



Anglican Church of Canada

1385 University Ave West,
Windsor, ON N9B 1B6

Phone: 519-256-4341

ascension@bellnet.ca

ascensionwindsor.ca

The VOX POP...Voice of the People

Thanksgiving, 2026

Contributing Editor: Derek Hales



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER, 2026

Sunday, Nov. 8th



Remembrance Sunday with members of H.M.C.S. Hunter and R.C.N.A. participating in our 10:30am service.

Sunday, Nov. 15th



Bishop Todd Townsend Visits
Service of Baptism & Confirmation
during our 10:30am service

Saturday, November 21st 9am-2pm **Annual Parish Bazaar**

Wednesday, Nov. 18th – Friday, Nov. 20th

9:00am – 2:00pm Volunteers required to help set up

Basement Attic Treasures -please bring beginning Nov. 1st

Upstairs New Items -please bring beginning Nov 15th

Baking – please bring Fri., Nov 20th

See flyer on page 20

Rector's Reflection

- Being a Catalyst for True Thanksgiving

"If there was ever a secret for unleashing God's powerful peace in a situation, it's developing a heart of true thanksgiving."

~ Lysa TerKeurst, Christian author & speaker



As the leaves on the trees begin to change their hue and the temperature of the air begins to cool, we are reminded that it is time once again to gather around the table to celebrate Thanksgiving. I've always felt that Thanksgiving is the perfect time to quiet our minds and reflect on the posture of our hearts. We live in a world that all too often pulls our attention towards what we lack, what we worry about, or what is going wrong. The season of Thanksgiving calls us back to a deeper truth. True gratitude is far more than a seasonal feeling or a polite habit. Rather, it can serve as a powerful spiritual catalyst. When we intentionally choose to focus on God's goodness during this season, we can set off a divine chain reaction that transforms our individual lives, our homes, and our entire church community.

Practicing gratitude in our lives moves us from passive observers of God's blessings to active participants in building up His Kingdom. St. Paul reminds us of this in 2 Corinthians 9:11-12, "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." This profound scriptural

teaching reminds us that our faith is interconnected. Whenever we serve, whenever we give of ourselves and whenever we praise God through our words and deeds, the results do not stop with us. They spark a ripple effect. Your individual, faithful discipleship can become the very spark that ignites a wave of thankfulness in someone else, creating an offering in the lives of others that overflows all the way to heaven.

When you cultivate a lifestyle of thankfulness, you actively shift the atmosphere around you. It changes how you face unexpected trials, how you love your neighbours, and how you experience the daily presence of the Holy Spirit. Gratitude is the lens that brings God's faithfulness into sharp focus, even in the middle of difficult seasons. When anxiety knocks at the door, a thankful heart guards our minds, anchoring us securely in the reality of God's unchanging character and past provisions.



This Thanksgiving, let us commit to being the catalysts for this kind of joy in our community. Let us look expectantly for His blessings in the ordinary moments, speak words of life and appreciation to those around us, and live with open, generous hearts. By doing so, we invite God's powerful peace to reign supreme in our lives and overflow into a world that so desperately needs the grace, hope and love of the Kingdom that Jesus came to proclaim.

Wishing you, your families, and your loved ones a deeply blessed, restful, and joyful Thanksgiving season.

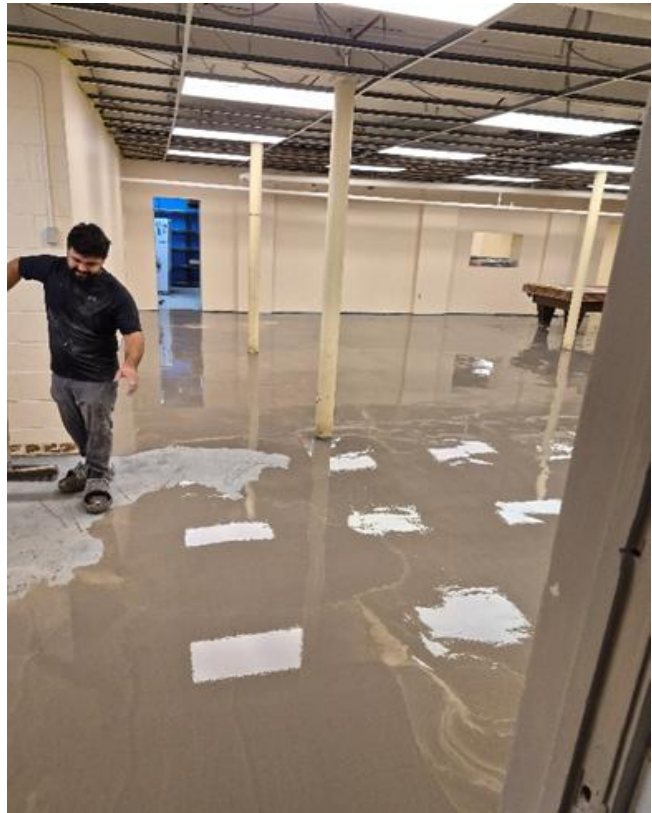
In His Abundant Grace,

Fr. Lance+

Basement Renovations Update

You may not have been downstairs recently to survey the ongoing improvements that are steadily being achieved, but as you can see from these pictures, our basement refurbishment project is marching on.

Now that the drywall is finished (except for paint) the folk from Winmar Restoration and Summit Flooring have been busy this month preparing the floor for its new covering. The picture to the right shows the self leveling cement being applied so that the floor surface is even.



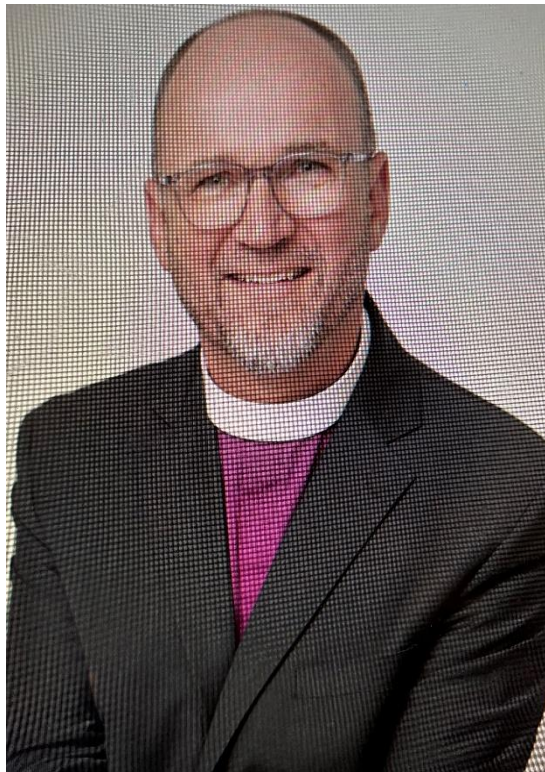
To the left, the cement can be seen beginning to dry. Once it is fully cured, the new flooring, which is the same as in the upper hall kitchen, will be installed.

The whole project should be completely in the next 4 to 5 weeks...just in time for our Christmas Bazaar. Stay tuned!

The Bishop will soon be amongst us.....

It's just a sign of advancing years, at least that's what they say, whoever "they" may be. Just something else we have to come to terms with as our span on this Earth begins to superannuate. Wait a minute, is "superannuate" a real word or did I just make that one up? Never mind, I hear you pleading; get on with what the hey it is you're trying to say. O.K., so you are the "they" that I'm referring to here and the sign that "they" or you are talking about is, of course, the impression that policemen are looking younger and younger these days. Haven't you noticed? Some of them look so fresh-faced and rosy-cheeked that they don't look as if they could summon up the chutzpah to slip a bracelet on their girlfriend's wrist let alone clamp the heavy-duty ones on a career criminal.

And that's not the only thing bothering me. I never



expected to be older than the Pope; never expected to look upon my family doctor as a whippersnapper and never expected to meet a Bishop of the Anglican Church who was born a few days after my oldest son. But that's just what's set to happen, right here at Church of the Ascension on November 15, when the Right Reverend Todd Townshend (*pictured left*), the present Bishop of the Diocese of Huron is scheduled to make a most welcome visit.

I'm trusting that Bishop Townshend will forgive me for injecting a little levity into what actually is a solemn occasion, but you see when I was an impressionable youngster back in the late 1940s and early 50s, Bishops came to visit us at the church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, in Brentwood, England, and they were somewhat austere; crusty-looking old gentlemen appearing in my child's eyes to be far removed from the modern variant.

So let me assure you, the Bishop who is coming to spend time amongst us in November, as any of you who have met him before can testify, is far removed from those old stagers who quite honestly used to frighten me more than they impressed me. Our Bishop is widely known as a man of quiet dignity. A man who places a strong emphasis on the need for Christians to learn more about Jesus: "Learning in faith is more about formation more than information," says Bishop Townshend in his published Vision for the Diocese. "We are shaped spiritually as we grow. We cherish the joy of discovery and seek deepening fascination with the scriptures and Christian traditions."

Bishop Townshend goes on to stress that the Anglican Church is a just church. "Justice is 'to make right', at its simplest level," he says, "but acting justly is anything but simple. Very often, we fail to make things right. We seek God's justice so that we may live in right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

"We are a diverse church," the Bishop continues: "our church has inherited many different streams of tradition and they come together in wonderfully diverse ways. We seek to become a more multi-traditional, multi-cultured,

multi-lingual, multi-racial church so that we may find unity in our God-given diversity.”

Bishop Townshend rounds off his diocesan vision by emphasizing that we are a new church. “Despite the fact that our roots reach back through England to the early church, we are always becoming new in the Resurrection life of Jesus. We are living in a time of transformation and a certain *dying and rising* will be the mystery and joyride of our generation.”

“Led by the Holy Spirit, in every decision, every loss, every opportunity we will ask, ‘is this a sign of God’s new creation taking root?’”

Fine words from a man who has dedicated his life to theological education. He was the Dean of Theology for seven years at Huron University College, which began as an Anglican institution and is now part of the larger government-assisted Western University with more than 30,000 students.

Consecrated a Bishop on January 25th, 2002, at St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, Ontario, Bishop Todd can claim strong family links to the Diocese of Huron. His grandfather, William Townshend, was the Bishop of Huron from 1955 until 1967 and his father, Robert Townshend occupied the same position from 1984 until 2002.

Bishop Todd has joined us at Ascension on two previous occasions: once in 2023 on a pastoral visit and again in 2025 to celebrate the life of our own Archdeacon Ronald Matthewman who died in July of that year.

D.H



They're in a class of their own.....

Smiles all round as Father Don Hull began his Confirmation classes on Sunday, October 4th. There were eight early arrivals when this picture was taken but Father Don was happy to advise that he has about a dozen people seeking his guidance before Bishop Todd Townshend arrives to perform the rite of Confirmation by the Laying on of Hands at Church of the Ascension on November 15th.



It's that time of year again...
Turkey dinners for all!





Lots of work but lots of pleasure



Winchester honours man who saved Canada

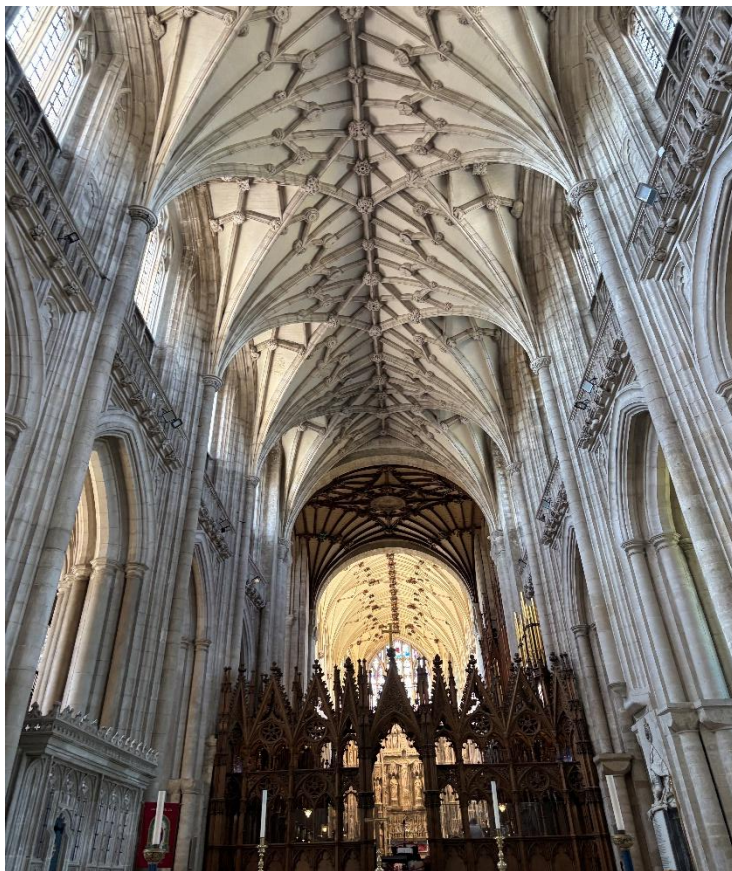
On first approaching Winchester Cathedral most people will tell you they were surprised to discover that it appears quite small when compared with other great Gothic monoliths like York Minster and Canterbury. I found this to be my impression when my wife, Bonnie, and I arrived on a sun-filled morning in the town that was England's capital nearly 140 years after its unification under King Athelstan in 926 A.D That honour, of course, was finally bestowed on the City of London after the Norman conquest in 1066.

But Winchester Cathedral's physical structure (pictured) is of a quietly dissembling nature. In other words, it's deceptive. From the outside it appears particularly decorative though of modest stature, (height) but once you pass through its ornate entrance with those unique gold-studded doors, it will almost certainly cause you to catch your breath and gasp at the splendour of its deservedly much-vaunted nave,



which contributes to its being the longest medieval cathedral in the world.

Towering high above the nave is perhaps the most awe-inspiring vaulted ceiling in England. And I have to admit to feeling very small indeed beneath its breath-taking beauty, a sight that left my mind boggling at the artistry and skill that must have been harnessed all those years ago in order to create this testament to man's ingenuity and faith. After all, most of those who began it did not live long enough to witness its completion more than 50 years later.



The ceiling (pictured) includes more than a thousand carved wooden bosses that help join the arched vaults together. It's really difficult to take your eyes off it as you proceed along the nave and it can prove rather alarming for those of mature years as various static impediments on the

floor make unhindered progress a constant challenge.

However, the cathedral's long ago architects had clearly ignored the message that St. Matthew gave us about building on rock or sand. For a challenging fate appeared to have overtaken it in the early 20th century when

massive cracks appeared in its ancient walls and great chunks of ceiling material began to fall on a startled congregation. With unfettered misery it was discovered that the cathedral had been constructed on wet, marshy ground reinforced by oak logs which had rotted away over the centuries leading to what threatened to quickly become the catastrophic collapse of the venerable old building.

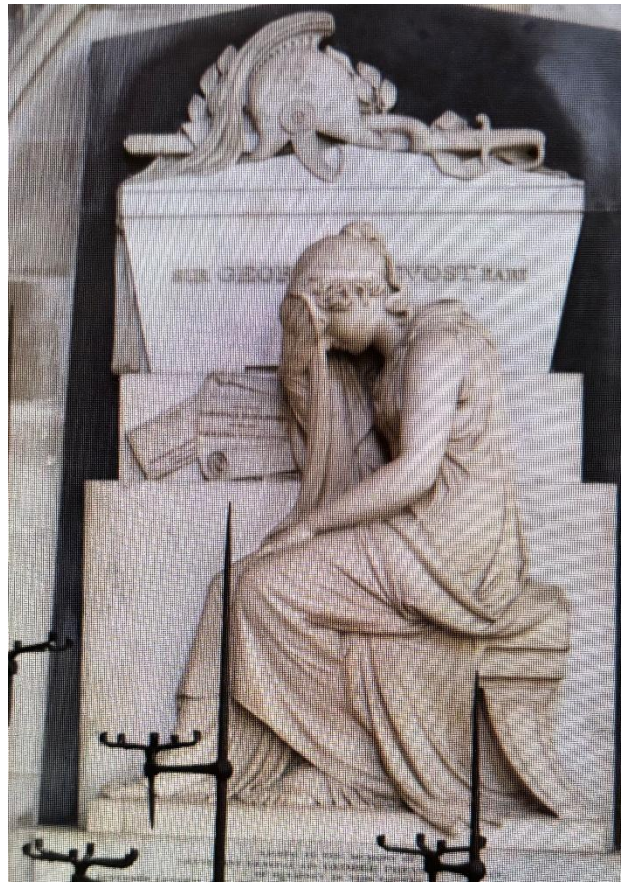
An urgent appeal for a deep-sea diver went out across the nation and William Walker, an accomplished diver, eagerly responded. Working in depths of up to six metres of filthy, stagnant water and in inky darkness, Walker, with his gloved hands, dug out the rotted timber and replaced it with 25,800 bags of cement, more than 114,000 concrete blocks and close to a million bricks. It took him six years, working six days a week, to complete the monumental task. In 1911 it was announced that Winchester Cathedral was saved and his bronze bust was lovingly displayed in a prominent corner of the cathedral when he died, a victim of the catastrophic influenza epidemic that swept across Europe following the First World War in 1918.

Walking the length of the nave with so many interesting carvings and memorials catching the eye and vying for attention, one could be forgiven for passing by a far-from-imposing memorial to a man who was very largely responsible for Canada's remaining part of the British Empire and staying out of reach of the clutching fingers of the still-young United States in the War of 1812.

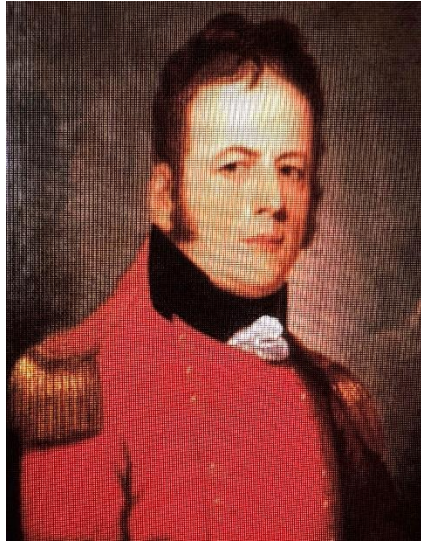
On the south wall of the nave aisle carved in white marble is the figure of a mourning woman, (pictured) her hand supporting a drooping head and neck, clearly distraught at the death of her husband.

The lady in question was the widow of Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, officer commanding the British forces in British North America, (B.N.A.) now Canada, whose tactics, though heavily criticized at the time, were no doubt responsible for causing the Americans to draw back from their plan to take over B.N.A. at a time when England was desperately involved in ending Napoleon Bonapart's attempted hegemony of the European continent.

The American colonists, still riding high from their success in the rebellion that saw them achieve unilateral independence, figured that the time was ripe to take things a stage farther and dominate the whole of the far North-American continent. But they reckoned without the wily George Prevost whose tactics not only foiled their plan but also achieved their total repulse whilst keeping his losses in life and limb among his soldiers to a minimum.



Those tactics, considered by many military experts at the time to have been over-cautious, won out over a determined enemy. But they resulted in poor old George being vilified back home in England and undergoing such



awful mental stress that this former Governor of Canada (B.N.A.) died of dropsy at the early age of 48.

Prevost (pictured) was largely unmourned and would no doubt have disappeared into virtual obscurity if his grieving widow, Catherine, whom he married in 1789 had not put up the money and engaged the renowned

sculptor, Sir Francis Chantrey, to create the sad memorial at Winchester that testifies to his dedication to keep the "True North Strong and Free" for present day Canadians.

However, it's a war that has been largely ignored by history teachers in England down the years. But it's very much remembered in what became the Greater Windsor area in 1935 but in 1812 was the former independent town of Sandwich. It was in Sandwich that the war actually began with thousands of men rushing to join the militias to resist the so-called American "patriots" who streamed across the Detroit River to "liberate" the British colonists in British North America.

But those early Canadians didn't fancy that kind of liberation and the Americans ended up agreeing to the Treaty of Ghent's terms more than two years and nearly 34,000 deaths later in 1814 and settling for having

achieved nothing. It took more than a hundred years for the two principal defending protagonists, namely General Isaak Brock and Chief Tecumseh, who both lost their lives during this sad episode in the history of North America, to receive their just recognition when a life-sized statue depicting them was unveiled in the old town of Sandwich at the centre of the town's large traffic roundabout in 2018.



And I took my life in my hands as I defied the crazy drivers navigating this tribute to modern traffickers to snap the picture at left.

And that's where constrictions of space now intervene and force me to close this tale of two cities, Windsor and Winchester, whose "togetherness" is literally "carved in stone."

D.H.

MYSTERY BABY



No guesses

The Mystery Baby left you all mystified. And I have to admit that it was a toughie. But it was none other than Barbara Jackson, a lady well known to just about everyone.

2027 CANADIAN CHURCH CALENDARS FOR SALE BEGINNING OCTOBER 11TH



After services and in the Church Office

while supplies last

\$8.00 CASH ONLY

Thank-you

On behalf of the student's at Canterbury for the 2026/2027 year, 'Thank-you'.

Your donation of welcome basket items is appreciated.

Thank-you also for your support of the other ministry requests over the past year.

Yours in Christ,

Cynthia Connell, Chaplain

Canterbury College, University of Windsor

The Windsor Essex Inter-Faith Group

Annual Symposium

“Practicing Compassion in a Fractured World - An Interfaith Approach”

You are invited to join us for an interfaith panel and discussion. Thought leaders of differing faiths will offer brief perspectives on how their tradition informs compassion in a world beset by divisiveness. A 'round table' discussion follows.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

Registration 1:00pm Presentations 1:30pm – 4:00pm

The Hospice of Windsor (Bldg 600) – 6038 Empress St

Free admission – but space is limited so contact Graham Parker to register gparker@med.wayne.edu



*Church of the Ascension
1385 University Ave. West*

*Annual Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, November 21st, 2026
9am - 2 pm*

Morning Coffee Break - Hot Lunch - Tea Room

Country Store -jams, preserves Bake Table

Jewellery Knitting/Sewing New Books

Christmas Porch Baskets

Variety Booth - new items and collectables



Attic treasures— used & new to you!



books, kitchen items, clothing, bedding,

boots & shoes, luggage, toys, sports equipment,

Jigsaw puzzles, Home décor and more

