the country, a team from our Diocesan Synod Office – Anglican Energy – will again be walking and fundraising to support hungry, homeless, and hurting people and families in our communities, raising funds for Youth in Transition and the John Howard Society. Please consider sponsoring the team by going to <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=969713> You can also go to **cnoy.org** and search for the Fredericton event and support the team that way.

IF ANYONE IS AWARE OF ANY APARTMENTS available at a reasonable lower-income rent, please let the Rector know. A member of the parish is looking to relocate in response to a pending significant rent increase. The inquirer is single, employed, and does not have any pets.

A FEW COPIES OF THE 2022 CHURCH CALENDARS are still available. The cost is \$8.00. For those not able to worship in person, please let me know if I can drop one off to you.



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FEBRUARY 9: EPIPHANY FERIA

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 10: EPIPHANY FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

FEBRUARY 11: CAEDMON, Poet

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

FEBRUARY 12: SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

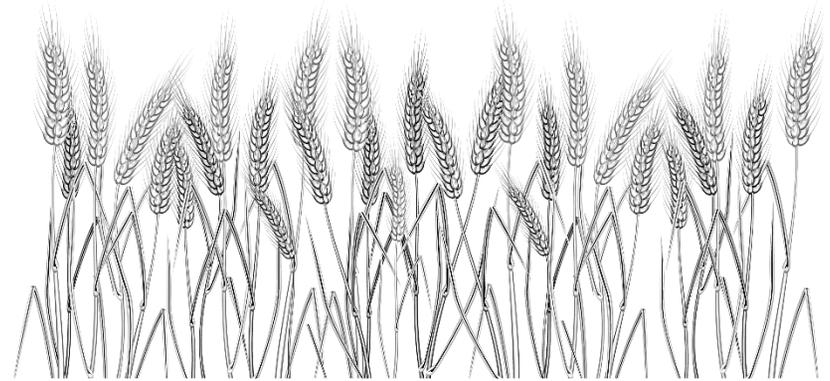
5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 13: SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

The Anglican Church of Canada *The Diocese of Fredericton* THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



"The Kingdom of Heaven," said the Lord Christ, "is among you." But what, precisely, is the Kingdom of Heaven? You cannot point to existing specimens, saying, "Lo, here!" or "Lo, there!" You can only experience it. But what is it like, so that when we experience it we may recognize it? Well, it is a change, like being born again and relearning everything from the start... It is something that grows, like seed. It is precious like buried treasure, like a rich pearl, and you have to pay for it. It is a sharp cleavage through the rich jumble of things which life presents: like fish and rubbish in a draw-net, like wheat and tares; like wisdom and folly; and it carries with it a kind of menacing finality;... where it is equal, it seems unjust; where it is just it is clearly not equal - as with the single pound, the diverse talents, the labourers in the vineyard, you have what you bargained for; ...it is to come; it is here and now; it is within you.

Dorothy Leigh Sayers (1893-1957), *The Poetry of Search*

PRIEST AND RECTOR

The Venerable Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 5, 2022

*Whatever you do in word or
deed, do all in the Name of
the Lord!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 27 | Jeremiah 15 | 2 Corinthians 12:14-13 end

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

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| Introit Psalm 97:1-6: | <i>page 454</i> |
| The Gloria: | <i>page 86</i> |
| The Collect: | <i>page 129</i> |
| The Old Testament Reading: | Hosea 6:4-6 |
| Surge Illuminare: | <i>page 28</i> |
| The Epistle: | <i>page 129</i> |
| Gradual Psalm 126:5-7: | <i>page 500</i> |
| The Holy Gospel: | <i>page 130</i> |
| The Creed: | <i>page 71</i> |
| The Homily | |
| The Prayers of the People: | L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer |
| The Consecration: | <i>page 82</i> |
| Post Communion Prayer: | <i>page 85</i> |

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 6, 2022

*Whatever you do in word or
deed, do all in the Name of
the Lord!*

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 148 & 149 | Amos 8:4-end | John 7:14-36

10:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

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|----------------------------|--|
| Introit Psalm 97:1-6: | <i>page 454</i> |
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| The Collect: | <i>page 129</i> |
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