



TRINITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 12, 2026

TRINITY CHURCH A Warm – Thriving – Christian Community

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<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityChurchUptownSJ>

Our Parish Events Calendar is available on our Webpage! <http://trinitysj.com>

You are receiving this weekly Trinity Newsletter as you are a member of the Trinity family. Should you not wish to receive this, please indicate by return e mail.

Photo Credit – Uptown Saint John

You Tube Trinity Services: You can view Trinity’s recorded services by going onto YouTube and typing in Trinity Anglican Church SJ. That will bring you to our channel and all of the previously recorded services.



Your Trinity family wishes Anne Bruce, Louise Dodge-Hall and Lynn Wagg a very memorable special day. Hope you all get lots of cake and best wishes from your special people. Blessings to you all.

E-Offering Stewardship Option Trinity has presently 20 signed up using the E Offering Stewardship method. Thank you to all who are supporting Trinity through their regular stewardship, as this helps the Treasurer meet the ongoing financial needs of Trinity’s ministry. **If you are not currently a subscriber your Vestry members encourage you to check it out.** By doing so no matter what happens during your week, month or year, once signed up you can rest assured your Trinity

is being supported. Should you wish to join the E offering program, you can do so from your home by contacting the Parish Office at 506-693-8558 or trinsj@nb.aibn.com. Thank you for your continued support.

Prayers

We offer special prayers for:

Prayers for the Middle East: Holy One, we seek your mercy. For those in fear, bring safety. For those in pain, bring consolation. For those awaiting news, nurture hope. For those providing care, bring resilience. Loving God, we seek your peace that passes all understanding. May the violence cease and Your deep peace come. Amen



peace of Your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers for Russia We pray for all those in Russia who have been affected by this ongoing war of Ukraine. For the lives lost, the families torn apart and for those Ukrainians who reside in Russia along with Viktoriia and Alex and their boys. We ask for their continued safety, a speedy resolve to this unjust attack and for a lasting peace between these two countries. Amen

Update from Russia: Many of you will remember Viktoria – and her absolutely angelic voice as she



performed at Trinity during the summer series and again for an evening concert a few years back, 2022. Pictured above was one of her performances with Mr. Ron Maloney. I think in all she sang at Trinity three or four times while living nearby. We met her husband Alex and their two boys Samuel and Daniel on one occasion. I keep in contact with her on a semi-regular basis and she at times will reach out when she needs to. This past week was one of those weeks where it would appear the dragging on of the Russia insurgency is weighing heavy on them. I let her know we have them in our prayers and have so since they left and went back to Russia. I also attached our latest Newsletter for her to read and to let her know that they are part of our Trinity family albeit many miles away and living under such unfair conditions.

She shared the following and I felt we all need to know what has been silent for these past months due to the other world issues in play. The first e mail Viktoria asked for us to pray for them, They are praying and thinking of coming back soon to Canada, because of the war. "It's getting worse." She goes on to say "she misses us, the church and remembering the wonderful time when she was singing here". Viktoria goes on to say, "They are so appreciative of being remembered, praying for them, and including them in our weekly Newsletter" (which I sent her our latest copy). She goes on to say "the war is even more intense now, and many Russian cities are suffering. We've gotten used to it, but we understand that things could be worse, and we don't even have anywhere to hide, no bunkers or basements. I don't want to think about the bad, but nevertheless, we are praying for the opportunity to return, to find work that will allow us to get permanent residence in the future; right now, we only have a visitor visa.

"Please say hello to your church from us."

"Samuel and Daniel have grown up. Daniel prays every night for the opportunity to go to Canada. He has great faith, and he also asks to speak only English."

"Thank you very much again, blessings."

"Best wishes, Viktoria Alex, Samuel and Daniel"

Please keep this family in your prayers for their safety presently and for their wish to return to Canada to raise their sons in the safety of our country.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer The Anglican Church of Kenya, Primate Jackson Ole Sapit. Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Shane Parker. Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, Archbishop Anne Germond and the Provincial Council. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Telegraph Creek (BC): St. Aidan. Archbishop David, retired bishop William and their families.

Prayer for Israel and Palestine we pray for the current peace actions. We hold both communities in our prayers as they commence rebuilding their lives and that the peace presently experiencing will live on. Amen

Prayers for the people of Venezuela and Iran that they will return to a democratic lead government and oppression and unjust treatment of their people will come to an end.

Parish Prayer Requests Melita Freeze, Bonnie Dean, Judith Miller, Katie Kassner, Shirley Shaw, and William Teed. We also pray for those who suffer from any form of addiction that they may have the strength to overcome their desires and return to a healthier state of life.



Sunday's Message: This past Sunday was the Third Sunday in Lent with John's Gospel, John 4:5-42

Have you ever had a Jacob's Well encounter?

First, let us look at the geography of the land; Palestine is only 120 miles long from north to south but in this stretch of land there are three divisions of territories – the far north lay Galilee, far south lay Judea and in between lay Samaria. Jesus was enroute from Judea to Galilee however the quickest route was through Samaria reducing His travel in half. There had been century unrest between the Jews and the Samaritans. At the fork of the road near

Sychar there stands to this day a well known as Jacob's well. This particular piece of land is spoken about in Genesis 33:18-19 where Jacob on his death-bed, bequeathed this land to Joseph (Genesis 48:22). Then on Joseph's death in Egypt his body was taken back to Palestine and buried there (Joshua 24:32). This area was and is rich with Jewish memories.

This is the rich history of where we find Jesus resting at the well, Jacob's well, on this day. We have John's writings again this morning and his audience is the Greeks as he explains there was no kind of come-and-go between the Jews and the Samaritans.

There is so much embedded in this abbreviated record of the Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well. Much like recording minutes for a meeting, the key messaging points are captured and much of the conversation is left off the page. Similarly, we find this today with Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Was she shunned by her people – due to her sorted past – and that caused her to be at the well at the height of the heat at noon-day? Did she tell Jesus her whole life story in their meeting at the well? And did she find the one person who found her as she was – worthy of friendship and a listening ear?

We certainly can learn about Jesus' character in this passage of scripture;

First, it shows the reality of His humanity. He was tired, exhausted, in need of rest and drink. John shows us clearly that Jesus experienced as we, the sheer effort and consequences of that effort on the physical body – no different than you and I.

Second, John shows us Jesus' warmth, his sympathy towards another human being regardless of nationality or race. History would tell us this Samaritan woman would most likely have fled from the well when approached by a Jewish person, would not have engaged in conversation rather been embarrassed- yet here she finds not a critic rather a friend in possibly just a few short words or jesters. He was not to be like others, possibly her own, who would condemn rather this person would understand her situation in life and truly, intentionally listen to her.

Third, we are shown that Jesus, God, is one to break down barriers. No greater of barriers at this time would exist other than between the Jews and the Samaritans dating back to 720 BC when the Assyrians invaded the northern kingdom of Samaria and moved many of the locals to Media (2Kings 17:6). The rift is still very much alive in that families are known to resent a Jewish and a Gentile marriage. The struggles continued on and on.

Fourth – Another barrier taken down – where Jesus would be seen talking openly in public to a Samaritan woman. A Rabbi would not be even allowed to be seen talking to his own wife or daughter in public. Here we have Jesus not only talking with this Samaritan woman but a woman with a sorted past.

Have you ever had a Jacob's well encounter?

I can relate on a number of levels where I was fortunate to have had a Jacob's well encounter. I expect I have had a number of them but did not realize that they were happening or had happened as I did not slow my life down enough to recognize what was actually happening at the time.

It was not until I walked on the Camino for the first time back in 2017 and was fortunate again in 2022. A gift that my son wanted me to take to mark my retirement from my secular career, Dec 2016 as I moved more fully in to this present life I now embrace. A gift I one 100% tried to refuse. A gift that has in the words of an Auberge operator who mentioned to me over dinner one evening in Rabanal Del Camino at a pizza joint where he said, "today you walk the Camino, the rest of your life you live the Camino". Well, here is another one of those 'lived' moments from the Camino of 2017.

You see, when one goes on a pilgrimage, one should be able to turn off the world's 'white noise', slow down ones' life to be one with God and His creation. That was the gift of the Camino was for me – not sure if that was what my son had in mind, other than a trek across Spain. And I would suggest I met others that this was not their end take on the experience either. However, for me, it was. No computer, had my I phone, but used it for a camera and a short communication at the end of the day to Heather to let her know I was still upright.

So, what has this to do with the Jacob's Well encounter? There was nothing on my person, my clothing, my backpack what so ever that would have indicated to anyone that I was a minister of Christ's Church. However, without fail, numerous opportunities continued to surface where one-on-one conversations would strike up from the most innocent of greetings at times that I would say were Jacob's Well encounters. There is something to the old saying, 'what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas'. Similarly, there is a sort of trust that happens on the Camino in conversations as the likelihood of the two of us ever meeting again is off the charts – so full disclosure of ones' life stories are

most likely quite safe as one walks across the Pyrenees, across the Plains of Leon or the rugged climb of Mount O Cebreiro, or crossing the bridge at Portomarin.

I remember in great detail of the woman from Texas who had started out twenty some days ahead of our conversation on this day at Saint Jean de Port France (I having started mid way this trip at Leon Spain). Her group and the fellow I traveled with had a meal or two in the past few evenings together, however it was on this particular day, she and I were walking together for a while where she told me her story, why she was walking the Camino, having come from Texas. Her story was troublesome to say the least, she found herself at her wits' end – what else could she do – and decided to do something she had only thought about years before when her life was in order. We walked and she talked – I listened – no judgement and at the end of about a 45 minute stretch we were about to part – as all walk at different pace and stop at different places – yet about fifteen days from Santiago, realizing we would not likely talk again or even see one another – we prayed, her being a Roman Catholic and by now she realized my faith journey – and I gave her one of my small wooden crosses. Her comment as we parted, “I have now done what I had hoped this Camino would do for me – thank you!”

Another quick story, similarly, a fellow from Australia and I met up one day on the trail, just the two of us. He likewise had been walking from the onset in France and now about $\frac{3}{4}$ the way through – we meet. He bares his life story, devastating – likewise, he did not know what to do – chose the Camino – end story, almost exact words – “I have now done what I had hoped to when I came – Thank you!”

You see looking back at the characteristics we just visited of Christ, all were in play in these and other Jacob Well encounters;

First – we relate simply as one human being and another – no differentiation of life experiences or titles what so ever – just two walking along with life's challenges.

Second – Showing humanity at its' simplest and at its' best – being open to share and receptive to listen and not judge

Third – Dissolving any barriers that might minimize or end this Jacob's Well encounter – by being able to meet one another at the place where they are at – in the present moment.

Fourth – Above all, regardless of gender or race – having a true listening ear for the other.

So, as we continue to journey through Lent – can we find ways to slow our life down enough to remember or possibly enter into a Jacob's Well encounter? I hope you can and I look forward to many others in my days to come.



World Day of Prayer 2026 The 2026 World Day of Prayer Worship Service held at Holy Trinity Hammond River, Friday March 6th was prepared by the WDP Committee of Nigeria. Always a spiritual homecoming to attend services at Holy Trinity – as I assisted there prior to arriving at Trinity back in 2015-2016. This was Louise Dodge-Hall's family parish growing up. Great to have Louise, Nancy Young and Kyle Wells, who joined Louise's mother Audrey, a Holy Trinity Parishioner there on this very special prayerful day in our World Communion. As part of this service there was a short video created by the Christian Women of Nigeria which spoke eloquently of their deep-rooted Christian Faith where WDP in Nigeria dated back to 1961.

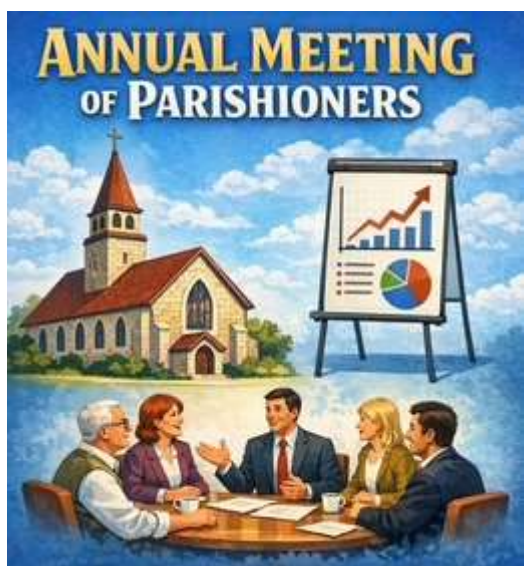
Key-lee-ya, key-lee-ya,
He is King!
Key-lee-ya, key-lee-ya,
He is King!
Thank you Jesus, you are King,
Jesus, you are good.



Throughout the World on this day, this liturgy, this service was being held, prayers lifted up, voices singing the same lyrics (one of these pictured to the left) albeit in many different languages.

Next year, 2027, 150 Countries from around the world will celebrate 100 years of World Week of Prayer. The Holy Trinity Altar had some annual visitors – Prayer Dolls – created many years ago by the parish – they are face-less – for a reason. As they represent all children and youth – victims of people trafficking throughout the world. What a power image this provides.

Many thanks to the Parish of Holy Trinity for holding this annual World Week of Prayer service.



It is that time again where we will join together and reflect on where we have come from and look at the opportunities and challenges of this year and the years ahead. You will have received your 2025 AGM report by e mail or able to pick up a printed copy for those who have requested one this past Sunday.

The AGM will be held immediately after a shortened Morning Prayer service Sunday March 15th – as we will move to the Bennett Room for a light lunch provided and settle into a concise AGM meeting which normally lasts approximately one hour.

Please plan to attend as we need all to engage as we move forward with Trinity's mission in our community for 2026 and beyond.

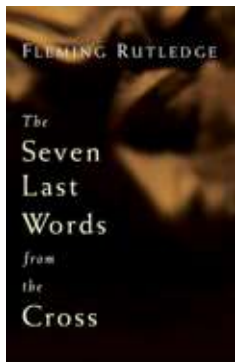
TRINITY's SERVICE CALENDAR

Date	Sunday	Service	Readings	Presider
Mar 15	Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday UK Good Shepherd Sunday AGM following the service	BCP MP	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Rev. Steven Scribner
Mar 22	Fifth Sunday in Lent	BAS Eucharist	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Rev. Steven Scribner

Mar 29	Palm Sunday	BCP HC	Isaiah 50:4-9 Psalm 31:9-16 Philemon 2:5-11 Matthew 27:11-54	Rev. Steven Scribner
Apr 5	Easter Sunday	BCP HC	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18	Rev. Steven Scribner
Apr 12	Second Sunday of Easter	BCP HC	Exodus 15:1-11 Psalm 111 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Rev. Peter Gillies
Apr 19	Third Sunday of Easter	BCP MP	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 34:1-10 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Susanne Sutton
Apr 26	Fourth Sunday of Easter	BAS Eucharis	Ezekiel 34:7-15 Psalm 100 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Rev. Peter Gillies

Upcoming Services and Events

Lenten Book Study / lunch



week #1 Thursday February 26

12 noon – 1pm

week #2 Thursday March 5

12 noon – 1pm

week #3 Thursday March 12

12 noon – 1pm

week #4 Thursday March 19

12 noon – 1pm

week #5 Thursday March 26

12 noon – 1pm

The 2026 Lenten Book Study Resource will be 'The Seven Last Words from the Cross' by Fleming Rutledge. Presently I have **one** book left that has not been reserved. Bring your lunch and join in the less formal discussions as we discuss the author's point of view. Discounted price is \$14.00 each.

Greater Chapter Meeting March 12th

6:00 pm - The Good Shepherd Anglican Church

This is an open meeting for all Anglicans to attend. The single subject is the future of Christ Church Cathedral – physical building – as it is up against years of minimal maintenance and now facing multi-millions of dollars to restore this building. Greater Chapter meetings being held at each Deanery in preparation for the specially called Spring 140th Synod set for April 18th again with a single agenda item – the future of Christ Church Cathedral.

Palm Sunday

March 29th

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd

Pot Luck Super 5:30pm

Service at 7pm

Good Friday

April 3rd

12 noon – 3pm

Easter Sunday

April 5th

140th Diocesan Synod

April 18th

Fredericton – Topic- Future of Christ Church Cathedral

Trinity Spring Yard Sale

May 2nd

Set up April 30th & May 1st

Diocesan Layreaders Day – May 2nd – Christ Church Cathedral - Fredericton
East Indies Evening Supper – May 9th Kids Mission Program 3:30-5pm, Supper 5:15pm
8th Annual Speaker / Dinner – May 19th Gen (Ret'd) Michael Day – Union Club

Neighbour Missional Outreach Opportunities - 12 Neighbours:

The following items are being asked for in order to make their residents feel at home and cared for;

- Coffee Creamers (shelf-stable or refrigerated), coffee, sugar or sugar packets, coffee cups.
- Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons, liners)
- Shampoo and conditioner (full size or travel size)
- Personal care items, Irish Spring, razors, shaving cream, towels, face cloths, skin care products
- Non-perishable food items: instant oatmeal, different types of snacks, KD microwaveable, Ramen bowls, bread or bagels, peanut butter, cheese whiz, juice boxes, pop, ensure
- Plastic or wooden cutlery, good winter socks, men and women underwear, flip flops for our showers, Tim cards, paper plates
- Men and Women underwear and socks
- Towels and Blankets

Let us focus on being a contributor to 12 Neighbours throughout 2026.

The Great East Window Campaign 2025 - 2026

The project is estimated at \$350,000 and at present the revenue on hand and committed totals \$196,928 which represents 56% of the goal achieved to date.

This project involves the East Window maintenance, renewing the exterior safety glass, masonry repointing of the East Wall along with refacing the East Window sandstone tracery coupled with a total refinishing of the Sanctuary. It is the goal to commence this project by June 2026.

Mothering Sunday UK

During the 16th century, people in the UK used to return on the 4th Sunday in Lent for a service to their 'mother church' - the main church or cathedral of the area. This was either the church where you were Baptized, or the local parish church, or more often the nearest cathedral. Anyone who did this was commonly said to have gone "a-mothering", although whether this term preceded the observance of Mothering Sunday is unclear.

In later times, 'Mothering Sunday' became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. It was often the only time that whole families could gather together, since on other days they were prevented by conflicting working hours, and servants were not given free days on other occasions. Children and young people who were given this day off so they could visit their families, would pick wild flowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers. Eventually, the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers. By the 1920s the custom of keeping Mothering Sunday had tended to lapse in most of Europe.

Early in the 20th Century, Anna Jarvis in the United States, held a memorial to honor her own mother and all mothers at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. This event marked the first official observance of Mother's Day and indeed the International Mother's Day Shrine at this church has been a designated Historic Landmark in the United States. In 1914, US President

Woodrow Wilson made a proclamation establishing the second Sunday of May as the official date in the US for the observance of a national day to celebrate mothers.

Inspired by Anna Jarvis's efforts, Constance Penswick-Smith created the Mothering Sunday Movement in the UK, and in 1921 she wrote a book asking for the renewal of the festival. Its wide scale revival was through the influence of American and Canadian soldiers serving abroad during World War II. The original traditions were merged with the newly imported traditions and celebrated in the wider Catholic and secular society. UK-based merchants and retailers saw the commercial opportunity in the holiday and relentlessly promoted it in the UK and by the 1950s, it was celebrated across all the UK.

People from Ireland and the UK started celebrating Mother's Day on the same day that Mothering Sunday was celebrated: the fourth Sunday in Lent. The two celebrations have now been mixed up, and many people think that they are the same thing. Other countries in the world celebrate Mother's Day in May rather than on 'Mothering Sunday'.

Either way, we send all our best wishes to Mums, Moms, Mummies, Mamans, Mamás, Mothers and indeed Grandmothers every day of the year!



Tiny Steps toward Ending Homelessness

18-year-old Western University student Ribal Zebian has had a passion for engineering from a young age, and at 17, he built a child-scale model of a Mercedes G-class out of wood and electrics and donated it to a museum.

Now he's working on something a little more practical: he has developed precision fiberglass molding that can create small, insulated shelters to support the 1,800 homeless residents in his native London, Ontario. The fiberglass panels, molded with utility cavities, can be

quickly duplicated to form modular structures of larger or smaller area. The ceiling uses insulated cores of special plastic that support the roof structure and should resist all weather all year.



Beginning in May, Zebian will attempt to live in one of these modular home for 12 months so that he can see every defect and flaw, and experience the shelter in every kind of climate to understand exactly how it can be perfected.

But he isn't only focused on the present: "I'm concerned about the people in the future that will end up facing that problem, right, because house prices are increasing and increasing and increasing."

Though he recognizes that tiny homes aren't the entire solution to the issue of homelessness, he hopes that his invention will be a tiny step forward in alleviating the problem.

Spectacular Evening Views – since the time has changed:



My father once told me when we lived in East Riverside and had a view of the Kennebecasis River – one will never get tired of the view as long as you have the water to look at. How true, the view is always changing. As I write this Newsletter, sitting in my home office Wednesday morning looking out over the Saint John River – pictured above, there are sections of ice floating by, with the river all most totally open now. It is somewhat of a grey morning as we wait for the poor weather promised over the next twenty-four hours. Hope we get less of the freezing rain and return to the warm temperatures.

Humour:



End of winter blessings

Rev. Steven Scribner